

front-end loader with bucket and bale spear. This tractor has about 2,300 hours on it and has made about 12,000 round bales with a New Holland 664 baler. No major problems. A small oil leak developed in the oil filter line and there was a problem with the air conditioning compressor, but the dealer promptly fixed everything under warranty. The tractor is equipped with a 3-speed transmission with 4 ranges so it can go from 1/2 mph to 18 1/2 mph.”

Terry Hill, Ceresco, Mich.: “The Ford 2000 tractor my grandpa bought new in 1973 still has the original engine, starter and Firestone tires. It has about 3,300 trouble-free hours and we use it almost every day.

“We attend 5 different farmer’s markets from May through October so we bought a couple of canopies from TSC on sale for \$50 apiece. I figured we would get at least one year’s use out of them, but they lasted only a month. The frames bent and broke and the canopies weren’t waterproof.”

Bill Stonesifer, Farmington, Ark.: “My Kiotti LK3054 4-WD tractor runs great and performs small and big jobs equally well.”

Bruce W. Johnson, Wendell, N.C.: “My 2003 Husqvarna 155 articulated riding mower is equipped with a 41-in. front-mount deck that mows just as well as my old Gravely L riding mower. This mower is equipped with a foot pedal-operated hydro transmission which allows either slow or fast forward movement while keeping the blades going at full speed. And it uses a steering wheel instead of levers, which I like. It’ll mow right around trees thanks to a tight turning radius of 4 ft.”

Emery Beachy, Hardin, Mo.: “I like my older Deutz 06 tractors. In 35 years of farming with mostly Deutz tractors, only one has ever been back to the dealer for repairs. The other brands I’ve tried are long gone. These tractors are well-built, fuel-efficient, and simple enough for any farmer to maintain. I especially like that they have ‘instant’ cold start. Just hop on the seat, pull the start switch and they’re running. No waiting a long time for the engine to preheat. Also, there are no extra electronics and emission control junk to create problems.”

Bernard Paumier, Baltimore, Ohio: “I like my Stihl 250 easy pull chainsaw. My old saw had such high compression that I had to stand on it to start it, which isn’t a good safety practice. This saw almost starts itself, and you don’t need a wrench to adjust the chain.”

Rosendo Pena, Jr., Three Rivers, Texas: “My 2008 CBC 40 backhoe is easy to operate and also easy to transport (ph 541 582-2583). It does the same work as a bigger backhoe, at less cost.”

Ed Cannady, West York, Ill.: “My 1998 Dodge Ram 3500 1-ton dually pickup has more than 190,000 miles yet still drives great. My only expense has been for tires. I’d recommend this pickup to anyone.”

Bentley Howard, Gouldsboro, Maine: “My 2000 Honda CRV car has more than 253,000 miles but is still going strong. It doesn’t burn oil and is fuel efficient. I’ve had to replace only normal ‘wear’ parts. I wouldn’t hesitate to buy another one.”

Eugene Miller, Rawling, Wyo.: Eugene’s the satisfied owner of a 2008 Bobcat S300 skid loader equipped with a Loegering tracked undercarriage system (ph 800 373-5441; www.loegering.com). “We operate a fencing business and work in a lot of rough country. The Loegering track system adds weight and increases stability. If we want we can switch back to tires in less than 30 min. We make hay during the summer and like to use wheels when stacking hay.”

Fred L. Homburg, Warsaw, Ind.: “The

Harbor Freight cargo nets that I bought for my Chevy S-10 pickup and my 6 by 8 by 2 trailer are best buys. The nets with wire hooks work better than the ones with big, flat plastic hooks. As a volunteer I haul large loads of food for food pantries, bags of used clothes for shelters, and cab-high loads of flattened cardboard for recycling. The net stretches over the most irregular loads and keeps everything intact.

“A lot of my friends think Poulan chainsaws are junk, but I use only Poulan Wild Thing saws and really like them. I buy the saws used at auctions and garage sales and throw them away if they cause trouble. They all use the same chains and sprockets so I can interchange parts. The company’s toll-free phone number for parts is printed right on the saw and has been helpful. I always get good service. I currently own five of these saws.”

James McGowan, Russell Springs, Ky.: “I use my 2000 Suzuki 250 4-wheeler to pull trailers and run cattle. I had to install new starter brushes but otherwise this rig has been trouble-free. It has gone through 2 sets

“The brakes have never been adjusted and it still has the original spark plugs.”

of tires. The brakes have never been adjusted and it still has the original spark plugs. It always starts right up.

“The Briggs & Stratton 22 hp engine on my Poulan riding mower went bad 6 times in one summer. It bent a push rod 5 times, and the valve guide slipped. I installed another head with valves but then the engine threw a rod and busted the piston and crankcase. I finally replaced the engine with an older Briggs & Stratton which has worked fine.”

William A. Morneault, Humble, Texas: He’s disappointed with Wolverine boots. “I bought a pair of these boots about 2 years ago and only wore them 4 or 5 times. I went to use them late last year and when I picked them up from the closet floor, heel and sole material had crumbled like yesterday’s corn bread. A call to the company connected me to customer service, and the girl who answered snottily asked, ‘How long do you expect them to last?’ All she offered was a 20 percent discount for a replacement pair. Big deal. I can beat that offer all over town. It’s really sad to see a one-time good company go so wrong.”

Robert J. Zeimetz, Mondovi, Wis.: “It’s the best truck I’ve ever had,” says Robert about his 2009 Dodge 1500 pickup which has more than 94,000 trouble-free miles on it. “The 5.7-liter Hemi engine has unbelievable power.”

Carl Schultheis, Caro, Mich.: “Our Farmall A tractor had no starter or lights or pto when dad bought it back in 1941. It was equipped from the factory with 9-24 tires, but dad soon put 10-24 tires on it.

