

and drilled holes in it. It works fine. I also used the hood from an old car to make an overhead canopy for the tractor.”

Ronald Dickie, Eyota, Minn.: Ronald’s the satisfied owner of a 20-year-old **Central Boiler** outdoor wood furnace (ph 800 248-4681; www.centralboiler.com). “It’s built with exceptional quality and paid for itself in the first two years. Rarely does the temperature in our house go below 75 degrees, so I can run around barefoot in our house all winter long.”

Ryan Albertz, Johnson Creek, Wis.: “I like my **David Bradley** one-bottom plow. It’s lightweight and durable and works great in gardens and small, hard-to-reach areas. It also works good to make small ditches for channeling water away.”

Dave Bruder, Rodney, Mich.: Dave’s happy with his 2001 **Deere** 6 by 4 Trail Gator. “I use it every day. During the winter I use it to plow our roads and driveways. It has required only routine maintenance.”

Jay Harris, Ness City, Kan.: “I used to pay a neighbor \$50 an hour to clear locust and yucca from my pastures with a tree saw. Now I do it myself with the **DR TreeChopper**



mounted on my Kawasaki 4-wheeler.

“I eased into the first few, but quickly learned I needed to hit them pretty good to clip them with the rotating blades. With smaller trees spread out over a pasture, I can take out 30 to 40 per hour, clipping them close to the ground and cutting trees up to 4 in. dia. I was really impressed how it took out the yucca, which are a bigger problem for me than the locust.

“I only used it for a day or two when I got it, but plan to use it more this spring. I’ll have one guy on the DR TreeChopper and one with a hand sprayer treating the cut stems.

“Attaching it to my 4-wheeler was simple. I only had to make one minor adjustment to the design, cutting off about 4 in. to accommodate my rear hitch.”

Mary Lou Giesting, Batesville, Ind.: “We use our 1994 **Massey Ferguson** 393 tractor to do chores around our dairy farm. The only thing that quit working was the hour meter, and we think that’s because it ran out of numbers. It’s a real workhorse.”

Randy Robey, Tehachapi, Calif.: “I’ve purchased two **Stihl** MS310 chainsaws in the past six years. They’re good saws and always start and have never fouled a plug. However, every two years I have to replace the rubber fuel line from the fuel tank to the carburetor, probably because of fuel degradation due to the alcohol that’s added to the fuel in our area. The company’s engineers need to address this problem. I’ve also encountered this problem with the accelerator pump diaphragms used on Holley carburetors. They last a year or two and then start leaking, which drains the fuel bowl and could cause an engine fire. There’s an alcohol-tolerant diaphragm sold for racing cars, but we also need one for stock street carburetors.”

LeRoy Brueggeman, Wray, Colo.: “My 1968 **Ford** F-150 1/2-ton pickup still runs strong and doesn’t use any oil. It has more than 350,000 miles on it. The rings were replaced and the valves ground at about 120,000 miles.”

Dick Garcia, Casa Grande, Arizona: “I bought my 2011 **Milwaukee** 1/4-in. Masonry bits to drill into concrete but was able to get

less than 1/4-in. into the concrete before the ends of the bits wore down. I tried a second bit with the same results. Finally I went to my shop and found some old Milwaukee bits that I had bought years ago. I was able to finish the job with them, and they worked great. The company’s new bits must be made in China, so I won’t buy any more Milwaukee bits. They just don’t work.”

Stuart Harvey, Oakland, Md.: “Last spring I bought a used 3-pt. mounted, 15-ft. **Deere** 400 rotary hoe because I wanted to add new life to my old meadows. I pulled it over all our pasture ground as early in the spring as possible. I was impressed with the results – more and better quality hay. I plan to use this machine again and again. It breaks up the soil crust and makes holes so air and water can get through to the roots of old hay.”

Daniel A. Troyer, Gladwin, Mich.: “It’s the best place to buy belts of all sizes as well as bearings, pulleys, gear reducers and various drive components,” says Daniel about **D.J.M. Sales** (ph 440 632-3427). “This company offers great prices and great service.”

Lynn A. Peters, Clinton, N.Y.: “The 1 1/2 and 3-ton Pittsburgh aluminum jacks I bought at **Harbor Freight** are lightweight and lift fast. They’re also easy to handle and low-priced. I also bought a small 800-watt portable generator at Harbor Freight that’s lightweight and runs almost 6 hrs. on a gallon of gas. It comes in handy for operating small electrical tools and lights.”

Michael Haney, Scio, N.Y.: “I converted my 2002 **Dodge** 3500 pickup into a mechanic’s rig, which I use for my work in the pipeline industry. It has more than 375,000 miles on it but still runs like new. I upgraded the steering box with a support track bar. I plan to retire in four years and my truck will too, maybe.”

Jack Landis, Lancaster, Penn.: Jack’s the satisfied owner of a **Deere** X320 riding mower equipped with a **Deere** MC519 cart-mounted bagger. “This mower does a great job of picking up leaves, and the cart has excellent capacity.”

Myron Karsten, DeWitt, Mich.: Myron’s had good luck with his 2000 **Ford** F-350 Superduty pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine. He bought it used with about 26,000 miles. “I’ve worked this pickup hard, pulling a 26-ft. livestock trailer and also a 31-ft. flatbed that’s usually loaded to the max. It now has more than 256,000 miles on it while requiring only routine maintenance except for a cam sensor recall and a broken leaf spring. Too bad the engine will outlive the body.”

John Geneva, Mabank, Texas: “The compression cylinders that control bale density on my new **Deere** 468 round baler leaked, which caused the monitor to tell

“The compression cylinders that control bale density on my new Deere round baler leaked.”

me to stop baling. I asked a Deere rep to do something about the cylinders. He replied that it was just normal wear and tear and would do nothing.”

Joe Wasson, Middletown, Iowa: A 2012 **Deere** 1760 12-row planter rates as Joe’s “best buy”. “I ordered this planter with finger pickup seed units and 3-bu. seed boxes. Then I mounted trash whippers, spiked closing wheels and drag chains on it. Everything on this planter works great.”

Dimitri Schlotter, Mancos, Colo.: “We’re remodeling our house and, while the **Ralph**



Marty Derks is impressed with Monosem planters. “They put together a twin row planter for me that pushes my corn population final stand from 35,000 to 45,000,” he says.

Custom-Built Row Crop Planter

“I like the way **Monosem** custom-builds planters,” says Marty Derks, Chesterville, Ont. “They put together a planter for me that pushes my corn population final stand from 35,000 to 45,000, and twin rows was the only way I could do it without standability problems. I also wanted tracks on a center-fill planter to lower soil compaction. **Monosem** was the only one that offered a center-fill, twin row planter and tracks.

“I was able to order a 60-ft. wide, 48-row **Monosem** planter with their **Monoshox** down force control and **Sync-Row** seed stagger timing system for twin rows. However, I could also get sensors and a 20/20 monitor from **Precision Planting** (so I could see every seed that went into the ground) and **Keeton** seed firmers. All were installed by **Monosem** at the factory.

“I installed a **Trimble** FMX integrated display and controller as well as a **Surefire**

liquid fertilizer pump and hooked it into the controller. I added a **Montag** liquid fertilizer cart with a quick connect coupler. This lets me disconnect it in five minutes for switching from corn to soybeans.

“I had been planting soybeans in twin rows for several years after building a double toolbar with staggered **Deere** planter units. Twin rows let me drop my soybean population from 165,000 to 98,000 while boosting yields from 58 bu./a. to 78 bu./a. “I’ll be using my new **Monosem** twin row for both corn and soybeans, so I sold the twin row soybean planter. I was able to name my price because several neighbors wanted it after seeing what it did for me.”

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Marty Derks, Chesterville, Ont. Canada (martyderks@hotmail.com)

Lauren paint we used is expensive, it’s also beautiful. It covers well, and covers more area than other paint brands we’ve used in the past.”

On the negative side, he lists a deck resurfacing product from **Synta, Inc.**, named **Restore**. “It’s expensive and doesn’t cover a big area. Our deck looked beautiful after the first application, but then after a few snowfalls it started bubbling and flaking off. It sells for about \$25 a gallon, so we can’t afford to cover a 2,000 sq. ft. deck and have it deteriorate in one season.”

Larry Henry, Independence, Kan.: “We use our 2011 **Hardy** outside hot water, wood-fired furnace to heat our home and also to pipe heat into our shop. Even in cold weather we only have to fill the furnace twice a day. It’s made from all stainless steel and has thermostatic control, which we use to keep the water temperature at 170 degrees.”

Keith Berdan, Newark, Md.: “This is one great mowing machine,” says Keith about his 1992 **Toro** 520H garden tractor equipped with a 48-in. deck. “We use it to mow three acres every week and also to till our 1/4-acre garden. Repairs have been minimal. We’ve replaced both tie rod ends as well as a deck belt and roller.”

James Schroeder, Hebron, Neb.: “Our 1999 **Suzuki** mini pickup is a right hand drive model, that comes from Japan. The pickup’s side panels and rear tailgate can be dropped down to carry posts and panels. It’s a really handy machine for fixing fence and other chores. We find it more comfortable to drive than a utility vehicle because it has a windshield and doors, as well as a heater and air conditioner.”

Mike Corrigan, Hutchinson, Minn.: “I’ve had very few problems with my 1988

Belarus 825 tractor which I bought used in 1994. It starts well even in below zero temperatures and can handle just about any chore.

“My 2008 **Stihl** 180 chainsaw would start okay, but after a minute or so it would stop. The dealer had it five times the first year, keeping it for six weeks at a time. After a year, he sent it back to the factory, but when we got it back it ran for only about five minutes before it stopped. I finally threw it away.”

Robert Adams, Sr., LaPlata, Md.: “After only 77 hrs. of use the power steering went out on my 2009 **Deere** 5083E tractor. Two bolts on the left side were lost, and two more on the right side were ready to drop out. The dealer came and got the tractor, which was still under warranty. He fixed it and brought it back to me. But at 155 hrs., the same problem happened again, and this time the warranty had expired. I told the dealer I didn’t intend to pay to have it fixed, so he and the company went back and forth over it and kept my tractor for 2 mos. before I got it back.

“The company claims they’ve never seen this problem before. They want me to let them know after every 20 hrs. I use the tractor so someone can come out and check the bolts because they couldn’t figure out a solution to the problem.”

David Martin, Brockport, N.Y.: David nominates his 2012 **Case** IH 7230 combine equipped with a 35-ft. flex head as his “best buy”. “This combine performs exceptionally well with minimal loss. It’s also easy to service.”

Thomas A. Viator, New Iberia, La.: “The 6.0-liter diesel engine on my 2006 **Ford** F-350 pickup started causing problems at about 50,000 miles and was replaced under

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