

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

2020, with about 100 hrs. on the machine, the engine would not start at all. All maintenance service had always been done on schedule. I took it back to Arnolds. Their service clerk discovered that the choke adjustment was not set properly right from the factory. He fixed it and it runs and starts perfectly now. It was out of warranty, but Arnolds promptly fixed it with no charge to me because factory workmanship was the problem.

"In the middle of the harvest season and with their service department frantically working to keep their customer's tractors, combines, and other equipment worth hundreds of thousands of dollars running properly, they took the time to give me perfect, prompt service for my little \$2,600 lawn mower. Now that's what I call really good service."

**David Keener, Perrysville, Ohio:** "My best buy is **Farming Magazine** ([www.farmingmagazine.net](http://www.farmingmagazine.net)). This magazine is written for small farms. Even the ads are interesting."

**Mark Zelinski, Erie, Penn.:** "I bought a 1971 **Ford 3000** diesel with power steering at an auction. After a stick punctured the radiator last May, I decided to repaint the tractor. One thing let to another but after 4 mos., the tractor is done. It does everything I ask it to do and more. Handy size to have around my acreage."

**John Garbowski, Hampton Bays, N.Y.:** "My **Wheel Horse B-80** 8-speed will push snow, move dirt, and drag other tractors uphill. This is one of the smallest tractors in my collection but it's really a workhorse."

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**Arlin Wenger, Rockingham, Va.:** Arlin's best buy is his 2015 **Bobcat S770** skid-steer. "We put about 1,000 hrs. a year on our machines, so we need a good, dependable skid loader. With 2,400 hrs. so far, we've had no problems. We have a good dealer for and parts service."

The **Ozark Trail 1/2-gal.** stainless steel water jug is another great buy. "I took the jug with ice water when I went fishing for 8 hrs. in 90 degree heat. When I got home, there was still ice inside!"

"My 2013 **Case SR250** skid steer kept going down. The wiring harness shorted out and ruined the ECU. One of the connector plugs shorted out. It took the mechanic 2 days to fix the plug. He told me to get rid of it because there are too many other electrical problems to list. That was 1,900 hrs. of headache."

**Myron Karsten, DeWitt, Mich.:** Myron's best buy is his 2000 **Ford Super Duty F-350** with 390,000 miles. "It's had regular maintenance and oil changes with Shell Rotella, as well as replacing belts and batteries. It was recalled for the cam sensor that the dealer replaced free of charge. Michigan salt is finally taking its toll."

"My 2005 **Cub Cadet** lawn tractor with 22 hp. Kohler engine has 2,300 hrs. and is still going strong with regular oil changes plus replacing the battery and starter."

**Wesley Snyder, Canton, N.Y.:** "My **Deere 1360** discbine with impeller has mowed hundreds of acres in all types of conditions. It never plugs and far outperforms any machine we have operated in past years."

**Peter Glerum, Bangor, Penn.:** "Bought a used **Yanmar 1870** tractor with a **Rhino** loader. Although it's only about 18 hp., it's handy around the farm with the loader. The

diesel engine always starts and it's very fuel efficient.

**Micah Shreffler, Hillsboro, Va.:** "Golden Campine chickens bought from **Murray McMurray Hatchery** are my best buy ([www.mcmurrayhatchery.com](http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com); ph 800 456-3280). These birds are hardy and laid a lot of eggs all year-round. I like how pretty they are, too. They're high-spirited and jumpy so they perform best when they're in a free range setting. I enjoyed them and think everyone should have them around for their productivity, attitude, and 'beauty'."

"The worst purchase I made recently was a metal feeder from **Southern States**. It lasted only a year before rusting out. The lid leaked from day one, getting the feed wet everytime it rained. Not satisfied at all."

**Brian Olsen, Youngsville, Penn.:** "I bought a 5-ft. **Howse** rotary mower that's now 25 years old. Other than replacing the knives when I first bought it and doing a little welding on it over the years, it has performed flawlessly. Not bad since I bought it for just \$350."

**Jim Gibbs, Dallas, Texas:** "I purchased a **Stihl MSA 220 c-b** cordless chainsaw in 2020 and a **Stihl 120** battery chainsaw in 2021. They're quiet, convenient, reliable, and powerful enough to handle most of the trim-work needed on our 900-acre tree farm."

**William Chisholm, Port Charlotte, Fla.:** "My best buys are my **Caterpillar TracHoe**, lowboy Globe trailer, and 2020 Peterbilt. We liked the **Cat TracHoe** so much we bought 21 more along with buckets and claws. We're in the demolition business and have 804 employees. Not bad for a good old farm boy. **Caterpillar** really treats us right. If I blow a hose, they pick it up and leave a new one full of fuel for us to use."

**Larry Janssen, DeSmet, S.D.:** "I bought a 1999 **Dodge 3/4 ton** 4-WD pickup with a long box. I drove it for 118,000 miles and got 18 to 19 mpg. It had a 5.9L diesel engine in it with a 3.7 gearbox in the front and rear ends. Best pickup I ever owned."

"In 2007, I bought a new **Dodge** pickup with the same gear ratio front and back, 5.9L diesel engine, automatic transmission, long box. Now I get 20 to 21 mpg. I've got 83,000 miles on it. I've had one thing go wrong with it – the water pump went out. Cost me \$602 at 40,000 miles. Runs good now, should be good for 500,000 miles."

