

idiots to be spill-proof, fill-proof, pour-proof, spark-proof, and idiot-proof.

"So I went out and bought a universal

"The pour spouts on plastic fuel cans are glaring examples of what's wrong with America today."

replacement spout and vent kit called the **EZ-Pour** (www.ezpourspout.com). It lets you pour fluids easily, but only fits fuel containers prior to Jan. 1, 2009. Each kit includes a spout and cap, a 1/2-in. replacement push-in vent, and a flame arrestor."

Dale A. Cummins, Chattaroy, Wash.: A 2008 **Ford F-250 SuperDuty** 4-WD extended cab pickup equipped with a 6.4-liter turbocharged engine rates as Dale's "best buy". "This Lariat edition truck has about 55,000 miles on it and drives like a dream, empty or loaded. It has explosive acceleration when passing and goes from 0 to 70 mph faster than our two cars. It gets a decent 19.6 mpg on the highway, but only 15 1/2 mpg in city driving. Fortunately, I don't spend much time in the city."

Earl Tichenor, Bangor, Wis.: "My 1997 Simplicity 12 1/2 hp riding mower still runs good. It's equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine, which I really like."

Dan Siltala, Cokato, Minn.: "My 1977 **Troybilt** 6 hp rototiller still has the original engine. I've replaced the tires once.

"I like my 1997 **Toro GroundsMaster** 117 riding mower equipped with a Kohler 17 hp engine and 44-in. deck. I replaced the flywheel when the magnets came loose and also replaced the belts once.

"I use my 1998 **Stihl** BR320 backpack blower to blow two acres of leaves each fall. No problems."

Don Edwards, Millsap, Texas: "I use my **Land Pride** Treker 4220 utility vehicle multiple times a day to feed cattle and goats, pull trailers, check on fences, and to haul wood, dirt, rocks, and watermelons. It's a 2-WD machine, but I've never encountered any mud or snow that it couldn't handle. Runs great."

Robert J. Czarnota, Pueblo, Colo.: "I like my 1991 and 1995 **Chevrolet** 4-WD Geo Trackers. These little vehicles work just as well as my old Jeep Willys, but with a lot more comfort. It's easy to get in and out of and very maneuverable. My only complaint is that the manually-operated windows are terrible."

Joel Parsons, Webb, Iowa: "We traded a perfectly good 2005 McCormick 120 tractor for a 2010 **Case IH** 140 Pro model. The pto didn't work from the beginning and it took a couple weeks to fix it. Since then this tractor has been in the shop more times than I can remember.

"One problem is that the tractor's 42-in. tires are located too close to the fenders. Frozen cowpies got caught in the lugs and ripped off both fenders, which had to be replaced. Then last summer a spring broke inside the clutch. I still don't have the tractor back. All this trouble, yet the tractor only has about 1,450 hrs. on it. I don't think we'll be able to afford the upkeep on this tractor."

David Talley, Church Road, Va.: "My **Woodmizer** LT 40 hydraulic portable sawmill is my best buy. It's reasonably priced and produces outstanding lumber. Company service is outstanding. I have more fun running this sawmill than I do with all my other hobbies combined. It's also very profitable."

Victor Scherping, Long Prairie, Minn.: Victor has more than 337,000 miles on his 1991 **Chevrolet** pickup equipped with a 4.3-liter engine and 4-speed overdrive transmission. "It still runs good and doesn't use any oil. I'm hoping to put 400,000 miles on it."

Lynn Thomas, Prairie Grove, Ark.: "We use this machine every day. It's a real workhorse," says Lynn about his 2011 **Kiotti** Mechtron 2200 utility vehicle. "We love the steel bed and the 1,100-lb. hauling capacity. We put 300 hrs. on this machine the first year."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Bosch** electric hammer drill. "The first time I put a bit in the chuck, one of the teeth broke off. Then the button to hold the trigger fell off, leaving the drill engaged at full speed. I had to use a screwdriver to turn the drill off."

Clifford Ambers, Monroe, Va.: "This tractor is dependable and a perfect fit for my small vineyard-winery," says Clifford, pleased with his 2009 **Kubota** BX-2660 subcompact tractor equipped with a 60-in. mid-deck mower and front-end loader. "The wide mower makes cutting five acres a one-day job, and the loader is powerful enough for 95 percent of the digging and loading work that I do. Its all-hydraulic operation is easy and smooth. The 4-WD works great on hills.

"My disappointment is with **Tractor Supply Co.** No matter where I've visited TSC stores they're out of stock on key products, shuffling displays around on 'corporate' orders, and often the employees are lackluster. Instead of sending my money to TSC headquarters, I now shop only at locally-owned farm stores."

Robert Mareches, Bloomdale, Ohio: "It's a real peach to use," says Robert about his **Husqvarna** Rancher 455 chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar. "I also bought a 24-in. bar and chain to use on the saw and was surprised that the saw still has plenty of power to cut. It starts easy and is a quality machine."

John Rau, Metamora, Mich.: John has owned multiple **Kubota** tractors over the years and says he's never spent a dime repairing any of them. He liked his 4-WD 3400 so much that he made his own connectors for a set of duals for far less than the cost of a kit.

"I cut a 3-in. wide strip of 3/4-in. steel and rolled it to fit between the rims to hold them apart. I used 5/8-in. threaded rod to replace the studs in the hub so I could connect both wheels to the hub."

