

use them in all my tractors. I figure, why screw up my hearing?

"Another couple of things I wouldn't want to do without, are the magnetic sandwich holder and magnetic bottle holder I made for inside my farm tractors and truck cabs. I use them all the time and transfer them from machine to machine. Today I used them on my Deere self-propelled swather; tomorrow I will use them on my baling tractor, next week I will use them on my grain truck or combine. They are fitted with super strong rare earth magnets. I made them myself using a soup can and a Tupperware-type container."

William G. Gilbert, Plainfield, Mass.: A 1996 Dodge 2500 4-WD ¾-ton pickup equipped with a 215 hp diesel engine and 5-speed transmission rates as William's "best buy". It has more than 281,000 miles on it. "I love this pickup. I work it hard and use it to plow snow and to pull a 29-ft. camper. The camper pulls so easy that I hardly even realize it's back there."

Gerhard Seidel, Southfield, Mich.: "I ordered a set of tools from Chicago Tools via the Harbor Freight catalog. All the tools came with 18-volt rechargeable batteries. However, even newly charged batteries would only work for a few minutes. I tried to find out if the company offered better batteries but my inquiries were ignored by both Chicago Tools and Harbor Freight. All their tools and power equipment are made in China. The big plastic toolbox these tools came in seems to be the best part of the buy."

W. D. Robertson, Bolton, Miss.: "My 2008 Suzuki 550 motorcycle rides great and has the appearance of an older bike which adds a bit of nostalgia. It's fuel efficient and makes my ride to work pleasurable. I'd recommend this motorcycle to anyone. It's light enough for a woman to hold up without feeling like it'll run out from under you."

Francis E. Jones, Springfield, Minn.: "I bought a used Deere 3020 tractor equipped with a powershift transmission for my son and it works great. It had new tires and was ready to go, with no leaks anywhere. It has a lot of power for a tractor its size."

H. R. Heisley Co., Egg Harbor Township, N. J.: "My 1997 GM S10 pickup, equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and manual transmission, had about 114,000 miles when I bought it. I paid \$4,000 for it. It's small, lightweight, easy to maintain, and fuel efficient."

Kyle Singleton, Ferron, Utah: "I like my 2000 Honda Rancher 4-wheeler and 2002 Honda Foreman 4-wheeler. I use them for irrigating and moving sprinklers on our farm. I have more than 14,000 miles on the Rancher and more than 12,000 miles on the Foreman. No problems. They're reliable machines."

Bill Muldoon, Lodi, Wis.: Bill has had good luck with BCS walk-behind tractors and attachments. He owns an 850 model equipped with a 14 hp Briggs Vanguard engine and a 730 equipped with a Kohler M8 engine (www.BCS-america.com). "I've owned various BCS walk-behind tractors over the last five years and have liked them all. These machines are Italian-made and truly are 2-wheel tractors. They have dry cone clutches and all-gear transmissions, and they're made to withstand a lifetime of heavy use."

"I started out years ago with a 205 model. It was a good machine but too small for me, and the attachments don't interchange between the 200 series and the 600, 700, 800 and 900 series, so about a year ago I traded up to a 715 model equipped with a Kohler

M8 engine because it's a more versatile machine. I used a snowblower on it during the winter and a tiller, mower, and chipper during summer. The Kohler M8 has plenty of power, is easy to start, and is reasonably fuel efficient. I can't say enough good things about this engine."

"Then I bought the 730 model as a backup machine, equipped with the same Kohler M8 engine. The attachments I use with it include a 30-in. tiller, 26-in. tiller, 18-in. combined ridger, stand-alone ridger, 2-way moldboard plow, 28-in. snowblower, 36-in. dozer blade, trencher, sickle mower, rough-cut mower, 38-in. finish mower, and sweeper. Other attachments include a rotary plow, a flail mower, hay rake/tedder, and a round baler that makes 22 by 24-in. bales."

