

866 275-6464). The vehicle has comfortable seating for five, split rear doors that open with a foot-activated sensor, and an interior outfitted with what the company describes as premium materials and cutting-edge technology.

"I use it as a small work truck and also to run errands," says Tom. "The fuel economy is excellent and is best at 2,900 to 3,100 rpm's. It corners like a go-cart and is a very comfortable car to drive on long trips."

John J. Miller, Marion Center, Penn.: "No problems with my 2014 **Honda** 160 4-stroke gas engine. I think Honda makes the best small engines on the market.

"The **Farm Tuff** 1 1/2-ton wagon running gear I bought at Northern Tool is junk. A bolt in the fifth wheel hitch broke three times, and there's too much play in the front end. I wouldn't buy another one."

Martin Havran, Saragosa, Texas: A 7 1/2 cu. ft. **Rubbermaid** Big Wheel cart rates as Martin's "best buy" (www.rubbermaidcommercial.com; ph 800 347-9800). "This push/pull-type handcart is well balanced and rides on big, flat-free tires. The design makes it easy to move heavy loads weighing up to 300 lbs., which is equivalent to about two days worth of manure on my farm."

Dwight Holcomb, Acworth, Georgia: Dwight's disappointed with his **Farm Pro** Chinese-made tractor. "I bought this 30 hp tractor new and had it shipped from a Texas distributor. I also bought five pieces of equipment to use with it, which brought my total cost to about \$22,000.

"Multiple hydraulic leaks, a lack of power, and nothing on the tractor was tight."

"The tractor came with a 4-year warranty but that isn't worth a dime. There were multiple hydraulic leaks, a lack of power, and nothing on the tractor was tight. The first time I tried using this tractor to plow our garden my son walked behind me, picking up parts as they fell off.

"For warranty work the company suggested I go to a shade tree mechanic, and they said they'd pay up to \$50 per hour. Our local tractor dealers charge much more than that, but they don't want to work on this tractor because they know these tractors don't stay fixed. And they're unwilling to deal with the tractor's warranty due to bad results in the past."

Armin Scriptor, Abilene, Kansas: "All three of my **Polaris** ATV's run good, but their frames are nothing but junk and break easily due to poor construction. Also, the running boards on them keep tearing off."

J. Richard Mood, Mullica Hill, N.J.: "We bought a new **Deere** 5075E tractor during the fall of 2013. In October 2015 the tractor had about 1,100 hrs. on it when the fuel tank melted. The dealer said he'd replace the tank if I paid for the labor, which cost me \$518 including pickup and delivery. We then installed a piece of Teflon between the new tank and the tractor's rear housing to keep the same problem from happening again.

"Also, when we drained the transmission oil it had a burnt, ugly smell. My next tractor may possibly be a Kubota."

Joe Wasson, Middletown, Iowa: Joe's the satisfied owner of a 2013 **Deere** 1760 12-row, 30-in. planter. "I ordered this planter with finger pickup corn meters instead of vacuum units. The planter's adjustable bean meters work well, and the 3-bu. seed boxes save time

in the field. I can plant a lot of acres in a day. "I like my 2001 **Massey Ferguson** 6280 tractor except for the cheap European hydraulic couplers and the dash electronics. Also, many of the company's replacement parts are priced too high. For example, it costs \$200 for a toolbox, \$120 for a hydraulic filter, \$46 for an air filter, \$500 for a starter, and \$1,600 for a rear fender. Instead, I save money by buying most of my parts on the internet."

Jonathan Dean, Baskin, La.: "I couldn't be more pleased with the 2015 **Jeep** Cherokee Trailhawk I bought for my wife. It has ample seating room, great cargo space, and a flawless 4-WD system. The V-6 engine has plenty of power, and the leather seating is top notch."

Dennis Burkholder, Hopkinsville, Ky.: A **Gearwrench** 3/8-in. drive ratchet and socket set rates as Dennis's "best buy" (www.gearwrench.com; ph 800 621-8814). "It's made with top quality craftsmanship. The ratchets have a 72-tooth gearhead which makes it easy to work in tight corners. The company offers a comprehensive lineup of metric and SAE sockets."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Drill Doctor** drill bit sharpener. "After I used it for a short time the grinding wheel slipped on the arbor, so when I tried to split the point it messed up the bit. The company sent us another sharpener right away, but after we used it a few times the same problem happened again."

Robert Plummer, Swanzy, N.H.: "The brake on my 2015 **DR** stump grinder wouldn't hold in reverse, and the engine would run for only about a half minute because it wasn't getting gas. I returned it and got my money back."

Nathan at Red Rver Repair, Elkton, Ky.: "We bought two **ArcOne** X540V welding helmets at about \$210 apiece. These helmets have a nice fit and visibility, but after a short time one of them quit working properly. The dealer sent it back to the company for repairs. We had to pay about \$100 for a new filter, which I think should have been covered by the warranty. Soon after that, both helmets quit working so we were out about \$500."

Carl Pfalzgraf, Ashford, Ct.: Carl's pleased with his 2012 **Husqvarna** electric start rototiller. "We grow vegetables in 18 by 20-ft. beds and sell the produce at farmers markets and at our store. This tiller is comfortable to use in small areas and is easy to start. No problems."

Vernon Bistram, Siren, Wis.: "I advertised for a late model used **Deere** 4020 tractor in good condition and ended up buying one that was made in 1972 and has a cab. One owner, with about 6,700 hours on it. Very nice."