John notes that dual tires have to be closely matched. He warns against relying on tire numbers when matching them. "Two tires with the same number from the same brand may have slightly different rolling circumferences. You have to actually measure the circumference to be sure."

What John doesn't care for is a Kubota dealer practice he has observed in Michigan. "Trade in a tractor, and it will disappear from the lot in a few days. I've seen semi trailers of used tractors come in and out of my local dealership. Trade-ins get swapped between dealers."

While that isn't a problem in itself, it can lead to problems with disreputable dealers dumping a problem tractor on another dealer. "The new dealer doesn't know it, and once you buy a used tractor, it's yours."

A retired General Motors troubleshooter, John has seen a lot. He puts that experience to use when buying a used tractor from any dealer (or an individual). He knows of at least one dealer who replaces lubricant in a leaking gearbox with a small amount of grease. "It looks clean when it leaves the original dealer, but blows up in use after purchase."

Sometimes what appears to be a problem



"I use it mainly for cutting saplings in roadside ditches, but it'll cut down trees 6 to 8 in. in dia.," says Eugene Loge about his battery-powered Oregon chainsaw.

He Likes His Battery-Powered Oregon Chainsaw

"I had quit using chainsaws because of the noise and vibration, fuel mixing, hard starting, and safety issues. My new battery-powered **Oregon** saw eliminates all these problems. It works flawlessly and sharpens itself.

"I use it mainly for light work, such as cutting saplings in roadside ditches. Most of the trees are 2 to 3 in. in diameter, and this saw cuts through them really fast. I bought the saw equipped with the standard battery. At just 11.2 lbs. it's easy to reach up and prune branches.

"I've also used the saw to cut down trees 6 to 8 in. in diameter. Of course, when you cut through bigger diameter trees you have to charge the battery more often. But for 2-in. dia. trees and limbing a tree this saw can really rip along.

"How long the saw will cut depends on how sharp the chain is and how hard the wood. I can't say that I've timed it, but running time hasn't been a problem. The battery pack has a charge check LED panel,

which is really handy. Press a button, and one to four lights show how much charge remains.

"Safety is a big advantage. I trim trees along hilly ditches and roads where it's easy to trip and stumble through underbrush, and this saw is so easy and safe to handle that I refuse to use anything else. I can walk along without having to pull a cord - instead, I just push a button.

"The chainsaw is equipped with a PowerSharp built-in sharpener, which I really like. You engage the sharpener with the electric motor running full bore, and in only about 5 seconds the saw is back running.

"I paid \$400 for the saw, which at the time I thought was quite a bit. But it's a high quality saw and was worth every penny."

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can be fixed with minimal cost. John's latest used Kubota wouldn't move without a 10-min. warmup. When he checked the hydraulic fluid, it was white and about half water. After a total flush and refill, it was fine.

"At least one dealer replaces lubricant in a leaking gearbox with a small amount of grease."

Jerry McGarr, Crown Point, Ind.: A 2007 **Chevrolet** Impala rates as Jerry's "best buy". "This is a good driving car. I just change the oil and filter and go. I own an auto repair and machine shop so I'm glad all cars aren't built this good."

Robert Downer, Midland, N.C.: "My 2012 **Deere** X300 riding mower starts easy, is comfortable to drive, and cuts evenly."

Luke Doyle, Oroville, Wash.: "My **Shelter Logic** greenhouse was missing 2 pieces of framing when I bought it. Also, the cover is opaque, making the light inside very dim. As a result, our tomatoes grew tall and spindly. This next growing season I'll replace the cover with regular greenhouse plastic. But I'd never buy this brand again."

Bill Baer, Westville, Okla.: "After 12 years of great service I started having problems with stress cracks in the cutting head on my 1999 **TimberKing** 1200 series portable band sawmill (www.timberking.com). I drove to the main office in Kansas City and was told it would cost \$973 in parts and take two days to repair. Instead, I spent

\$900 on a new 2011 cutting head for the company's 1220 series sawmills, and I'm glad I did because this head has great cutting ability. The company is great to deal with - I'll never switch brands."

Art Adamson, Shelby, Mont.: "It always starts and has a lot of pulling power," says Art about the 2004 **Honda** Rancher 4-WD ATV he bought used equipped with a 350cc engine. "This machine has an electronic thumb shift with easy reverse. It goes faster than I care to go, but it's versatile and we use it a lot around our farm."

Dennis Woody, Spruce Pine, N.C.: "I like my 3-pt. mounted **Wallenstein** BX62 wood chipper. It runs quiet and can handle 6-in. dia. tree limbs with ease, as well as 12-in. slabs. It's a well-built chipper, with easy access to the blades - all you do is remove one bolt. Half the flywheel cover opens up. I paid \$3,784 for it."

Ralph Heck, Leasburg, Mo.: "I like **SealLube** seal expander, which is designed to stop rubber oil seal leaks in engines, transmissions, power steering and hydraulic systems (ph 800 434-9192; www.seallube.com). I bought it after reading about it in **FARM SHOW**. I used it to seal a blower motor housing on a Detroit diesel 271. I've also used it on rear axles and track adjustment seals. One 8-oz. bottle treats up to 10 quarts of oil. Now I'm ordering a gallon of SealLube to fix the leaks in all my other farm equipment."

A.T. Smith, Hindsville, Ark.: "My **Deere** 458 round baler equipped with net wrap makes perfect bales every time.

"My **New Holland** 5070 small square baler eat hay better than any other baler I know of."

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