Ken Preston, Wheatland, Ind.: Ken likes his Black & Decker Grass Hog cordless string trimmer. "I bought it as a refurbished model with warranty, and it came equipped with two 18-volt batteries and a charger. It runs for about 20 minutes on one battery and works great. It's not meant to cut tough weeds, but for weekly trimming as part of my regular lawn care it works great."

Frederick W. Adams, Herning, Minn.: "I'm not happy with a product called Liquid Fence that's supposed to repel deer and rabbits. A one-time coating is supposed to last six months. I made two applications, one last September and one last November. By December 10, rabbits had ruined 10 of my apple trees, some as old as 10 years. The rabbits ate all the bark and also the wood on younger trees. I lost about \$800."

Jim Cornell, Bedford, Penn.: A 1991 Ingersoll 4020 garden tractor rates as Jim's "best buy". "It's made of heavy metal without any fiberglass, so if you wanted you could dance on the hood. It does a great job of mowing. I'd buy another one if this one ever wears out."

J. D. Provence, Denver City, Texas: "I'm not pleased with my Mantis 2-cycle rototiller. After only 10 hours the carburetor malfunctioned, causing all the fuel to leak out through the cylinder and into the carburetor. I contacted the company and was told I'd

"It does a great job of mowing. I'd buy another one if this one ever wears out."

either have to haul or ship it 150 miles to a service center at my expense, or pay for a carburetor kit and repair it myself. It's supposed to come with a 5-year warranty, so I guess the company's customer service says a lot about their warranty."

"I bought about \$150 worth of bushes, trees and vines from Four Seasons Nursery, a catalog company that also does business as Direct Gardening, House of Wesley, Inter-State Nurseries, Royal Dutch, Honeycreek Nurseries, Farmer Seed and Nursery, Richard Owen Nursery/Exciting Gardens and Kelly Nurseries, all divisions of Plantron Inc. Counting shipping charges, I spent more than \$200 with them last spring and when I received my order it was a couple of big bundles of dead, completely dried sticks. The company warranty says they'll replace anything that isn't alive within one year. However, when I requested replacement under warranty the company completely ignored me."

Lowell Smith, Sr., Neoga, Ill.: "My Makita 12-volt driver drill is my best buy. I used deck screws to put in a new door for a

Owners Report On Hydrogen Generator

FARM SHOW readers asked for more information on the HydroStar generator featured in FARM SHOW two issues ago (Vol. 33, No. 3). Inventor Andy Herold sent a unit to FARM SHOW to test. We installed it on a diesel pickup but, due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances, we don't yet have conclusive results to report. However, we tracked down a number of FARM SHOW subscribers who bought and have been using HydroStar units for the past couple months. Here's what they told us:

Terry Cushman, Dakota, Minn.: "I put one HydroStar generator on my 2003 Chevy one-ton, 4-WD, "dualie" pickup and went from 20 mpg to 23 mpg. I monitor exhaust gas temperature, and it has gone up 20 to 30 degrees with the HydroStar."

"Installation was a piece of cake. Any kid with any electronics experience at all could hook it up."

John McFarlan, Omaha, Neb.: "I was getting around 12 to 13 mpg on my 1968 Ford Thunderbird. It is a big, heavy car with a factory-rated 390-hp engine with a four-barrel carburetor. After I got the HydroStar installed, I took a 100-mile road trip, getting 25 mpg-- double my usual mileage."

"The HydroStar also lets me run 89 octane instead of 91, so I save money on fuel that way, too. I get a lot more power with it and it is cleaning up the engine. It runs smooth now, like a brand new engine."

Jessie Roberts, New Franken, Wis.: "I put a HydroStar on my four-cylinder, 1996 Plymouth Neon. At first I thought I was getting 3 to 4 more miles per gallon, but then it went down. Now I am getting about two extra mpg from 28 to 30 mpg."