Phil Harris, Milford, Mich.: "I've always had good luck with Chevy cars and trucks until I bought a 2015 **Chevy** Equinox. My wife wanted this car because she has back problems and liked the seats in her friend's new Equinox. The dealer offered an attractive price on an in-stock demo and she was 'sold'.

"I commented to the dealer about the car's poor ride, which I consider similar to that of a 2-ton empty truck, but he said it was due to the cold weather and bumpy roads. I think the horrible ride is due to springs that are way too stiff. As a result you can feel every pebble and tar joint in the road.

"The car is powered by a 4-cyl. engine and he said we'd get 32 to 34 mpg, but the best we've seen is 30 mpg. The car weighs more than 4,000 lbs., and driving in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee, the little engine has trouble keeping up with loaded semi trucks.

Wheelchair "Driver" Great For Getting Around Yard

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

With a top speed of 15 mph, the Powerhouse wheelchair driver allows Marvin Kauffman quick access to the yard and office where he works as a sawmill sales manager. Designed for manual wheelchairs, the Powerhorse has a tailgate/ramp to roll the chair into a 30 by 50-in. compartment with adjustable stop plates on the front and closed tailgate to hold the chair securely in place.

With a Honda engine, hydrostatic transmission and tricycle-style steering, it's easy to drive. Kauffman added the option of knobby tires (15-in. on the back and a 16-in. tire on the front) so he can easily get through gravel, mud and sawmill yard debris.

"They go through more than you think," Kauffman says, recalling how amazed he was when he purchased his first driver (called a Ventrac at the time) in the late 1990's. "It was unbelievable: I had a lot more freedom. I could go wherever."

He has since purchased newer models — one for home and one for the sawmill — from Ned Stoller, who took over distribution in 2012 through his company, Disability Work Tools, in Lowell, Mich.

The Powerhorse is a good option for people who like to spend time outdoors.

"All terrain power wheelchairs are very large and bulky. The Powerhorse allows the driver to use a smaller, manual wheelchair, cover distances quickly, and get into smaller spaces," Stoller says.

It weighs 320 lbs. and has a 400-lb. weight capacity. The 6 or 8 hp gas engine is quiet and reliable and capable of driving through a couple inches of mud and about 6 in. of snow.

"The main purpose is getting from building to building, and it keeps wheelchair wheels clean when they get back to the house," Stoller says. "Customers use them to feed calves, to go hunting and do other outside activities."

Operators need hand function to grip the steering. The cart works well for people with



Powerhouse Wheelchair Driver allows Marvin Kauffman quick access to the yard and office where he works. Tailgate ramp is used to roll chair into driver's compartment.



spinal cord injuries at the C5 level or higher. Stoller says he often visits potential customers in the Midwest to make sure the cart is a good match, and he also makes deliveries.

The cart sells for \$5,200 and has options available such as knobby tires, a gun holder and extra-wide rear tires.

After 20 years of using a driver, Kauffman says they are worth the price.

"I wouldn't want to be without it," he says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Ned Stoller, Disability Work Tools, 12152 Cascade Rd., Lowell, Mich. 49331 (ph 888 354-3289; www.disabilityworktools.com; ned@disabilityworktools.com).

"Even though we don't travel on dirt or muddy roads, the back end of the vehicle is always dirty due to the poor design of the tailgate. Road dirt also accumulates on the bottom of the door jambs due to tire splash and poor door-to-body seals.

"The car's computer touch screen 'infotainment' center is very complicated to operate, even when the vehicle is parked. It's too difficult and dangerous to use when you're driving alone, and it has gone blank twice for several hours at a time. Two trips to the dealer to address this problem have both ended up labeled 'no trouble found'. All these problems have been written up in magazines such as Consumer Reports and Motor Trend."

Lavie Schliefert, Deepwater, Mo.: "I paid about \$2,400 for my **Starkey** hearing aids, but in reality I think they're worth about \$150. I've had to make countless trips back to the store because the hearing aids either quit working or the sound level had to be raised or lowered. If I sweat a little or there's high humidity or a little dust in the air, they shut down.

"I had a pair of **MDHearingAids** that cost only about \$600 and they worked ten times better (www.mdhearingaid.com; ph 312 219-8422). The only reason I tried the Starkey's was because I lost my MD's and thought I might get something better to replace them. However, all I got was a problem."

Gary D. Lutzow, Bryant, Wis.: "My **Hesston** 550 round baler has been trouble-free and makes nice, tight bales. I don't even have to slow down with it as I approach the windrow."

Darrel A. Salzman, Congersville, Ill.: "My **Bad Boy** 4-wheeler has been back to the shop for repairs at least three times in the past year. I wouldn't buy another one."

Billie Leonard, Rathdrum, Idaho: "The 1996 **Kioto** LK2554 23 hp tractor we bought used in 2003 is a great little tractor. We use it to skid logs, haul dirt, plow snow, dig post holes, rototill our garden, rake leaves and for many other jobs. We have seven different attachments for it. It's the most used machine on our small farm, but it just keeps on running. No problems."

Kevin Gull, Guttenberg, Iowa: "For more than 30 years we've used four **Case IH** combines - a 1460, two 1480's, and a 1660. We're well satisfied with their performance, ease of maintenance, adjustability, and simplicity of operation."

Earl Lumbra, Montgomery Center, Vt.: "I use **Star Tron** in all my gas for saws, 4-wheelers, and other small engines. It eliminates the problems I was having with ethanol in fuel (http://www.starbrite.com/startron)."

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