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**Jacci K. Willson, Eldora, Iowa:** Jacci likes **O'Keeffe's** Working Hands lotion for cracked hands and feet ([www.okkeefescompany.com](http://www.okkeefescompany.com); ph 800 275-2718). "I read about this lotion in FARM SHOW. I use it every day, and last winter was the first in 10 years that my hands and fingers didn't bleed."

**Wayne W. Harley, New Brighton, Penn.:** Wayne's the proud owner of a 2007 **Deere** 6 by 4 Gator equipped with a gas engine. "Deere finally seems to have the problems resolved with the gas engine they use on their Gators. We had two older Gators that had constant problems with fouled plugs. Our only complaint is the windshield mounting brackets need to be stiffened so the windshield won't wobble as much."

On the minus side, he lists his 2007 **Sears Craftsman** 7-in. professional model angle grinder. "After less than a year of limited use the armature and brushes went bad. Repair parts cost \$50. It's a real disappointment. Craftsman power tools used to be dependable before they started making them in China. This will be my last new Craftsman power tool purchase."

**Chris Pelc, Centerville, Penn.:** "My 1992 **Deere** 2955 4-WD tractor is my best buy. I bought it used two years ago with just over 1,500 hours on it and have put about 800 hours on it with few problems. This tractor is put together very well."

"My 2004 **Cub Cadet** 7254 compact tractor is the worst piece of equipment I've ever owned. It's equipped with a 60-in. belly mower and loader. At 100 hours the belt wouldn't stay on the mower, and the company wouldn't do anything to solve the problem. The steering box was cracked when it came from the factory, which caused hydraulic problems. The pto clutch went out at 250 hours, and soon after that the cooling fan flew apart. I sold this tractor at 300 hours and have never looked back."

**Norman Keefe, St. Matthews, S.C.:** "My most satisfying product is my 2006 **Bosch** impact driver. It's a 14.4-volt model equipped with a 30-minute charger. I've used it to drive thousands of 3-in. wood screws without any problem. It's powerful and fast. The batteries recharge so quickly that I never run out of a fresh battery. It also works good with 1/4 and 3/8-in. sockets as an impact wrench. It's built light and tough and takes a lot of rough use."

**Rick Holbrook, Conway, Ark.:** "My **Stihl** 290 MS chain saw starts easy, is reliable, and has enough power enough to cut anything, yet it's light enough that I can use it all day long."

"My 1999 **Honda** Odyssey van is the most reliable vehicle we've ever owned. Company support has been fantastic. When the transmission went out at 190,000 miles Honda paid 25 percent of the cost for a remanufactured transmission."

**Robert Mackillop, Kitwanga, B.C.:** "I bought an old **International Harvester** 650 tractor from a neighbor who was reluctant to sell it to me as it was 'old and tired'. I've been using it with a round baler and it just keeps on running, requiring only routine maintenance. It's nothing fancy but no problems."

"I'm always working alone and a long way from home so my wife bought me a **GlobalStar** 1600 satellite telephone. It's almost totally useless. In six months I've been unable to make even one call. At times I've driven 40 to 50 miles trying to find a spot where I could get service. Contacting the company is a total waste of time because they always have a multitude of lame excuses."

**Darro Fails, Orange, Texas:** "My 2007 **Toyota** Camry LE rides great and is fuel efficient. However, the tires are so thin and small that I break traction whenever I accelerate to start from a dead stop."

**Ronald Hodsdon, Pownal, Maine:** "The **Deere** S-82 riding mower I bought in the mid 1970's is my best buy. It always starts right up, and the original battery lasted about 25 years. I use it to mow an acre of lawn as well as a 3/4-mile long path around our hay field. The only weak point is the pulley on the mower deck, which has had to be replaced several times."