"I also put a unit on my 1999 gas-fueled Silverado. It was getting about 14 mpg. With the HydroStar, it went up to 16 to 17 mpg."

Clarence DeGroot, Rockwood, Ontario, Canada: "I put a HydroStar unit on a 100-hp Deere tractor. I have a good understanding of electronics and had no problem installing the unit in under 2 hrs."

"I know I'm getting more power and the engine is running cleaner. I plan to put another one on a pickup and one on my combine, which I will set up so I can move it to a tractor when harvest is over."

David Thomas, Hammett, Idaho: "I've wanted to try a hydrogen generator for a long time, but I didn't make a move until I saw the HydroStar in FARM SHOW. I put one on my '97 Ford Ranger. It normally gets 22 to 23 mpg. With the HydroStar, I get 25 1/2 mpg."

"I've ordered three more units and am going to install them in series on a motor home I'm taking to Georgia this fall. If I can get even a two mpg increase on that motor home, it will be great. I plan to install the units so I can swap two of them from the motor home to my 351 Ford Bronco. If it works, I plan to use them on all my vehicles."

Kevin Zimmerman, Myerstown, Penn.: "I put a HydroStar on my 1989 Chevy pick-

up friend. My DeWalt 18-volt drill would only drive screws about half way in and then wouldn't back them out. A fresh battery didn't help. I called a friend who said I should try his Makita. I did and it worked like a champ. This drill will bury a 4-in. screw in solid oak, and then pull it right out."

Gared Wold, Rainier, Oregon: "It's built heavy and runs flawlessly. The most reliable tractor I've ever owned," says Gared about his Case 970 tractor. "It's a real work horse. I use it to cut and bale hay and everything else you can think of. I had a Case 1840 tractor that worked great, too, but it didn't have as much power as this one."

"My ASV 4520 skid loader is a hard



Compact HydroStar generator measures 5 by 7 1/2 in. by 2 in. thick. Sells for \$125. Contact: Andrew Herold, HydroStar, 11402 Westview Ct., Beltsville, Md. 20705 (ph 240 417-9575; aheroldsr@yahoo.com; www.makehydrogenerators.com).

work with a 350 engine. I went from 13 mpg to 17 on a recent trip."

"The HydroStar was real easy to install. I'm a mechanic and have been looking at hydrogen units for some time. Previously, I put together one that was made from pvc pipe and had to be installed on the bumper, which was a pain because everybody asked about it. At one point it actually blew up when the water got too low. It didn't hurt the truck; it just cracked the end pipes."

Andy Valentine, Plains, Mont.: "I put a HydroStar unit on my 2.4L, 2006 Chevy Tracker and it went from 21.8 mpg to 26. As the computer adjusts to the hydrogen, mileage decreases back to about 23 to 24 mpg. Each time that happens, I disconnect the battery and let the computer reset. Mileage goes back up and then comes back down."

"I am considering using a 'spark-plug extender' on the oxygen sensor. I have read that the extender positions the sensor far enough out of the exhaust flow to fool the computer."

"I know I am getting more power with the hydrogen. When I go to pass on the highway, I normally have to press the pedal to the floor and really rev the engine. With the hydrogen, it picks up speed without flooring it."

"The HydroStar was real simple to install. I hooked up an amp meter under the hood so I could check it occasionally. It is operating just as Andy Herold suggested it would. He has been really helpful with the whole project."

working machine. I use it around home and to do custom bush clearing using a Rayco mulching head (www.westcoastmulching.com). Except for replacing a few hydraulic hoses I haven't had any problems with it. It's an older model but it does a great job. I'd recommend it to anyone."

John Stava, Bloomington, Ind.: John likes his Hobart Handler 150 220-volt single phase Mig wire welder. "I've used it for several projects such as building an engine hoist and welding my vise back together - after a professional welder told me it couldn't be done. It'll weld up to ½-in. thick material if it's properly beveled, cleaned and weld-filled."