“When I was about 5 years old he installed a starter, lights and pto on the tractor so I could start and drive it. It was the only tractor he used for about 10 years, working 60 acres of hilly, heavy clay ground to support his dairy herd. He used the tractor with a single 16-in. plow, a 5-ft. double cultipacker, a single 6-ft. disk, a 3-section drag, and a 13-hoe grain drill. The same tractor was used to mow hay with a 5-ft. mower. It also did the raking and hauled the wagons with a hay loader behind. He also pulled a 4 1/2-ft. cut combine with it.

“That tractor had a hard life, being used just about every day until I retired from the dairy

Herbal Formula Eases Farmer’s Aches And Pains

“I keep a jar of Steuart’s Pain Formula by my bed and reach for it at night when my knee pain flares up. It knocks the pain right out,” says Mike Marsden of Mabel, Minn. Marsden’s been using Steuart’s Pain Formula for about 4 years and says he’s constantly recommending it to other people.

Steuart Laboratories originally developed Steuart’s Pain Formula for race horses. Over the years, it has gained a following for treating other animals and humans. The cream contains extract of the herbs comfrey and arnica in a liposome base that penetrates the skin rapidly, says Gary Steuart, who founded the company in 1982. “People now use the product to relieve joint and muscle pain associated with arthritis and injuries,” Steuart says.

Rose Johnson of Hazleton, Iowa, uses Steuart’s Pain Formula to relieve the tissue pain caused by fibromyalgia, a disorder characterized by widespread pain and tenderness in joints, muscles, tendons, and other soft tissues. In addition to pain relief from Steuart’s Pain Formula, she appreciates that the product causes no side effects.

Joel Sloan of Mabel was familiar with Steuart’s Pain Formula because he used it regularly for treating dairy cows with mastitis. “It really helped the cows because it causes a heat action and gets the blood flowing in the udder,” he says.

When Sloan was recovering from hernia surgery several years ago, his bowel and urinary function slowed down. “I rubbed some on my abdomen and in 20 min., I could feel the product working and my bowel and urinary function were restored. The pain was gone.”

Warren Ward of Pemberton, Minn., says his knees ached so terrible at night that



Mike Marsden uses Steuart’s Pain Formula whenever his knee pain flares up.

he couldn’t get to sleep without taking painkillers. “An orthopedic surgeon told me both my knees were shot, I had bone rubbing on bone, and I needed knee-replacement surgery. Then someone told me about Steuart’s Pain Formula. I started using it and in three days I had no pain in my knees, I went right to sleep at night, and I haven’t taken a pain killer since.

“I like Steuart’s product because there’s no odor, it doesn’t stain your clothes, and you don’t feel a thing when you apply it. It’s an excellent product and I know it works,” Ward says.

Steuart’s first product – an udder ointment containing comfrey – was introduced in 1982. Today, the company manufactures and markets more than a dozen herbal and natural-oil healing and pain products for both human and animal use.

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business in 1995. It never got a break during the winter. We put chains on it and used it to keep snow off our driveway. I’m not sure just how many sets of tires it went through. I think the engine is on its third set of pistons and sleeves and the crankshaft was ground once. The clutch was also replaced once.

“I learned to drive on that tractor, as did my kids, and I know my grandkids will drive it, too. Any time we ask this tractor to do a full day’s work, it gladly tackles the task without complaint.”

David Esz, Batavia, Ohio: “This is an aggressive saw that starts right up and is easy to handle,” says David about his Stihl chainsaw equipped with a 14-in. bar

“My 1967 Wheelhorse garden tractor is equipped with a Kohler engine that just won’t quit. It beats any of the newer tractors I’ve owned.”

Parker Beaupre, Groton, Vt.: “It has been a dependable machine so far,” says Parker about his 1999 Deere 250 skid loader. “This model doesn’t have the best reputation, but my dealer thoroughly serviced it before I bought it. I use it with Loegering steel tracks during the summer and tire chains during the winter, which allows it to perform all the loader work on my 200-acre farm and woodlot. I use a number of attachments with it, which makes my life easier every day.

“My worst buy is the pellet stove I bought from U.S. Stove Co. When it works this furnace does a good job of heating my large old house, but it seems to go out often for no apparent reason. Then I restart the fire and away it goes – but only for a while.”

Howard Waller, Webbers Falls, Okla.: Howard’s satisfied with his Homelite 42cc, 14-in. chainsaw. “It’s light and handy, once I take off the safety tip that restricts the cut to about 12 in. Best of all it starts with a couple of pulls, unlike my Poulan and Stihl models.”

On the negative side, he lists his 1999 Ford F-250 Superduty pickup equipped with a Triton 5.4-liter engine. “An oil leak developed between the head and block and cost \$1,900 to repair. Also, the heads only have 4 threads in the spark plug ports with aluminum inserts rather than steel inserts, like on a real engine. Ford should have stuck with what they were good at – cast iron and push rods, not aluminum and overhead cams.”

Bill Skipper, Carrollton, Ohio: “I’ve been buying cars for 45 years, but this one is the worst,” says Bill about his 2000 Volkswagen Jetta diesel. “It’s not as much a car problem as a company problem.

“I bought the car used with about 124,000 miles. The timing belt had been changed at 97,000 miles but at 136,000 miles the belt broke, and because of the engine design it ruined the head. The company wanted to install a new engine at a cost of \$7,000. Fortunately, I knew someone who was able to fix the head for \$2,200.

“At about 172,000 miles the car’s automatic transmission went out, and because the company doesn’t sell any repair parts the only option is to spend \$4,000 for a new transmission. For that expense they’ll give you a whopping 12,000-mile warranty. The company has also been involved in a class

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