

## Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

"We also have a **Kubota M6-111** tractor, which is an all-around great tractor. I'd buy both units again in a heartbeat."

**Tony Wright, Taswell, Ind.:** "My best recent purchase is my **Echo 5.0Ah** battery-powered chainsaw. The chain was so sharp it cut through a black walnut like butter. It's a fantastic product."

**Farrell Welch Sr., Celina, Ohio:** Farrell is impressed with his **Worx 20V** Switchdriver. "I can predrill, then, with a twist, switch to drive the screw in. It has plenty of power for most of the jobs I do, and the battery seems to last and last. It's light and comfortable to use. It also has torque control."

**Bob Noble, Williston, Fla.:** "My **Snapper 48V** weed whacker runs for 2 hr on a charge. It can handle heavy cord and cut large weeds and saplings. I've had it for 6 years with no problems with the whacker or charger."



**Ralph Volkman, Black Creek, Wis.:** Ralph is pleased with his **Barbasol** razor. "When the handle broke, I called the company, and they sent me a new one. I change blades on the first of January and July."

**James E. Branstetter, St. James, Mo.:** "I bought a 1996 **Ford F-250** extended-cab 4-WD pickup with 116,000 miles. It now has 314,692 miles. I've had to replace the brakes and front ball joints, but nothing else. It's still running well."

**Bob Collins, Union City, Mich.:** "In 1972, I installed a **Sears Dual 50-gal** glass-lined electric water heater. In 1977, the lower heating element burned out, so I replaced it. In April 2026, I replaced the unit because I thought it might be the right time, even though it was still working perfectly and hadn't been touched for 49 years. I call that a best buy. I wish other products were as reliable."

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**Nelson N. Burkholder, New Holland, Penn.:** Nelson is pleased with his 2023 **Vermeer TE1710** 4-star tedder. "It spreads heavy spring forage with ease. It runs quietly, sits low, and spreads evenly with hardly any broken teeth. Be careful; your heavy rye might get too dry."

**E.J. Leenders, Lynden, Wash.:** A **Case David Brown 1210** tractor rates as a worst buy for E.J. "It had three crankshafts crack, and I called it quits after the third episode and scrapped the tractor. The rear engine seal also failed prematurely."

**Kaitlyn Feldbauer, Ishpeming, Mich.:** "The best purchase I made recently was a

24-in. self-propelled **PowerSmart** electric snowblower with two 80V batteries from Amazon. It's powerful, maneuverable, and great for clearing heavy, deep snow around the barnyard. I'm very pleased with it for an Upper Michigan winter."

**Steven D. Walter, Goshen, Ind.:** "My 1990 8-speed **Wheelhorse** is the best garden tractor I've ever owned. It's a shame Toro shut down Wheelhorse. I've owned the tractor since 2000 and have mowed the yard with the original mower deck for 26 years."

**Edward Weber, Cincinnati, Ohio:** Edward nominates his 2004 **New Holland TC40** tractor as a best buy. "I could fit all the parts I've bought, except for a couple of batteries, in one hand. It has 2,900 hr now."

**James W. Milstead, Etoile, Texas:** "This wasn't my purchase, but that of a close friend. He bought a **Toro** leaf blower, and it only lasted a short time. The variable-speed switch went bad. Toro didn't offer a replacement switch, but they did replace the blower under warranty. The reason I'm writing this is that I was going to do the replacement and got involved with the Toro dealer. He said, 'Let me see what I can do about getting it replaced,' and he was successful. Hats off to Toro."

**Bob Clanton, Statesville, N.C.:** "I mailed a birthday card to my grandson with the correct address. A month later, the card was returned to me, and it said the address was incorrect. I challenged the post office about the matter. I told them that since I paid for a service that wasn't delivered, I should get a refund on my 78¢ stamp. My request was refused."

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**Bryan Andry, Paoli, Ind.:** "I'm happy I bought a 3-pt. quick-attach adapter. It makes connecting to my brush hog much easier."

"I added a backup camera with two cameras to my **Kubota M7040** with a cab. They make it easier and safer to back up or watch rear implements."

**Patrick Coppage, Hanover, Ind.:** "My best purchase was a **Stihl MS 251** 18-in. gas saw. It's a bit hard to start, but it's not 'stump-broke' yet."

"My worst purchases were two chainsaws bought on sale at big-box stores. When the first went south, I learned I had to ship it out of state for warranty work. The second had strange adjustment screws on the carburetor. It was \$50 to get the idle and high-speed set. Make the equipment so we can fix it in the woods, please."

