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**Mark Newhall, Lakeville, Minn.:** "I'm very happy with **Weed Tiger** replacement "strings" for weed trimmer machines (Weed Tiger; ph 877-764-7268). I was tired of always running out of string and the hassle of replacing it. But I didn't want to install one of those chain-type cutting heads because of the damage they might do



trimming around trees and fences. So I bought a set of Weed Tigers.

"It took only about 10 min. to install them. You remove the original spool and spring and then drill a 1/4-in. hole in each side of the trimmer head. Then slip the Weed Tigers in place. Centrifugal force holds them in place.

"The plastic on these things is very tough. I had them on two weed trimmers all last year and they appear to be fine for another year or two, maybe more. They're simple and easy to use."

**Jeff Williams, Langley, Wash.:** "I nominate **Rapco** carbide-tipped chainsaw chain as my worst buy. I bought chains for both my Echo and Husky saws after reading about them in FARM SHOW a couple years ago. Neither chain lasted more than 3 uses. Both lost so many carbide tips cutting fir firewood as to make them useless and non-repairable. I sent the chains back with a letter to the president of this family-owned company and never even got the courtesy of a reply. This was the worst and most horribly expensive product I've ever bought and the lack of customer service was disgusting. I've used chainsaws for 40 years so I know what I'm doing. From now on I'll stick with my regular Oregon brand chains."

**John Kostura, Kettle Falls, Wash.:** A 2007 **Jinma** 284 tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe rates as John's "best buy". "This tractor has about 450 hours on it with no problems. I've used it for logging and landscaping work and even built a plow for it that mounts on the bucket. There was a problem with a leaking hose which the company replaced. The company has been helpful with questions I had regarding maintenance.

"My **Harbor Freight** 4 1/2-in. side grinder is my worst buy. The problem is with a wire that connects to the brushes. I reworked the connectors, which solved the problem."

**Gregory Villabona, Sudlersville, Md.:** Gregory nominates his 2006 **Kubota** BX24 tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe as his "best buy". "Overall this is a dependable tractor. As small as it is, we were able to use it to dig out 100 tree stumps anywhere from 3 in. to 2 1/2 ft. in dia. If I hadn't done the work myself I wouldn't have believed it."

**Ziggy Jurglewicz, Southington, Conn.:** "My 2008 **Frigidaire** 17 cu. in. upright freezer is energy efficient, quiet and roomy. It just keeps on ticking. I'd definitely buy another one."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 2005 **Yard Machine** MTD rototiller equipped with a Honda engine. "After 2 years it started to stall frequently. The problem seems to happen whenever the gas tank gets down to about half full."

**Larry Van Deman, Murchison, Texas:** "My 2008 **Husqvarna** riding mower equipped with a 52-in. deck has a lot of power and is a great mower. However, it doesn't cut well on uneven ground. Also, the mowing

deck has 3 blades and tends to leave uncut streaks between the blades."

**Jim Gustavson, International Falls, Minn.:** "The ATV cab I bought last fall from **Sportsmans Guide** is my worst buy. After I started using it the zipper handles fell off and then the zipper fell apart. The company won't help out."

**Ray Alexander, Blissville, New Brunswick:** "I work for a snow removal company that uses late model **Deere** 6000 series tractors equipped with model 640 front-end loaders. In my opinion, these loaders are built way too light. There's no

**"I never knew a tractor could be absolutely perfect until these tractors came along."**

comparison to my own personal 1993 **Case** 520 loader which I use on a **Case** 5220 tractor. It's a no nonsense, indestructible loader.

"The same snow removal company just bought two new **Kubota** M126X tractors. I never knew a machine could be absolutely perfect until these tractors came along. I can't decide whether they're the Cadillac or the Rolls Royces of the tractor world."

**Elton Trexler, Harmony, N.C.:** "I'm the original owner of a 2002 **Chevrolet** Silverado 2500 heavy duty pickup with about 28,000 miles on it. A recent incident caused me to rate this vehicle as a 'worst buy'. While driving the pickup, I applied the brakes and the pedal went completely to the floor, leaving me with no brakes. Fortunately, I was going very slow and was able to roll to a stop with no injuries or damage. The problem was due to rusty brake lines.

"I contacted General Motors and was given a 'canned' answer about how they value their customers' safety and satisfaction. However, they said the pickup would have to be inspected by a dealer before any additional action could be taken. As a result, I was charged \$175.09 for hauling the vehicle 20 miles to my nearest Chevy dealer for inspection. They found the brake lines had rusted and they wanted \$1,000 to replace them.

"I've driven cars and pickups for more than 50 years and have never had a hole rust through a brake line. I urge anyone who owns a GM pickup made within the past 10 years to have someone visually inspect the brake lines for rust. If you find rusty spots, complain to GM and also notify the National Transportation Safety Board. Then replace the line so you can avoid a serious accident."

**R.L. Ankney, Coupeville, Wash.:** "I use my **Dremel** model 754, 4.8-volt cordless tool to sharpen my chainsaw. It fits nicely in a shirt or jacket pocket and has enough power and battery life to provide several sharpenings. It's priced at about \$20."

