

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

a bagging attachment. So I gave the mower to my daughter and then bought a 2016 **Cub Cadet** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a Kawasaki 24 hp. engine, a 54-in. deck, and a bagger. The new model doesn't have an oscillating front axle like the older model, so it doesn't drive as well on slopes and ditch banks. However, it does a good job of cutting and maneuvers great."

Tom Daniels, Arco, Minn.: "My 2015 **Bosch** 18-volt cordless drill replaced a smaller, worn-out model. Cordless drills get a lot of hard use in my business – we make sheep feeders – and this one has performed flawlessly."

"My 2013 **Milwaukee** 18-volt cordless drill worked good for a couple years until the trigger assembly failed. It would have cost about \$80 to replace, so instead I bought the **Bosch**."

Herb Van Natten, Howes Cave, N.Y.: "In October 2016 I bought a new 2017 **Volkswagen** Jetta equipped with 4 wind deflectors over the door windows. The deflectors cost an extra \$260. I bought the car from a dealer in Latham, N.Y."

"Right from the start we heard an awful whistling sound when driving at about 50 mph. It happened whenever we put the window down. After several months I told the dealer to fix the problem or else remove the deflectors and refund our money. They removed the deflectors, but I never got a refund."

"Later on I was told the problem was with the mirror caps, so they were replaced. Then I was told the problem could be a bad door seal. The dealer said he would call me to set up an appointment with the factory rep. I waited for several months but heard nothing. I finally told them I had monkeyed around with them long enough and that they had lost a customer because of their poor service."

"I like how this vehicle rides and drives, and it's fuel efficient. This is the seventh Volkswagen we've purchased over the years and we've liked all of them. But I'll never buy another Volkswagen."

Harrell Cummings, Fairmont, N.C.: "I disagree with the report in the last issue of **FARM SHOW** by a gentleman who's had trouble with **Homelite** brand of equipment. I swear by Homelite, especially after using other brands of lawn and garden equipment. I've had Homelite chainsaws and trimmers since the early 1970's. Recently, I bought a **Stihl** trimmer and it worked fine but I ended up going back to my trusty Homelite."

Ted Lacey, Trent S. Dak.: Ted reports that the **Starfiber** telescoping mop he and his wife bought at a state fair for about \$25 is a best buy. "It has a velcro-style head so you can strip the mop part off and wash it when you're done. You can use it to wet mop your floor or use a dry mop head to just sweep the floor. It raises no dust and you can make the handle length fit whoever is washing or sweeping the floor. We give them as gifts because it is something that a person can use every day to keep your house neat and clean."

Elias, Wolf, Mancelona, Mich.: "I bought **Slime** sealant for tube tires after my hardware store guy recommended it. I put it into all my leaking, cracked and worn tires. They all hold air now. I recommend it to anyone. Simple to use and it works."

Dennis Strahle, Eagle, Mich.: "I bought my **Puma** air compressor 25 years ago and



it has never missed a beat. It's out in the garage or barn, in extremes of heat or cold, but is always at pressure and ready for duty. Of course, it was made in the USA."

Kenneth Chapman, Eastland, Texas: "The Pocket Tire Plugger from **Stop &**



Go has made repair of small leaks on ATV's, riding mowers, and tractors easy. It's economical at \$35.95 (www.stopngo.com; ph 815 455-9080)."

Clayton Jackson, Wayland, Mich.: "Pulling brush and small trees with the **Brush**



Grubber is easy. It really works. There are different sizes for trees from 3 in. dia. up to 8 in. dia. They cost from \$59.95 to \$219.99. I bought mine at Gemplers.com but they're available at other stores."

Doug Alert, Hampton, Iowa: "For low-cost cultivation guidance, it's hard to beat



a **Culti-Vision** mirror that attaches to your front fender (www.bluestem.com; ph 507 427-2097). I started using one in the early



Wellnitz says the **Makita** mower automatically adjusts to grass density. In tall grass like this, it kicks into high speed.

Wendy Wellnitz, La Crescent, Minn.: "The **Makita XML03** cordless 18-in. walk-behind mower is a real relief after years of pushing a gas-powered mower. No more spilling gas or oil or struggling to start with a rope pull. Just push the power switch to get started. Best of all, it's quiet."