**Robert Rupert, Candler, N.C.:** "My best buys are **Predator** engines. I bought a 5.5 hp. vertical in 2000, 2 more in 2015, and a 22 hp. vertical in 2018. I mounted on a 5.5 hp. Vertical on a 22-in. push mower deck. That thing would throw grass like a Gehl chopper. I later moved that engine over to a wheeled string trimmer. I bought 2 **Predators** last year, one for a Murray deck I had and the other for a wood splitter for a customer. When I started the splitter to demonstrate for a customer, his jaw literally dropped in amazement. I installed a 22 hp. vertical shaft on my Ariens **Hydro 42-in.** mower. The Kohlers are no good. There is something always falling off them and you can't get parts in a timely fashion. I only made a bracket to move the hood up 2 in. This motor is so quiet compared to the Kohler."

**Charles Jennings, Seligman, Mo.:** "A **Poulan** chainsaw with an 18-in. bar bought in 2017 was my worst buy. When new at first it started and ran good. Then after about 20 hrs. it got difficult to start and sometimes died while cutting. Needless to say I junked it and bought an **Echo 20-in.** No more problems."

**Lee Marion, Cowpens, S.C.:** "My **Stihl** model 70 chainsaw is the easiest saw to start that I have ever owned. Oiler is equal to fuel used, so I don't have to worry about always



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## FARM SHOW Tests Battery-Powered Auger

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

"When **Ryobi** sent FARM SHOW their 18-volt and 40-volt battery-powered earth augers to try out, I was skeptical. How would they handle 2 to 2 1/2-ft. holes in different soils with rocks and other obstacles? I was quickly won over."

"I love the Ryobi 40-volt cordless earth auger. The 18-volt unit was less impressive, but definitely has its place. After years of digging postholes and holes for plants by hand, the battery-powered units are a real treat. There also is no comparison between them and heavy, noisy, smelly and dangerous, gas-powered, one-man augers that I've used in the past."

"The compact power heads let you get in closer than any gas-powered unit I've used when digging a hole next to an existing fence, between plants, or up against a wall. With forward and reverse, it is easy to pull them out of the holes. The 40-volt offers 2 speeds, but it is the anti-kickback functions on both that I really appreciate."

"Anyone who has ever operated a gas-powered auger knows how tricky it can be when encountering a rock or other buried item. I've taken more than a few blows to the ribs as the auger stops and the power unit spins."

"With the Ryobi cordless, kickback is not a problem. Hit a rock or buried metal and it stops and resets so you can reverse out of the hole."

"At about 35 lbs. with the battery in place and an 8-in. dirt bit, hauling the 40-volt

around and lifting it out of holes is not a big problem. At about 16 lbs., the 18-volt is ideal for lighter excavation."

"In addition to fence postholes, I did some shallow excavation in less-than-ideal ground. I wanted to lay some 4-in. drain tile on the edge of our driveway, burying it under 4 in. of washed rock. I wasn't looking forward to a lot of pickaxe work to dig up the driveway."

"The packed gravel was too much for the 18-volt with its 6-in. auger. However, the 40-volt with its 8-in. dirt bit proved ideal for the job. I drilled out a series of holes the length of the trench and about a foot deep. Removing the loose gravel with a narrow spade was easy."

"The quick connect augers make switching out different size bits easy. Ryobi offers 4, 6, 8 and 10-in. dirt bits. All are 24 in. long with another 6 in. or so of shaft. If installing wood stakes in hard packed dirt or clay, I could see the 18-volt power head and 4-in. dirt bit being a real help."

"Overall, I would give a hearty endorsement of the 40-volt powerhead versus the 18-volt. The 40V earth auger is priced at \$299 with charger, 4Ah battery and an 8-in. dirt bit. The 18-volt is priced at \$249 with charger, battery and 6-in. bit. The additional \$50 for the larger unit would definitely be money well-spent."

For more information visit [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com) and search for Ryobi earth auger.

running out of oil.

"On the negative side, my worst buys are the starters I bought for a 1991 2500 diesel Suburban, which I bought in September of 2019. It needed 3 new starters in 3 mos., all bought at **NAPA**. The starters were the premium models for the 6.5L diesel, and the engine starts first flip over, if the starter works. Disappointed with **NAPA**."

**Elroy Hoegsted, Kansasville, Wis.:** "I like my 2018 **Chevrolet** Silverado. Excellent truck and very good on gas for a big truck."

**Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.:** "We have dogs and cats in the house and were looking for something to help pick up pet hair. After hearing about the **Magic Broom**, we decided to give it a try."

"Designed for hard surfaces, it's supposed to remove dust and pet hair from floors but can also be used as a glass squeegee. Available from different retailers, we found ours on Amazon for about \$20."



"It's 12-in. wide and 36-in. tall. We used it on a hardwood floor, and it did a good job 'sweeping' up pet hair that could then be easily swept into a pan or vacuumed."

"We like it because it has no pads or solutions that need to be changed. It just looks like a small squeegee and was easy to clean by just rinsing it off after use. Not having to remove dust and hair from broom bristles was a plus. The model we tested was not very heavy-duty but worked well. If you have a large area of hard surface flooring and pets, give it a try."