**Charlie McDermott, Cassadaga, N.Y.:** Charlie nominates his 1985 **Honda** 250 Big Red ATV as his "best buy". "It works harder than it should have to. I bought it used in 2003 at an auction for \$600 and installed a new battery. Since then it has required only routine maintenance."

"My 1993 **Nissan** Pathfinder 4-WD is a great vehicle except the passenger side rear frame is rotting away. The rest of the truck looks, runs, and drives great."

**Wayne Trombley, Magnolia, Ky.:** Wayne's impressed with his **Avtech Solutions** day/night surveillance system (ph 888 493-2861; [www.avtechsolutions.com](http://www.avtechsolutions.com)). "We raise Paso Fino horses and miniature Sicilian donkeys on our farm and have used this surveillance system for two years as a foaling monitor. Our barn is about 300 ft. from our house, but the audio and video signal is transmitted perfectly to the television monitor in our family room, even though that room is below ground level."

"The system has more than paid for itself by allowing us to monitor the progress of our pregnant mares and jennies."

On the negative side, he lists his 2006 **Cub Cadet** 1550 riding mower. "This mower steers like a tank. No matter how often I readjust, realign, or lubricate the steering linkage, it's still hard to steer. Two of the tubeless tires went flat in the first month and the dealer simply injected some sealant in them rather than find and repair the leaks. The front right wheel fell off after 200 hours of use because the cotter pin that holds it in place wore through."

**R. J. Kacena, Hubbard, Neb.:** He's disappointed with his **Edenpure** quartz heater. "The heat output on this unit is disappointing. It stopped working last January. I called the company and was told an engineer would call me. But they never did."

**Donald Blake, Cherokee, Iowa:** Donald's happy with his 2007 **Country Clipper** 53-in. zero turn riding mower (ph 800 344-8237; [www.countryclipper.com](http://www.countryclipper.com)). "This mower is a dream to operate with its side-mounted single joystick. I can rest my arm on the armrest while operating it. Maintenance is real easy with the flip-up deck, and everything is easy to get at."

**Delbert F. Hall, Buckhannon, W. Va.:** Delbert's pleased with his **Shindaiwa** T230 series weed trimmer. "It always starts, has a lot of power, and cuts great with either string or blade."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his 2002 **New Holland** TN75 tractor. "The paint peeled off the hood in huge strips, exposing the grey primer. The paint is also peeling from the fenders, exposing the black primer paint. The paint started peeling when the tractor was only two years old. Almost every other TN model I've seen has the same problem. One dealer told me it was common knowledge that the paint peels on the TN series. My dealer can't provide any help, and the company refuses to repaint it. If this was a car, it would already have been recalled."

**Don Gaul, Earling, Iowa:** "My **Westfield**

## Cap Turns Pop Can Into Bottle

"I stumbled onto a product called the Snap Capp at a truck stop convenience store that works great. Most people don't even know it exists," says Roger Gutschmidt, who farms near Gackle, N. Dak. "It's a reusable plastic lid for pop cans that prevents spills and keeps drinks fresh. It's actually a snap-on lid with a screw-off cap. I use mine in the tractor and love it. No drips."

The device fits any brand of aluminum can and basically converts it into a bottle by covering the can top with what looks like the top section of a bottle.

It also keeps bees and bugs out, and stops drinks from going flat as quickly.

Snap Capps come in a variety of colors, too, so if every member of the family has a different color, you won't ever mistake your drink for someone else's.



Reusable plastic lid snaps onto any brand of aluminum can. Prevents spills and keeps drinks fresh.

Gutschmidt likes Snap Capps so much he has recently become a distributor.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Gutschmidt Manufacturing LLC, Roger Gutschmidt, 6651 Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; [shopdoc@drtel.net](mailto:shopdoc@drtel.net); [www.snapcapp.com](http://www.snapcapp.com)).

**MK 100** by 36-ft. truck auger is my worst buy. It's a short auger that's made with long auger components. When you want to lower the swinging hopper, it wedges itself against the tire. It takes two people to get it down easily. Some of the grease fittings are positioned exactly wrong in relation to the auger flighting. I don't think the designers paid much attention to details."

**Gerald T. Fedler, Fort Madison, Iowa:** "I'm well pleased with my 1999 **Cub Cadet** 3225 garden tractor. It cuts well and has plenty of power, even in 6-in. tall or taller grass. Makes mowing a fun job. The deck itself is a maintenance nightmare, but the tractor has been mostly trouble-free."

He's impressed with an engine he bought from **Northern Tool** (ph 800 221-0516; [www.northerntool.com](http://www.northerntool.com)). "I needed a new engine for a pull-type mower. I priced engines locally first, then checked the prices in my Northern Tool catalog. The engine was less than half price through Northern so I figured I could wait the few extra days for the delivery. I ordered it through their website at 1:30 on Monday afternoon, and UPS pulled into my yard at 11:30 Wednesday morning. By 2 p.m. I had the engine mounted and ready to run."

**"The engine was less than half price through Northern Tool."**

**Blake Engleka, Fairhope, Penn.:** A 2003 **Dodge** Ram 3500 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine rates as Blake's "best buy". "It has a pile of power and, unlike the V-8 diesels, it has a lot of torque. It also has an aftermarket intake system, 5-ft. straight pipe, a Smarty programmer, and other goodies. I can hook up to just about anything and pull it with ease."

**John Harms, Eldora, Iowa:** "My **Echo** chain saw has a 5-year guarantee but the dealer won't do anything about a problem I'm having with it. The roller nose binds up so tight that it burns up the clutch. I'd like to know if anyone else has this problem."

**Jerry Wolford, Findlay, Ohio:** "I like the **Toby** waste oil processing unit that I bought from Mark Jordan (ph 706 975-2145; [www.myfastfuel.com](http://www.myfastfuel.com)). I've run processed diesel from it in three different rigs - a 1994 Ford pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter engine, a 2000 Dodge equipped with a Cummins diesel engine, and a Deere 7300 tractor. I did get more exhaust smoke in the tractor than I'd like, but otherwise I'm happy with it. I'm

willing to sell my Toby to someone so they can try it, and then I'd buy a larger one."

**Wendell Edmonson, Annandale, Minn.:** Wendell likes his 2007 **New Holland** discbine. "This machine is unstoppable and lets us cut much faster than we could with a haybine. It'll cut 6-ft. tall grass hay with ease. It's definitely a best buy."

**Janis Schole, Pickardville, Alberta:** "A few months ago I bought a **Starfruit** Rotato Express on the internet to peel potatoes,



apples and other fruit (ph 514 871-1095; [www.starfruit.com](http://www.starfruit.com)). It cost \$29.99 plus \$7 S&H.

"After using it for a number of weeks, I can say that it's a lot of fun to use. The long, extremely thin strips of peel are fun to play with and they're so thin there's very little waste."

"The electronic unit operates on four AA batteries on AC power, with an adapter."

"I've used it on potatoes, apples, pears, and even a couple of oranges, but the thick orange peels clearly strained the motor and they had to be peeled twice to get close to the flesh. It can also be used on cucumbers, turnips, beets, avocados, eggplants, squashes, zucchini, tomatoes, peaches, kiwis, lemons, and limes."

"It works best on foods that are firm, blemish free and symmetrically shaped, and comes with a little plastic 'thumb knife' for easy removal of potato eyes (this, along with the two extra blades, stores conveniently inside the base)."

"Since the device still leaves a small unpeeled cap on the top and bottom of even the most symmetrical foods, I found that the most efficient system is to peel the ends by hand while the next item is being automatically processed by the unit."

"I have two complaints. The whiny motor is loud and somewhat annoying. The biggest problem was that after only a couple weeks of use, the automatic on/off button stopped working so the only way I can now shut the unit off is to unplug it. This is awkward."