



Cal Hayenga, Andover, S. Dak.: Cal's satisfied with his **Johnson HyGrade** pull-type grader (www.johnsonmfg-hygrade.com; ph 800 874-5600). "I've never purchased anything that so greatly exceeded my expectations. It's very versatile and we use it a lot, even for snow removal. A great machine."

"My **Ridgid** angle grinder didn't last even one week. It's hard to beat DeWalt and Milwaukee tools."

David Shaub, Rolla, Mo.: "My 2016 **Bobcat T750** track skid loader pushes material and digs much better than the company's S185 and S205 models. It works great for clearing brush. It also rides better than wheeled machines when I'm loading round bales."

David Alderman, Woodlawn, Va.: "My 2018 **Grasshopper 521V** zero-turn riding mower is built heavy and mows anything with ease whether it's wet or dry. It's also easy to maintain."

Gary Grimm, Young America, Minn.: Gary's the satisfied owner of a 2013 **Simplicity** Prestige riding mower equipped with a 52-in. mower deck. "Since we started using this machine our 2-acre lawn has never looked better. It cuts evenly without leaving any bunches. It has power steering and a good suspension system that results in a nice ride and ease of operation. I use a Simplicity snowblower attachment with it that also works great. I used to buy John Deere mowers, but no more."



Dr. Joe Jeffrey, Lexington, Neb.: He's happy with his **MoJack EZ** riding mower lift (www.themojack.com; ph 877 466-5225). It's designed to raise the mower up to 24 in. and can accommodate up to 300 lbs. The operator raises the mower by rotating a crank handle clockwise, or by using a variable speed drill.

"This lift works better than anything else I've ever tried, including car jacks and lifter blocks," says Jeffrey. "It's easy and safe to use. A great buy."

Jonathan Zimmerman, Colby, Wis.: He's impressed with **Exmark Lazer Z** zero-turn riding mowers. "My brother-in-law and I operate a lawn mower service shop, and based on customer feedback from commercial operators and what I see in our shop, the Exmark is the only zero-turn mower I would buy. Exmark mowers are powered by Kohler and Kawasaki engines that are virtually indestructible."

On the minus side, he lists his **Noco** Genius GB150 4,000-amp, portable lithium car battery jump starter. "We're always using battery jumper packs in our shop, and this one works great when it works but the battery doesn't last very long. The company sent us 2 replacement jump starters and both worked

great for a while, but all these starters have the same problem - the battery doesn't last."

Timothy Rankin, Middlebrook, Va.: "We use **Leader 3/16** and **5/16-in.** dia. plastic tubing for an automatic watering system we developed for our mobile chicken coops (www.leaderevaporator.com; ph 802 868-5444). This tubing is designed for collecting maple syrup, it's super tough, and even though it's designed for a vacuum system it can still handle 60 psi water with no problems."

"I'm not impressed with my **Scepter 5-gal.** gas can. It comes with a fancy 'no spill' spout and a big hand grip, which I have to squeeze with my palm and fingers in order to open the valve. It takes about 10 min. to empty the can, and I have to hold the valve in a 'death grip' the entire time while gas is leaking all over my hand. So much for the 'no spill' spout."

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Ben L. Shetler, Cochran, Penn.: "My 2009 **Country Clipper** Jazee zero-turn riding mower equipped with an 18 1/2 hp. engine and 48-in. deck still works as good as new (www.countryclipper.com). It steers with a single joystick that leaves one hand free and makes the mower fun to use. I clean out the underside of the deck after each mowing. My knees are bad, so I also use the mower to ride around our gardens and orchards."

Marvin Moyer, Owego, N.Y.: "My **Krone 1500** round baler just keeps on going with very few problems. Works great."

Harry Kuyper, Kewadin, Mich.: "My **Worx 20-volt** string trimmer is at least 10 years old but still works like a charm (www.worx.com). What sold me on it was a TV commercial where someone operating the trimmer walked around a football field twice without stopping, yet the Lithium battery still held its charge. Not only does the battery have a long run time, but with the purchase I get free string from the company for the trimmer's life. I just send back the plastic string trimmer wheel for reloading. I don't know if the company still provides this service."

"I have a 60-ft. square dog pen in my yard that has an electric wire around it located close to the ground, and I can run the plastic trimmer under the wire all the way around the pen without worrying about getting shocked."

Marvin E. Smallwood, New London, Mo.: "I'm still using my 1970 **Lincoln 225-S** arc welder, on everything from cast iron to aluminum and stainless steel. No problems."

John Deyoe, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.: After reading about the **Viperbite** add-on grapple fork in **FARM SHOW**, John bought one (www.viperbitegrapples.ca; ph 306 493-7153). It's designed to bolt onto the quick-tach bucket on Deere compact or subcompact tractors, no matter the width of the bucket.

The grapple measures 48 in. wide and comes as a complete do-it-yourself kit. It's operated by a Parker electro-hydraulic actuator and the kit includes a wiring harness, a reversing solenoid, and a weather proof toggle switch that mounts on the tractor's joystick lever. For compact tractors with a hydraulic outlet, another kit is available that comes with a hydraulic cylinder.

