

Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

'energy performer' model that is fully lined and insulated. To heat the building I installed a boiler and heat tubes under the concrete floor. The boiler is LP-fired, and it takes about 1,000 gal. per year to keep the temperature inside the building at 50 degrees. The floor heat is even and comfortable. During the winter I can drive my tractor or skid loader full of snow into the building, and by the next morning both the machine and the floor are completely dry."

John Payne, Leavenworth, Kansas: "My 2000 Ford F-350 crew cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine and automatic transmission is my best buy. I bought it used with about 29,000 miles on it. It pulls everything I load onto it and has required only routine maintenance."

Dale A. Cummins, Chattaroy, Wash.: "I like my Wolverine multishox work boots (Vanderbilt's Mail Order, Wamego, Kansas ph 888 844-9199; www.vanderbilts.com). These boots have built-in shock absorbers. At the end of the day I'm tired but I don't have aching legs or an aching back. I wholeheartedly recommend these boots."

Gene Meyer, Clintonville, Wis.: "My 1997 Ford F-250 4-WD diesel pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine is my best buy. My wife and I have a performance horse business, and she runs the rodeo circuit on a pro level. I've tried using different makes and models of pickups to pull our 3 and 4-horse trailer equipped with living quarters, but this pickup has the best pulling power and is also fuel efficient."

On the negative side, "My Coleman 5,000-watt generator is extremely loud and the off switch is defective. It starts hard, but the worst problem is that I need ear muffs to work around it. I give a thumbs down for this machine."

Donald Hines, Montezuma, Iowa: "My 2003 Polaris Ranger 2-WD utility vehicle is my best buy. I use it almost every day going between farms to do chores, haul wood, or shuffle drivers between fields. The box on back works great for hauling fencing materials, buckets of feed or salt, picking up rocks, hauling mulch or compost, and so forth."

"My 2002 American Steel Quonset building is my worst buy. We had the building about one third of the way up when a wind storm wrapped the building around a combine parked underneath. We tore the building completely down and started to rebuild, calling on friends and family for help. The company said it would take three men three days to put up the building. However, it took us two weeks and we had a crew of four to six people."

Mark Marquez, Estancia, N. Mex.: "I bought my Case 1175 tractor used 10 years ago and it's our best buy. It's the only tractor we use to do all the haying and dirt work on our 120-acre farm. It has never let us down."

Brian Richardson, Warren, Mass.: "My 2003 Tajfun 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven logging winch is my best buy (ph 866 986-0067; www.apacheforest.com). It's rated at 5 tons of pulling power and has handled everything I've put it through."

Randy Brooks, Peterstown, W. Va.: "It's one of the best balers I've ever used," says Randy about his New Holland 848 round baler. "It'll bale wet or dry hay any time and anywhere. It consistently produces solid core, 48 by 54-in. bales that always stay tight."

Willie R. Ferguson, 1620 Centennial Road, Bedford, Va. 24523 ph 540 586-1310: Willie makes a new tool called a T-Post Clip Twister that's designed to twist or straighten clips and also to splice wire. It measures 5 1/2 in. long and weighs only 2 1/2 oz. "It fits in your pocket and you can twist two or three clips with this tool to one with pliers," he

says. "You can use the clips that come with the post without having to buy special ones. You just slip the tool over the end of the clip and go around the wire. It really cuts down on your fencing time and is much easier on the hands."

William, Jenkinsburg, Ga.: "Gempler's rust remover and rust converter removes rust better than any other product I've ever used (ph 800 382-8473; www.gemplers.com).

"I like Kroil oil and Silkroil lubricants for removing rusted bolts from tractors and automobiles (Kano Laboratories, ph 615 833-4101). I buy these products by the gallon."

Luther Roecks, Worley, Idaho: "We're pleased with our Great Plains 40-ft. fold-up grain drill. Both the dealer and the company made sure this drill performed like it should. They came back after the sale several times and checked over the drill themselves to look for any potential problems. This grain drill is well designed and built."

Chuck Hays, Kamloops, B.C.: "My worst buy nomination would have to go to my 1989 Ford F-250 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine. Why I stuck with it so long, I don't know. Over the course of my ownership I've installed the following: two water pumps, four alternators, three starters, a new radiator, new injection pump, 16 new injectors (two complete sets), three clutches, one transmission, three clutch slave cylinders (they're plastic and crack in the cold), two voltage regulators, one vacuum pump, and two complete sets of wheel bearings."

"All told, I've spent more to fix this pickup than I did to buy it. I've never gotten it out of the shop for less than \$1,000. When it runs well, there isn't a better truck on the road, but when things go wrong it isn't worth a nickel."

Bernard Krieger, Creelman, Sask.: "My 2003 Flexi-Coil 100-ft. pull-type sprayer equipped with a 1,250-gal. tank and auto rate controller is my best buy. It lets me spray 160 acres before I have to refill the tank."

"My 1998 Flexi-Coil 820 air seeder equipped with a 1,330-gal. tank is my worst buy. The problems include uneven depth, seeding, and crop emergence, and repairs to the fan, meter box, electric clutch, and depth control. A machine that could be simple is just too complicated."