**Howard A. Smith, Bellville, Ohio:** "I own a 1997 **Ford** F-350 4-WD pickup equipped with a turbocharged 7.3-liter diesel engine. The 4-WD has been an expensive disaster. Early on the gear shifter, ball joints, and 2 universal joints on the front axle had to be replaced, and repairs had to be made to the Warn wheel hubs. The total repair cost was about \$2,000. Otherwise this has been a satisfactory vehicle with very little body rust."

**Rick Delahunty, Oakwood, Tenn.:** "Our **Swisher** 60-in. zero turn riding mower quit working after we used it only a few hours. A new unit was delivered and it worked okay until the deck plugged up on grass clippings.



Jay Bargman says rolling bean fields keeps dirt out of his bean head and speeds up harvest.

## "Best Buy" Land Rollers Save Time And Money

Land rollers do lots more than bury rocks and flatten gopher mounds, says Jay Bargman, who uses his big Mandako roller to keep dirt out of his bean head and to speed harvest. Corn growers he knows use them ahead of planters to improve accuracy and emergence. Still others use them instead of stalk choppers, running them ahead of rippers.

"I bought mine after a terrible harvest where the bean head kept pushing dirt through the combine," recalls Bargman. "Not only did I have to stop twice a round to clean dirt off the head, but I knew it was really hurting the combine. I know that harvest shortened its life."

A friend said he wasn't having any trouble. "He had rolled his fields that spring," says Bargman. "I decided it was worth a try."

Bargman bought a Mandako Agri land roller and was so impressed with the results the following year that he became a dealer. He now has 6 seasons of rolling his bean fields behind him, and he wouldn't think of stopping.

"I roll all my soybeans every year," he says. "It is just as important as spraying and planting. I have to roll them."

Bargman says 90 percent of the farmers he knows hit the field right after planting the soybeans. While one of the selling points is improved soil to seed contact, Bargman says a yield benefit is hard to

prove. However, he does see more uniform plant emergence. He also notes that with level fields, he can cut closer to the ground, picking up a higher percentage of low hanging pods.

"It's hard to put a number to it, but you gain a pod here or there," he says.

The big benefit for him comes in the fall with reduced combine maintenance and faster harvesting time. "It turns harvesting soybeans with a platform head into an easy job," says Bargman. "As far as rocks or dirt knocking out sections or breaking guards, it just doesn't happen. Since I started rolling the fields, I haven't had to replace a guard or sickle section during the season."

Bargman also appreciates fewer problems with rocks. While his fields aren't particularly rocky, before rolling the fields, he did have to dump a few rocks out of his rock guard a couple times a day. He no longer has to dump it or even worry about rocks going through the combine.

"Just not putting a rock through the combine is more than worth rolling the field," he says.

The one thing his roller doesn't do is compact his fields. "That was a myth back when land rolling first appeared," says Bargman. "It has no effect on compaction."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jay Bargman, 5579 430th St., West Bend, Iowa 50597 (ph 515 887-5579).

We had to clean out all the clippings from the deck's underside. Then the mower's deck belt broke. We bought a new belt to replace it but that one broke, too. The company sent out standard blades to replace the mower's mulching blades, but by this time yet another belt had broken.

"After installing the fourth belt I wrote to the company president, stating that I had spent more time underneath the machine working on it than cutting grass. By now 18 months had gone by, and I asked for a refund. A product support person responded and said they'd pick up the machine and have it checked out. As an engineer, I could see this mower's design was inherently wrong in many areas. Fortunately, the supplier I bought the mower from agreed to take the mower back and refund my money."

**Allan Woolner, Wardsville, Ont.:** "My 1971 **Deere** 4020 diesel tractor works great and has required only minimal repairs. It's ready to go to work whenever I need it."

**Wayne Cooper, Charlotte, N.C.:** Wayne's happy with his 2008 **Buckner** corn stove (ph 828 684-4444; www.bucknercornstoves.com).

"This stove burns dirty corn as well as clean and has exceeded our expectations. We use it to help out with our heat pump and couldn't be happier. The company also makes a corn burning cooking grill."

**A. Earl Cheal, Ellerslie, Ga.:** "I've had good success with **Sears Craftsman** tools since the 1950's. However, last year I bought a top-of-the-line Craftsman rototiller equipped with reversing tines. It worked good except when the engine surged. Under warranty the service rep replaced 7 different carburetors, but even that didn't solve the problem. The company refunded my money. The service rep said the EPA's requirements for carburetors don't allow for power and idle adjustments like on older models; therefore, the fuel/air mixture couldn't be regulated."

**Casey Schrock, Elkhart, Iowa:** "I'm responding to a 'worst buy' report in a recent issue about a pistol made by **Taurus** called 'The Judge'. I was leery when I bought my Taurus 1911 pistol but I couldn't be more pleased with it (ph 305 624-1115; www.taurususa.com). It's one of the most accurate out-of-the-box guns I've ever used. It shoots