"One of my favorite features is the mowing height adjusting lever. No more adjusting each wheel. Just move one lever. As easy as height adjustment is, it is hard to understand the handle height adjustment process. I need it at one height. My husband needs it at a different height. In order to change it, you have to remove thumbnuts, washers and bolts from each side, move the handle, and then reassemble."

"The mower comes with a grass collection bag and a mulching attachment. Change over is easy, and the grass bag is easy to empty."

"The mower takes two 18V lithium-ion Makita batteries. One of the great things about the whole line of Makita cordless tools (more than 200 in all) is that they all use the same 18V batteries. With 6 different amp levels available between 1.5 and 6.0 Ah, it is easy to match supply and demand."

"For a heavy power draw like the lawn

mower, the 5 or 6-amp batteries are obviously the better choice. The 5.0 Ah batteries we already had in the shop were more than enough to mow our smaller 6,000-sq. ft. lawn and around our barn. However, 2 more 5.0 Ah batteries came with the mower, giving us plenty of power for even extended mowing."

"While the mower handled normal length lawn without any problem, I decided to give it a bigger challenge. I pulled into knee-high grass and foot high clover. It chewed through it all without a problem. I even ran over 12-in. tall burdock, and it ate it up."

"The mower has 2 power modes, normal and energy-saving. Start up is in normal mode, and motor rpm's adjust automatically with grass density or length. Switch to energy-saving mode, and the rpm's stay constant. The motor also runs quieter. I had to slow down in heavier grass, but the battery charge lasted noticeably longer, about 60 min. total. Indicator lamps on the mower show you the remaining power capacity. I have yet to run it to discharge level, where the mower automatically stops."

"In every way, the cordless Makita is a great alternative to a gas mower."

1980's and even after I purchased my first **Buffalo Guidance** system in 1988 I continued using the mirror to keep an eye on the cultivator. I have used the mirror on every tractor from my **Deere 4020** to my **Deere 4840**. The downside to the larger front-wheel assist tractors we cultivate with today is that it's difficult to mount the **Culti-Vision** mirror.

"Nowadays, I use optical sensing in small crops and switch to wands when crops are large enough, but still use my trusty **Culti-Vision** mirror to keep watch on my rear-mount cultivator." Excerpted from *Organic Grain Resource and Information Network*.

"I can spit with more pressure than this washer can produce."

Brian Longcore, Sand Lake, Mich.: "My 2012 **Deere 1026R** sub-compact tractor is equipped with a backhoe, front-end loader, and 60-in. Auto Connect drive-over mower deck. It still looks and works just like new. The 3-cyl. Yanmar diesel engine has a lot of power and is easy on fuel."

On the "worst buy" side, "I had to return my new **Worx** Hotshot cordless Hydroshot pressure washer for a refund. I can spit with more pressure than this washer can produce."

Bill Boyce, Texarkana, Ark.: "My 2017 **Textron** Bad Boy Stampede 900 side by side utility vehicle runs good, but servicing it is a nightmare. The belly pan has to be removed

first before you can change the oil filter. Also, at least 10 grease fittings aren't even accessible. The dealer's service technician said they don't even try to grease these fittings when they lube these machines. To solve the problem, I removed the original fittings and installed 90 degree ones."

Bud Vogelzang, Sioux Center, Iowa: "I bought my **New Holland 565** skid loader several years ago with more than 5,000 hrs. on it. I don't use this machine hard, but it has been trouble-free and is easy to operate."

He's had problems with the 2011 **New Holland C232** track skid loader he bought used with about 2,000 hrs. on it. "A hydraulic hose blew and the machine had to be hauled back to the dealer for repairs. They found other problems, too, so my total bill came to \$4,754. Then after only 2 more hours of use, electronic problems developed and the loader had to be hauled in again. This time the repair bill was \$3,445. Part of the problem was trying to repair a 2011 skid steer with 2018 electronics repair software."

Dave Doherty, Lebanon, Ore.: A 2017 **Deere D125** riding mower rates as Dave's "best buy". "I use it on about 4 acres where I want to control weeds and wild blackberries. I've owned several other mowers over the years and had to constantly replace belts and blades after hitting rocks and brush stumps. But the blades on this machine seem indestructible even though I'm cutting the same areas."

Johnny Walker, Hamilton, Ohio: "It's the best 2-WD, hill-climbing mower I've ever used and works great on my steep pond banks," says Johnny about his 2018 **Cub Cadet RZT SX** zero-turn riding mower. "This

Continued on next page