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miles. The fuel economy is excellent – on a recent 600-mile trip hauling a ton of cargo it averaged 34 mpg, at an average speed of about 65 mph. The tachometer always stayed below 2,000 rpm's."

Lamar Hege, Deer Park, Wash.: Lamar owns Case IH 5130, 5230, and 7140 tractors equipped with Cummins diesel engines and powershift transmissions. "These tractors are fuel efficient and easy to operate and, at 5,000 to 7,000 hrs., have had few problems. They have great hydraulics, which is a must for operating our twin hydraulic rakes and other hay equipment. We switched from using Deere 40 and 50 series tractors because they were constantly needing repairs or weren't able to operate our rakes.

"My **Hesston 4790 3** by 4 baler and **Hesston 8830** and **9240** swathers are well designed, and parts are reasonably priced."

Gary Crews, Rio Linda, Calif.: "After my 25 by 40-ft. **Future Steel Building** was delivered to my property, I and some helpers assembled the building in about one week. I'd recommend this building to anyone.

"The **Weyerhaeuser** hardboard siding on my house consists of 4 by 8-ft. panels that are warped and tend to rot. I don't recommend this siding or any other brand of hardboard or man-made siding. Many of the manufacturers have been sued for product failure."

Jim Wicks, Sr., Lewiston, Idaho: "I paid \$450 for my 12 by 20-in. **Grizzly** heavy-duty, bench top wood lathe (ph 800 523-4777; www.grizzly.com). I bought it to just have fun with for making pens, yo yos, and candlesticks, etc., but I've found that it'll do much more. It's one of the few pieces of small equipment that turned out to be worth the money I paid for it. It runs smooth and quiet and is built solid. It's heavy enough that I don't even have it bolted to a bench top. I've enjoyed making many useful projects with it."

Robert Himmerich y Valencia, Pena Blanca, N.M.: "In 2006 we bought an **MDS LRB518** rock bucket for our 1956 IH 300 utility tractor. It worked great, and last year we bought a grapple fork for it. The combination of the 2 units greatly increases the bucket's value."

Robert W. Thomas, Orland, Calif.: Robert bought a used 1995 **Stihl 260** chainsaw and uses it to cut 3 to 5 cords of wood per year. "This saw has gone through a lot of chains and one new drive sprocket, but it keeps on going. I had to buy a new fuel take-up tube to replace one that was ruined by California's 'special gas'. I love this saw.

"My 2007 **TYM 330** tractor is my worst buy. I use it on 13 acres to haul gravel, disk, mow and till. At 345 hrs. the rear wheel seals started leaking, and at 365 hrs. the gearshift lever broke at the pin swivel joint. It was easy to replace but now it needs a new handle. I had to replace the battery at 200 hrs., and the hydraulic hose anchor couplings broke from stress at 185 hrs. The tractor's Kubota engine does work good, however, and may outlast the tractor."

Fred Clemence, Ruthilda, Sask.: "It has almost 500,000 miles on it, yet the Cummins 5.9-liter diesel engine has never been touched," says Fred about his 1994 **Dodge 2500 3/4-ton** pickup. "The manual transmission has been repaired, and there has been some other minor work, but that's it."

Dan Morehouse, Garrattsville, N.Y.: "I use my **DeWalt 18-volt** impact wrench almost every day. It's relatively light, has plenty of power and doesn't break if I drop it."

On the "worst buy" side, "My 2008 **Dodge 2500** heavy-duty pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine wouldn't

pass inspection at 36,000 miles because the steering arms were shot. By the time the pickup had 50,000 miles, I had installed a new clutch, universal joints, and tie rod ends. I can't keep the 'check engine light' off long enough to get 2 miles away from the dealer so I can trade it. This truck is junk."

Larry Alles, Weaverville, Calif.: "It's the all-around best tool I've ever bought," says Larry about his 2004 **Kubota P-23** tractor. "I live on 10 mountain acres and use this tractor to move snow, haul manure, dig ditches, and lift things. It's small enough to fit through my corral gates."

Leora Patterson, Roseburg, Ore.: Leora's the proud owner of a 2003 **Dodge 1-ton** crewcab 4-WD pickup. "We bought it to transport boats and trailers. It has a

"It has about 380,000 miles and still gets 21 mpg on the highway."

comfortable ride, and the 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine and automatic transmission have been trouble-free. It has about 380,000 miles and still gets 21 mpg on the highway. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

Stephen Gredler, Orlean, Va.: Stephen likes **Lucas Tool Box Buddy** lubricant (ph 800 342-2512; www.lucasoil.com). "It's an aerosol penetrating oil and rust preventative. I'm impressed with its versatility. It can be used on rusted or frozen nuts; as a surface rust dissolver; or as a surface additive to prevent rust for one year. It's also a good gun oil, cleaner, and rust preventer."

On the negative side, he lists his **Heat-Mate** kerosene heater. "It has a synthetic wick, which doesn't work as well as cotton. As a result the wick has to be raised 1 in. to get decent heat. The unit's cooktop is perforated along the sides, just above the main body of the stove perforations. That allows hot gases to escape the cooktop dome too early and lowers the temperature of the cooktop, which lowers the stove's total btu's."

Robert Fluker, Warsaw, N.Y.: "I love everything about my 2011 **Chevrolet Silverado Z71** extended cab pickup. The way it rides is awesome, and I love the hands-free Bluetooth headphones.

"My 2009 and 2011 **Yamaha Grizzly 4-wheelers** are built tough. I've put more than 1,000 miles on them in one year with no problems. They're smooth riding machines.

"My 2011 **Stihl 290** chainsaw lacks power. I took it back to the dealer who said I should sharpen the chain, but it didn't help. I put on a new chain but that didn't help, either. I'll probably have to trade up to a bigger saw and use this one for trimming tree branches."

