

Dwight G. Maurin, Snowmass, Colo.: "My father bought a **Massey Ferguson** 135 tractor new in 1965 and is still using it. This tractor has been used every year with very few problems. We use it with a **Davis** loader and a **Bradco** 802 backhoe. Both pieces of equipment have been on this tractor since 1984 and are used every year.

"My **Black & Decker** belt sander and Mouse orbital corner sander are worst buys. In my opinion both products, especially the Mouse corner sander, were made to be thrown away after very little use.

"Another cheaply made product is the starter motor gear on **Briggs & Stratton** 2-cyl. commercial engines. It's made of plastic."

Raymond A. Witges, Scheller, Ill.: Raymond's impressed with **Aldor** spark plugs (ph 631 249-1425; www.aldor-sparkplugs.com). "These spark plugs really work great on older engines. I've used them on an older Super C, a Deere 630, a Vanguard V-twin older engine, and another 10 hp engine and all of them start and run perfect. I called the company to order the plugs, and I was amazed how quickly they sent them out."

Ed Barnes, Mt. Ida, Ark.: "I've used my **Reese** 1600 mower for several years with no problems. It's all I thought it would be and, because it has only five moving parts, I'm sure it will outlast me."

Ray Donoho, Ewing, Va.: "My **Rigid** 18-volt cordless drill is my worst buy. The batteries failed quickly, but neither the store nor the manufacturer would stand behind the product or honor the warranty."

David B. Dittmer, Calhoun, Mo.: "My 2007 **Deere** CT 322 compact tracked loader is powerful with good flotation. It had some structural and mechanical/electrical problems in the beginning, but the dealer promptly took care of them. The track system is easier than most to keep clean and maintain."

Robert Corley, Middleburg, Fla.: "I like my 2008 **Brush Monster** brush cutter, which I use with a skid loader or compact track



loader (ph 888 547-6710; www.brush-monster.com). It's an affordable alternative to a grinder/mulcher and doesn't require a high gpm machine to operate it. Works great

for maintaining right-of-ways and fields overgrown with cedar and pine saplings. I use it to clean up field edges and other areas that haven't been well maintained.

"I like my 2004 **Tree Terminator** tree shear, which is designed to be used with a skid steer (ph 417 458-4350; www.treeterminator.com). It handles trees up to 12 in. in dia. I've used this attachment extensively for clearing saplings and cedars that couldn't be handled with a bush hog mower. This tree shear, paired with a grapple and a brush cutter, turns a skid steer into an awesome land clearing machine."

Irvin Hand, Reynoldsville, Penn.: "I've used my 2006 **Stihl** MS250 chainsaw hard and it has held up in a superior way. I highly recommend it.

"My 2005 **Husqvarna** 141LE chainsaw is my worst buy. After 15 hrs. of use the oil pump malfunctioned. I disassembled the saw and called the dealer for a new oil pump. I asked her why this oil pump lasted only 15 hrs. and her exact words were "this is an oc-

casional use saw only". I wonder what that meant? Should I only use this saw on my birthday and on special occasions? I'll never buy a Husqvarna product again."

Wayne W. Harley, New Brighton, Penn.: "We needed a heavier truck to haul trailers on our farm, so last October we bought a new 2008 **Dodge** 1500 4-WD pickup. It's a well-built truck. The 4.7-liter engine is economical and has enough power to easily handle trailers on most hills. Shifting into 4-WD is a breeze. I'm not surprised that most FARM SHOW readers who own Dodges are happy with them."

On the negative side, he lists his 2007 **Deere** 6 by 4 Gator equipped with a Kawasaki engine. "When we first purchased our Gator we were satisfied with it. However, last year the Kawasaki engine developed the same problem we've had with two other Gators in the past - gas leaking into the crankcase. The dealer installed a new carburetor but it didn't solve the problem. Now we have to change the oil every 25 to 30 hours. And there have been other nuisance issues. I'm not much impressed with the Deere brand. There'll be no more Deeres on our farm if I have anything to do with it."

Darrell Severe, Terra Alta, W. Va.: Darrell likes his 2006 **Huskee** 42-in. lawn tractor equipped with an automatic transmission. "It really works well. No problems. It's powered by an 18 1/2 hp Briggs & Stratton engine that performs just fine.

"My 2009 **Clarke** 6-in. grinder is my worst buy. I have to spin the wheel to start it. I bought it at TSC and they won't exchange it. I wouldn't recommend this product to anyone."

Robert Wilcome, Brohman, Mich.: "We bought a used 1940's **Ford** 9N tractor about 10 years ago to use for disking, field cultivating, and forklift work. It has performed well, requiring only routine maintenance. It'll even pull a subsoiler 1 to 2 ft. deep, depending on the soil conditions. It still doesn't use much oil.

"Our 1999 **Chevrolet** Suburban K1500 is our worst buy. We bought it used a couple of years ago with about 118,000 miles on it. Since then it has required \$2,600 worth of parts, which is more than the vehicle's going street value. The vehicle's serviceability stinks. It takes my two teenage sons 1 1/2 hours to change the water pumps on a Dodge 1500 pickup, whereas the same job on this vehicle takes about five hours. Repairs have been made to the water pump, power steering pump, power steering gearbox, and more. I'll never touch one of these vehicles again."

Aileen Porter, Orland, Calif.: "My all-time best buy was a 1956 **Ford** tractor. I traded it to a neighbor 40 years ago and then bought it back again in 1968 for \$350. It was beat up and covered mostly with manure. I had the tractor restored at a cost of \$3,500, and since then I've entered it in every parade that I can, winning first place every time. It's the best investment I've ever made in my 90 years."

Leonard H. Davis, Hilbert, Wis.: "My worst buy was the **Bobcat** 463 skid loader I bought in January 2006. I also bought a rotary broom, dozer blade, and pallet fork to use with it. That July the dealer replaced a rear light that shorted out. After purchasing a revolving warning light, I found that an access socket was wired wrong and was mounted in plastic so it wouldn't blow a fuse.

"One month later the engine was cutting out and the dealer couldn't find what was wrong. I replaced the original fuel line with a see-through fuel line and found that bubbles were present. The problem turned out to be a cracked plastic elbow on top of the fuel tank,



"One time over the field takes the place of plowing, field finishing, and applying nitrogen," says George Mills about his **Brillion** STP-430 Strip-Till machine.

"Best Buy" Strip-Till Machine

"In 2008 we bought a **Brillion** STP-430 Strip-Till machine. This may be the best machine I've ever bought in 60 years of farming," says George Mills, Port Byron, N.Y.

"One time over the field takes the place of plowing, field finishing, and applying nitrogen. Plus, the nitrogen is placed in the best place for the plant to use with less loss to the air. The savings on time, fuel and wear and tear on machinery is tremendous. The second picture shows the results of the fastest and easiest corn I ever planted."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, George Mills, Mills Dairy Farm, 8078 Mills Road, Port Byron, N.Y. 13140.



Photo shows the results of what Mills calls "the fastest and easiest corn I've ever planted".

so I replaced the plastic elbow with one made from brass. I also replaced the fuel pump.

"This January, with 297 hours on the engine, the belt tension pulley and mounting plate for the hydraulic system failed. I took the machine to the dealer and they said they'd have to remove the engine, flywheel, and starter to do welding work on the mounting plate. I went to the dealer every week asking when they'd be done, but I always got the run-around. After receiving a call that the work was done I went in and got a shock when I was billed \$1,215.71."

Mark Katzenmeyer, Florence, Texas: A 2000 **Ford** F-250 4-WD Super Duty pickup-service truck that he bought used five years ago rates as Mark's "best buy". "I use it 7 days a week in my business and have put about 160,000 miles on it, replacing only a water pump and 8 filters. It's by far the best service truck I've ever owned. It gets 16 mpg. Too bad they don't make the 7.3-liter engine any more."

Henry Mullinix, Independence, Mo.: "The 1965 **Massey Ferguson** 65 tractor I bought from my dad is my best buy. It now has 1,950 hours on it and still has the same rear tires.

"My 1972 **Ford** 4410 industrial loader tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine doesn't use any oil. It's a good tractor."

Richard Brown, Edwards, N.Y.: "The **Ford** 4000 SU tractor I bought in 1964 is still working hard. I use it to load large logs on a **Hud-Son** sawmill, which is also a best buy. I bought the sawmill after a bad ice storm in 1998 and planned to sell it after cleaning up my woodlot. But I'm still using it."

Dan Chambers, Hammond, Ill.: "My 1978 **IH** 1086 tractor has about 7,000 trouble-free hours on it."

Glenn Fogle, Weatherford, Texas: "I like my 1997 **Mazda** 2300 pickup. All I've replaced are the brakes and battery."

Henry Cole, Cliff, N. Mex.: "I'm happy with **Makita** 14-in. abrasive cut-off blades.

They work great on 1/2-in. sq. tubing. However, don't buy abrasive cut-off wheels for chop saws that have a fabric weave pattern on the sides. It should look like an Emery wheel, with no fabric. The cheap fabric wheels just melt, due to friction, and they won't cut straight, either."

Jry. Farm, Millersburg, Ohio: They replaced the Champion spark plugs in their **Ventrac** 4231 tractor with **Pulstar** Pulse Plugs (ph 888 800-9629; www.sparkplugs.com). Pulse plugs are essentially a spark plug with an internal pulse circuit, which increases peak spark current by up to 20,000 times compared to a traditional spark plug. A pulse circuit stores incoming electrical energy from the ignition system and releases it in a shorter, more powerful pulse of energy. Instead of 50 watts of peak power, typical of a spark plug, pulse plugs deliver up to 1,000,000 watts of peak power.

Pulstar says the faster ignition generates more power you will feel in a livelier throttle response, more horsepower to the wheels, and increased gas mileage.

"After we installed **Pulstar** Pulse Plugs our **Ventrac** tractor is easier to start, runs smoother, has more torque, quicker response, and doesn't smoke. These plugs make the tractor an even better machine."

Brad Kallert, Mitchell, Manitoba: "The engine on my 1991 **GM** extended cab 2-WD pickup went out at about 220,000 miles, so I installed a rebuilt GM engine which is still going strong at about 350,000 miles. This pickup still has the original transmission and shocks and has required only routine maintenance. Over the years I've replaced three alternators and two starters. It gets 20 to 21 mpg.

"My 1993 **Toyota** 4-WD pickup works unbelievably well. I bought it used 12 years ago with about 85,000 miles on it and now it has about 125,000 miles. It'll go almost anywhere and just keeps on running.

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