Joel French, Tekoa, Wash.: "Our Case IH 2388 rotary combine is a dependable and reliable machine. It has a relatively simple design with few moving parts, which keeps the maintenance costs lower than with other combines of the same class and size."

Todd Soukup, Plainfield, Ill.: Todd's the proud owner of a 2003 McCormick F-90 Orchard tractor. "I use it for my business planting native grasses and providing ecological management services in the Chicago area. This tractor is dependable, affordable, and very nimble on rough ground and steep slopes that I work on. It has a Perkins diesel engine which delivers a surprising amount of power. Its cooling system could be better, but overall I'm happy with this tractor."

Eddie Meisel, Saginaw, Mich.: "We have several different brands of trucks on our farm, but Ford is the best. We own Ford pickups, Broncos, and vans, and all have performed great. We also have several old Ford farm trucks that are still as dependable as ever. It's no wonder Fords have been the best built and best selling Fords for 28 years and running."

"As far as larger tractors go, we've had the best luck with our older White models. They're simple, reliable, rugged and economical machines. Regarding smaller tractors we have the best luck with Fords. It's a shame to see so many previous companies amalgamated into only a few large companies today."



Dutch Prairie conveyors efficiently deliver silage and grain to feeders, say the Krueenegels.

"Best Buy" Silage Conveyor

Charles Kruenegel of Shobonier, Ill., says he couldn't be happier with his Dutch Prairie silage conveyor.

Made of wood, the conveyors have a lot longer life than galvanized sheet metal. And, by moving feed along the bottom of the conveyor, they are 100 percent efficient in delivering silage and grain to the feeders outside.

Kruenegel, along with sons David and Tyler, feeds replacement dairy heifers for a large dairy in southern Illinois.

Dutch Prairie sells two kinds of conveyors: single chain and double chain. The single chain is quite similar to the time-honored corn dump. That is, the chain goes around the end on a sprocket and returns underneath.

Unlike the old corn dump, which has a chain and flights making a loop over the bot-

tom of the conveyor, the double chain conveyor has both advancing and returning flights in the same trough. The chain moves in both directions simultaneously. What this does is allow the feed to drop to the bottom and be moved along to its destination by the lower chain and its flights. This keeps all feed confined within the conveyor housing. In so doing, there is absolutely no loss.

"Before, we had a wide belt, and there was loss over the edges," notes Charley.

The conveyors are made from either treated lumber or plastic. In most farm operations, the treated lumber works best.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Kruenegel, Shobonier, Ill. (ph 618 846-8465) or Dutch Prairie Conveyors, RR 1, P.O. Box 159A, Shobonier, Ill. 62885 (ph 618 349-6177).

"Our Fordson Major diesel has 8,614 hours on it and is still going strong."

"Our Deere tractors have always had minor problems. Deere's service is superb and I like their next-day parts service, but their tractors just seem to have a lot of leaks, start hard, and are also hard to work on, etc. They're good tractors but not the best on the market."

"We've had good luck with Gleaner combines in the past, but I believe the best combines made today are the tried and true Case IH Axial Flow models. They're simple, reliable, and easy to update. Parts for them are common and they work smoothly and efficiently. We love our Case IH Axial Flow combine."

Cal Yapp, Littleton, Mass.:"It's absolutely the most dependable machine I've ever

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owned," says Cal, pleased with his mid 1960's Cub Cadet 123 garden tractor. "The tractor's hydrostatic transmission and rear axle have never required any work. Its only weak points are that it starts hard during the winter and the generators last only two to three years."

"A general comment - new cars, trucks and tractors have too much electronic nonsense, which means it takes days to diagnose the problem. Our 1988 Jeep Cherokee was recently in the shop for two weeks. The problem is that it runs until it gets hot, then stalls and won't start. The crank sensor has been changed and I've gone to websites looking

for help, but the problem is still a mystery."

David Fox, Edon, Ohio: David likes his Morton 60 by 98-ft. pole barn. "A few years after it was built the paint started flaking on one half of the roof but not on the other half. The company promptly removed the roof and replaced it with an entirely new one. One reason I chose this company is that it was the only one to offer a warranty on several aspects of the building."

Bob Spyker, Defiance, Ohio: Bob's the satisfied owner of a New Holland TC45D tractor equipped with a super steer system. "It's small and compact for a 45 hp hydrostatic drive tractor and is very dependable. It handles easily in tight spots and is an excellent tractor for mowing, running a haybine, raking and baling."

J.D. Lyall, Tonkawa, Okla.: "My Echo chain saw equipped with a 16-in. bar is my best buy. It always starts and it keeps on running. It's second in dependability only to my Honda 4-wheeler."

Gene Frankamp, Nicollet, Minn.: "The pistons got stuck on one of my tractors. Over a period of five months I tried using WD-40, Sea Foam, and diesel fuel with no luck. Then I tried TB Buster, which I bought at Wal-Mart, and it loosened the pistons in only five days. I took the head off and put some in every morning."

Robert Mork, Sevierville, Tenn.: "I bought a used Exmark commercial mower on eBay and it's my best buy. This mower is built like a tank and is very dependable. I use it during the summer to mow six acres at least once a week. This machine can take the abuse of mowing over rough ground and through tall grass and brush. Also, it's very rebuildable so you can operate the same one forever."

"My Makita string trimmer is a good ma-

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