Larry Holmes, Warsaw, N.Y.: Larry's disappointed with **POR-15** paint, a rust-preventive coating that's designed to be applied directly onto rusted metal surfaces. "I used it to paint the underside of 2 riding mower decks last January. After 30 hrs. of mowing the following spring, the only paint left was where the grass had never hit the deck. I've bought regular paint locally that has stayed on just as well or better, and I paid a lot less for it. You can't prevent rust if the rust-preventive coating isn't there."

Larry Hecht, Poulsbo, Wash.: "I've used my 2008 **Kubota B3030** loader tractor to maintain about 5 acres of blackberries and alder saplings. I used the loader to dig everything down to the roots, then burned the material and planted pasture grass and fir trees. I couldn't have done it without my Kubota. It was up to every task without

Garden Seeder Adds To Wheel Hoe Versatility

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

FARM SHOW tested out a new garden planter that attaches to Planet Jr. or Hoss wheel hoes. The flat plate planter from Hoss Tools is ruggedly built with interchangeable seed plates, closure wheel (doubles as drive wheel) and optional row marker.

"The seeder attaches with four bolts," says Greg Key, Hoss Tools. "Take them off and you have a wheel hoe back for cultivating."

Like other traditional seeders on the market, the Hoss Tools unit plates fit flat in the bottom of the seed hopper. As the horizontal plate revolves over the drop tube, brushes wipe excess seed from the plate.

"Once you get down to the last 20 to 25 seeds, you need to put more in or quit to maintain the seeding pattern," says Key. "One wing nut lets you remove the hopper to empty it."

Key sent FARM SHOW a Hoss Tools wheel hoe with planter unit to try. The seeder lived up to its claims. The all-steel construction and straightforward chain drive action look like they will last forever. Depth adjustment from 1/4-in. to 1 1/2-in. is simple and straightforward.

The only problem that occurred was when small rocks lodged in the serrated edge of the packer/drive wheel.

Seed spacing was very even. Popcorn and two sizes of bean seeds were tested with the number 4, 5 and 6 plates. Seeder directions included spacing options and instructions for covering several seed holes in a multi-hole plate to vary spacing.

All seeds appear to feed out. Excess seeds at row end are easily removed with the hopper. The wing nut retainer required a little care as tightening it down too much stopped the plates. Too light and it tended to work loose.

Overall, the seeder was impressive with its heavy-duty, yet simple design. For large space gardeners and even market gardeners, it would appear to be a good buy.

Key says the seeding unit is heavy enough to maintain pressure on the drive wheel. The operator simply steers it and doesn't have to press down to get the press/drive wheel

missing a beat.

"I've gone through 3 different **Sears Craftsman** cordless drills because the batteries keep failing. Unfortunately, the replacement batteries cost more than the original drill with batteries. I've learned my lesson – no more Craftsman drills."

Ron and June Culverhouse, Port Orchard, Wash.: "My wife loves her 1995 **Dodge Intrepid**. It has plenty of room and is comfortable and easy to drive. It gets 19 mpg in town and 30 mpg on the highway. The 3.5-liter, V-6 overhead cam engine has all the power we need."

William H. Ayers, Kingston, N.Y.: "My worst buy was a 2011 **Bad Boy** Buggie XTO electric utility vehicle, which I bought

"It doesn't have enough ground clearance and there's no engine compression to hold it back on steep terrain."

for use in my woodlot. It was advertised as an advanced performance, all terrain UTV. However, it doesn't have enough ground



Jim Ruen tested out the new Hoss garden planter which attaches to a Hoss wheel hoe.



Chain-driven planter comes with 6 interchangeable seed plates.

to turn. The drive itself is self-cleaning. All metal parts are made in the U.S. from powder-coated steel.

The Hoss wheel hoe is fitted with impregnated bronze bushing and dust covers and #1 red oak handles. The steel wheel hoe has a 1/4-in. steel tool bar that can be customized to specific crops. Options include plows, oscillating hoes, sweeps and cultivator teeth. It is priced at \$159.

The seeder comes with 6 seed plates standard. Four more seed plates are available, as well as blank ones that can be customized. The blank seed plates come with a metal drill template. The seeder with 6 plates is also priced at \$159.

A double wheel hoe priced at \$199 is also available. This allows planting between the wheels. The company is currently developing other attachments for both wheel hoes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hoss Tools, P.O. Box 429, Norman Park, Ga. 31771 (ph 229 769-3999; custserv@hosstools.com; www.hosstools.com).

clearance and there's no engine compression to hold it back on steep terrain. The headlight didn't work, and part of the battery fill system was missing."

Daryle Welker, Clifton Springs, N.Y.: A 2005 **Kubota ZD25F** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck rates as Daryle's "best buy". "It does a great job of mowing and saves me 45 min. every time I mow the lawn. Also, it doesn't use much fuel."

On the minus side, "My 2010 **Snap-On** MG1200 and MG725 1/2 and 3/4-in. air impact wrenches are both worst buys. I owned **Ingersoll Rand** composite-style wrenches in the past, and they had more power and were quieter and much lighter."

Pete Matthiesen, Billings, Okla.: "It's by far the best impact gun I've ever used," says Pete about his 2009 **Ingersoll Rand 2135TiMax** model. "It has tremendous power and weighs less than 4 lbs. It has no trouble busting loose any lug nut I've put it on."

Clark Dysle, Scio, Ore.: "My 2006 **Volkswagen Jetta T.D.I.** diesel car gets 44 mpg on the highway and 42 mpg on short trips. It handles like a sports car and has 6 air bags for safety. A fold-down in the back seat lets us load 2 by 4's from the trunk all the way to the dash."

Tim Wolfinbarger, St. Maries, Idaho: