

gas line. From that day on, the blower has always started right up with just one pull.”

Donna Hohlt, Kinmundy, Ill.: Donna’s disappointed with her **Deere LA145** riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck. “We had to replace two belts in the first 6 mos. as well as wheel bearings, and it’s a continuing problem. We’ve discussed these problems with the dealer, but they just say that we bought a ‘town mower’ and that our yard is too big for it.”

Mark Miller, North Mankato, Minn.: “My 2007 **Miller 150 DC 110/220 Tig** stick suitcase welder can weld any metal except aluminum. I’ve used it to build an enclosed trailer, a front engine gas dragster, an intake manifold, and many other projects. I recommend buying the high frequency start model because it prevents tungsten contamination.”

Terry Younts, Thomasville, N.C.: Terry’s 1975 **International DT-466** diesel engine rates as his “best buy”. “We used this engine for years to power a sawmill, putting on about 18,000 hrs. The water pump was replaced twice and a copper O-ring under a fuel injector was also replaced. The engine ran at 2,100 rpm’s and at 178 degrees, both summer and winter. We always used Delvac 1330 heavy duty diesel engine oil in it.”



1988 Model

Richard Steward, Grovespring, Mo.: “My two best buys are the 4-WD articulated tractors I built. The first one was built in 1968 when I was living in northern Minnesota raising cattle and hay. I also logged out and sawed lumber to sell.



1968 Model

“I needed a 4-WD and couldn’t afford it, so I built one. I used it for everything – feeding cattle, handling hay, and logging. It worked so well that I built a second one in 1988. Then I could leave one in the timber and the other at my sawmill.

“Both of them are based on Allis Chalmers WC’s. I used frames and the differential from the WC’s. The first one has a GMC V-6 engine with a Davis industrial loader. The second one is similar, but has a 318 cu. in. Dodge engine and a stronger, heavier loader.

“The center joints articulate and oscillate so they can flex over rough and frozen ground. The loader frames were also made from WC frames.

“I raised 8 kids and ran between 250 and 400 head of cattle while working with those two tractors in Minnesota. Now the kids are grown and gone, and I live in Missouri. I still use both tractors on a daily basis, running 100 head of cattle and logging out timber.”

John W. Carroll, Pontiac, Ill.: “My Case IH 7110 tractor works great and is a pleasure to operate.

“We use our 1997 **Wood-Mizer** sawmill to do custom sawing, and in 1998 we used it to help build our log home. It has sawed a lot of lumber and has paid for itself many times over. We’ve had some repairs on electric parts and replaced a couple of bearings, but we are always able to get the problem resolved over

the phone and the replacement parts arrive in one or two days. The only negative is that the paint job isn’t too good.”

Wayne Westphal, Seymour, Iowa: “My son bought a 2010 **Deere 568** round baler, and it’s hard to believe how it eats hay. The bales we stored for the winter look like they were baled yesterday. I can’t believe how well this machine works.”

Doug White, Unity, Sask.: “In a recent issue Timothy Weibert described intermittent starting problems with his 2008 **Dodge Ram 1500** Quadcab pickup equipped with a 4.7-liter engine. The engine would turn over but wouldn’t start. This was a common problem with Ford, Chevy and Dodge pickups in the 1970’s and 1980’s. My 1976 Ford F-150, 1978 Ford F-100, 1980 F-600, 1981 F-100, and 1984 F-150 pickups have all had this problem. The problem was with the solid state ignition module which was mounted on the fender well, except on the 1984 model where it was mounted on the distributor. The module only took about 15 min. to change, and I always carried a spare one with me and the tools to change it.

“I’ve been buying pickups for 47 years, and my favorite is my 2007 **Dodge Ram 1500 Mega Cab** equipped with a 5.7-liter Hemi engine.”

Dennis Albert, Junction City, Wis.: “My **Thermo-Dynamics** plasma cutter uses up consumables very fast. Parts aren’t stocked by dealers in my area and are slow in coming when ordered. This product is made in China. The **Hypertherm** brand is U.S.-made, and parts are well stocked by their dealers (www.hypertherm.com).”

Ken Laboski, Fitchburg, Wis.: “I like my 2003 **Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD** pickup equipped with an 8.1-liter gas engine and Allison transmission. This pickup has only broken down once, and that was due to a dead battery. The engine/transmission combination is awesome for towing heavy loads. I can pull 12,000-lb. loads with a weight distributing hitch, yet barely feel the trailer behind me.”

Ron Flick, Wadena, Iowa: “My favorite chainsaws are the **Husqvarna** Rancher 455 and 235E models. These saws never stop running and have performed flawlessly for years. They’re also easy to service.”

Duane A. Johnson, Parkersburg, Iowa: “My 2007 **Toyota Tundra** pickup works even better than I expected. It pulls any load without hesitating.

“I really like my three **Gehl** skid loaders. I’ve put about 12,000 hrs. on my 1996 3825 model; 10,000 hrs. on my 2002 4635; and 900 hrs. on my 2011 5240. All have performed with minimal downtime and required only routine maintenance.”

James E. Day, Sr., Searsburg, Vt.: “It has performed with flying colors and still runs as good as new,” reports James about his 2005 **Kubota L3400** tractor. “I use it to skid logs and firewood, to load junk, and to push deep snow. It’s the best investment I ever made.

“In my opinion **Stihl** chainsaws and their model 700 cut-off saw are the best saws ever made.”