**Harve Moses, Toledo, Ill.:** "All of my **Milwaukee** tools are great buys. I have a weed eater, chainsaw, air compressor, impact drill and drivers. They all run a long time on a charge and do a good job."

**Warren Peterson, Frederic, Wis.:** "Growing up on a small dairy farm, we had a **Deere M** as our only tractor. We still use it often, even after thousands of hours, with only routine maintenance."

"We've used **Jonsered** chainsaws for years and are very pleased with them."

"My **Gravely** zero-turn had a good engine, but the frame broke in several places. I traded it in for a **Hustler** and couldn't be more pleased."

**David Peck, Perry, N.Y.:** "About 10 years ago, I was passing through Burns,



Beds were delivered two per 33-lb box, with six curved panels for the rounded ends and four straight panels. Each panel had four predrilled holes, and each bed took about 15 to 20 min to assemble.

## Galvanized Metal Makes Great Garden Beds

**Wendy Wellnitz, La Crescent, Minn.:** "Our latest best buy is galvanized metal raised garden beds. My husband, Jim, and I have gardened with raised beds for most of our 48 years of marriage. Some were simply beds of dirt raised above the surrounding surface."

"When we moved to our latest home, we tore down several old buildings and repurposed 2 by 6 and 2 by 8-in. boards for our new garden beds. We treated them with a non-toxic product called **Eco Wood**. It worked for a few years, but last year most of our 4 by 8-ft beds had succumbed to some degree of rot."

"Looking for replacement options, I focused on metal beds for greater longevity. There are numerous shapes, metal thicknesses and finishes, often from a single supplier. You can choose from simple galvanized to your choice of powder-coated colors. Prices are also all over the board."

"We settled on 12-in. high, 4 by 8-ft oval-shaped beds without bases from **Land Guard** ([www.landguardgarden.com](http://www.landguardgarden.com)). The open floor allows for drainage and lets the roots go as

deep as they want to better absorb nutrients. They're made from Q195 galvanized sheet metal. Two center support rods prevent spreading, which was a problem even with wooden beds. The metal is 0.78 mm thick."

"Beds were delivered two per 33-lb box, with six curved panels for the rounded ends and four straight panels. Each panel had four predrilled holes, and each bed took about 15 to 20 min to assemble."

"The holes and the edges of the panels were accurate and smooth. The nuts and bolts, as well as the center support rods, were galvanized as well."

"One downside is that they're easy to dent if a heavy tool is dropped or someone leans too hard. However, they're equally easy to bend back. We're considering slipping old garden hose that has been slit over the edges. That should provide protection for the beds and gardeners alike."

"The beds run close to \$50 each, but try making rectangular, 12-in. deep, 4 by 8-ft beds out of wood for that price. And, we won't have to replace them again."



Hohl was pleased with the customer service he received from Woodpeckers tools.

## Quality Tools, Great Service

**Tom Hohl, Hermantown, Minn.:** "I've used Woodpeckers Tools for quite a few years, and they're all excellent quality ([www.woodpeck.com](http://www.woodpeck.com); ph 800-752-0725). They do everything they're designed to do with precise accuracy."

"It was ironic that on the day I received the FARM SHOW issue featuring my best buy on Woodpeckers tools (Vol. 50, No. 3), one of the router bits I was using broke. I don't know whether it was faulty or my fault, but I needed another one just like it."

Ore. It's a good place to get lunch and stretch your legs. On this visit, I noticed a secondhand store. I bought a pair of almost-new **Muck Boot Company** chore boots ([www.muckbootcompany.com](http://www.muckbootcompany.com); ph 855-377-2668). They were size 12, and I wear size 10.5, so I bought a pair of felt inserts. The boots fit great. I'm still wearing

"I called Woodpeckers and explained what happened. The service agent asked a few questions and didn't hesitate to replace the bit. Better yet, they didn't charge shipping for sending it to me. Getting that replacement saved me \$65, plus the shipping cost. I thought that was very generous of the company. Customer service like that further raises my appreciation for their products and how they do business."

them, shoveling snow, walking my dog, and working in a muddy yard. I've never had a pair of boots last this long."

**Dwight Coffman, Farmersville, Ohio:** "My best buy is an **EGO 56V** battery-powered chainsaw. It's great for trimming and limbing trees. If you're cutting big logs, you'll need to swap batteries after several hours."