"I'm happy with how it works, and support from the company has been good. However, the machine didn't come with adequate directions for me to install it so I had to call them. I had to make some modifications in order to attach the grapple forks to my

"Best Buy" Hydropress Juicer

Jim Riddle, Hillsborough, N.H.: "My wife and I operated a 5-acre berry farm for 10 years and sold multiple kinds of berry juice. I used to think a steam juicer was the best ever for turning fresh, raw fruit into juice. Then I came across the **Hydropress** from Pleasant Hill Grain, Hampton, Neb. (www.pleasanthillgrain.com; ph 866-467-6123).

"Our commercial grade steamer cost only about \$200. The Hydropress cost around \$800, but it's faster than steaming, does a better job, and doesn't require any power aside from a garden hose. I think the juice tastes fresher than with steaming."

"You place fruit in the linen liner bag inside the stainless steel basket, then turn the ball valve connected to your garden hose. A heavy-duty rubber bladder in the center of the basket inflates under the water pressure. As the bladder fills, it presses the juice out through small holes in the basket where they drain into the base, through a tube into a catch bucket."

"The juice comes out of every pore, as opposed to the conventional mechanical screw press or hydraulic top press that pushes the fruit down, leaving a very dry pomace cake."

"With the steamer, I could only do 20 lbs. of fruit per batch, with each batch taking several hours. With the Hydropress, I can do 50 lbs. per batch and extract all the juice in half an hour. That's with the smaller 20-liter model. Pleasant Hill Grain also carries an 80-liter unit."

"In addition to berries, we also raised plums. When a brewery ordered plum puree for a plum-flavored beer, I had to figure out how to cook them up and strain out the skins and pits."

"I adapted the Hydropress to puree by replacing the stainless steel basket with its small holes. I had a local metal fabricator use stainless steel with 1/4-in. round holes to make a new basket the puree could pass



Jim Riddle uses his Hydropress to turn fresh fruit into juice. "It works faster than steaming and does a better job, and doesn't require any power other than a garden hose," he says.

through. Concerned the pits might puncture the bladder, I put the mesh liner bag between the bladder and the fruit."

"When the bladder began to fill, the puree started shooting out of the holes, all over my wife and I. I went back to the metal fabricator and had a solid stainless steel jacket made for the basket. With it in place, the puree dripped down to be collected."

"With the steamer, making juice meant heating it twice, once for steaming and again for bottling. Each time you heat juice, you lose some of the health benefits. All of these fruits have the highest level of antioxidants and other benefits when fresh and raw. The Hydropress produces cold pressed juice. We still heated it for bottling, but if it were being frozen, it wouldn't be heated at all. You would preserve even more of the health benefits."

Mike Mikesh, Belmond, Iowa: "I love my new **Milwaukee Fuel** Lithium 18-volt, 6 1/2-in. brushless hydraulic impact driver. It drives screws 50 percent quieter than standard impacts."

"I also like my new **Milwaukee Fuel** brushless 6 1/2-in., 18-volt circular saw. I'm building an off grid cabin, and the first time I used this saw was to cut fourteen 2 by 8's. Yet after I finished the job, the battery still showed a full charge."

Chuck Hodel, Roanoke, Ill.: Chuck likes his 2016 **Dodge Ram** 2500 diesel pickup equipped with a **RamBox** (bins that fit the length of the pickup bed and use the space over each wheel well to secure cargo within a lit, lockable and drainable container). "This heavy-duty workhorse can pull our RV trailer like it's hardly there. It gets 10 mpg pulling a trailer and 20 mpg empty. We use our **RamBox** to store tools and supplies that we use many times a day. I think every pickup should have a **RamBox**."

Fred Rolli, Jr., Shullsburg, Wis.: "It has about 32,100 hrs. on it and has rolled over twice, but it's still going strong," says Fred about his 1981 **Cub Cadet 782** garden tractor. "We still use this tractor to blow snow."

Merritt Hall, Henry Co., Ky.: "My **Leatherman** Kick multi-tool comes with pliers, wire cutters, a knife, multiple standard screwdrivers, a Phillips screwdriver, a can opener, and a lanyard. The handles have both standard and metric measurement marks on them. The tool folds down small and is lightweight in my pocket. I use it all the time and love it."

Ready Davis, McKinleyville, Calif.: "My 2019 **Subaru Crosstrek** compact SUV equipped with a manual transmission is quiet, has a lot of power, and is a pleasure to drive. The only problem is the window/mirror control knob is too small for my big hands."

"That's great service!"

Marvin Webber, Kawkawlin, Mich.: "I recently bought a used 2005 **Husqvarna 4-WD** utility vehicle equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine and dump box. It had been used hard so I flushed all of the fluids right away. I love the electric-operated dump box and use it to haul dirt, weeds, rocks and so forth. I repainted the machine, added new decals, cleaned the plastic fenders, and repaired the canvas canopy. Now the machine is in showroom condition, with 860 hrs. on it."

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