Don Enlow, Jonesville, La.: “With less than 200 hrs. on my 2007 **Case New Holland JX1060C** 50 hp tractor, the hand throttle cable

“At less than 200 hrs. the hand throttle cable broke.”

broke and had to be replaced. Now with 481 hrs., the replacement cable has also broken. I called the company to see if they had a recall, but they just said I should take the tractor to

FARM SHOW Writer Gives “Thumbs Up” To LogJaws

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

FARM SHOW received a pair of LogJaws log carriers to field test from Beth McDonald in Saranac, Mich. I took them out to my woodpile and they worked great. We picked up logs, chunks of split wood and sections of log yet to be split. The steel hand grips the wood with 3 sharp points and holds it tight. It circles the hand, protecting your knuckles.

One thing was easy to see as we used the tool. It’s rugged and built to last and likely will long outlast anyone buying one today.

Releasing the log is as simple as tipping the grip down toward the long claw. This releases tension on the upper claws, and the log is free. When carrying a large piece of split wood or a log round to be split, a snap of the wrist releases the LogJaw from the wood.

“My husband’s father and grandfather invented it to carry pulpwood out of the forest, and my husband grew up using it,” says Beth McDonald, LogJaw. “When I saw him and his father working with it, it blew me away how well it worked.”

McDonald, whose dad once had a machining business, encouraged her husband and father-in-law to get the LogJaw patented. Now she’s helping them market it.

“The original LogJaw was fabricated from steel rod by welding, forging and machining,” says McDonald. “We took it to a Michigan company who uses the same casting process as used for jet engine components.

“We’ve tested the LogJaw to loads in excess of 1,000 lbs.,” says McDonald. “One person can use one to drag a log or work with smaller chunks of logs. Two people,

the dealer for repairs.

“Instead, I ordered a flexible control hand throttle cable through Messick’s and will replace it myself. I want to know why New Holland won’t declare a recall on their throttle cable, as I know other owners of New Holland tractors with the same problem.

“I kept both my **Deere 2003 JX345** riding mowers inside a building whenever I wasn’t using them, yet the seat cushion on both has come loose from the frame. The company needs to fix this problem on all its riding mowers.”

Rocky Fowler, Tiffin, Ohio: “My **JCB 409B** is a small payload loader but can lift up to 8,000 lbs., and it bends in the middle so it doesn’t tear up the ground on turns. This payload loader costs and weighs about the same as a large skid loader, but is easier to get on and off and has a much better ride.

“My **Tapco** aluminum siding brake works great on the farm for building repairs and for new construction (www.tapcotools.com). It’s easy to use.”

Terry Mickunas, Sebeka, Minn.: “I bought my 1998 **Chevrolet Lumina** used in 2003 with about 180,000 miles on it, and now it has about 354,000 miles with no major repairs. It still averages 30 mpg and uses only about a quart of oil every 7,000 miles.”

Michael Myers, Fredonia, Kan.: “Our **Cyclone Rake** lawn vacuum system works great for picking up leaves (ph 888 531-7253; www.cyclonerake.com). I use this machine on back of my garden tractor every fall all over our small town. The engine provides a lot of suction and could even pick up something as heavy as half a brick if you’re not careful. Also, the company backs up its product. If you need anything at all they’re always willing to help.”

Elwin Gingerich, Kalona, Iowa: “I



LogJaw log carrier has a steel hand that grips the wood with 3 sharp points and holds it tight.



Two people, each with a LogJaw, can move larger logs.

each with a LogJaw, increases the versatility of the tool and makes it possible to move larger logs.”

A single LogJaw is 11 1/2 in. long from handle to claws and 3 1/2 in. high at the handle. It weighs about 3 lbs. and sells for \$69.95 plus shipping.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, LogJaw, P.O. Box 294, Saranac, Mich. 48881 (ph 616 560-5154; beth@logjaw.com; www.logjaw.com).

really like my **Spectra G1412** grade laser with the CR600 receiver, which comes with a rod clamp and magnetic base to go on the machine (ph 888 844-3765; www.tigersupplies.com). The G1412 is easy to set up, and you can also use a mask mode to turn off one to three windows of laser if working around other lasers.

“The CR600 receiver has a 5-in. receiver window with a 180 degree receiver window, and has bright red and green arrows that can be turned on and off and are highly visible from the machine. It also comes with a remote to change the grade while away from the laser.”

John Holt, Clifton, Texas: “It had about 135,000 miles on it when I bought it, and now has about 402,000 miles,” says John about his 1994 **GM 4-door** dually pickup equipped with a 6.5-liter diesel engine and automatic transmission. “The engine was replaced at about 68,000 miles. I change the oil and filter every 2,500 miles. I rebuilt the transmission once myself and rebuilt all the front suspension. I’ve put on a couple water pumps and changed the fuel injectors once. The engine has never had the injector pump or turbocharger replaced. It gets about 15 mpg.”

Ben Ginther, Rocky Mount, Va.: “We had our horse barn built by **Morton Buildings** about five years ago. The product, customer service, and warranty are all excellent.”

Richard Cisco, Milwaukee, Wis.: “**Evapo-Rust** (ph 888 329-9877; www.evaporust.com) and **Safest Rust Remover** (ph 908 684-5444; www.ridrust.com) are both fantastic products and do exactly what they claim, and more. I’ve used many gallons of each over the past 20 years. They’re cheap, too.”

Continued on next page