

enough. He said an internal valve would have to be replaced at a cost of \$800, not including labor. I always store this tractor inside out of the weather. It has about 160 hrs. on it."

**Russ Biros, Plato, Mo.:** Russ likes his 1999 **Yanmar FX22D** 28 hp diesel tractor, which he bought used 7 years ago. "This tractor has all the bells and whistles of larger models and has performed flawlessly. I use it for bush hogging, planting wildlife food plots, and logging work."

**Doug Martens, Teslin, Yukon:** "My **Stihl MS260** chainsaw is my best buy. I've used it to cut hundreds of cords of firewood and to build a large log home, with no problems. It's a professional grade model that uses bearings

**"After years of steady use I bought another one and experienced similar amazing results."**

instead of bushings and is designed for long, continuous usage. After years of steady use I bought another one and experienced similar amazing results. I mix the gas and oil at a 30:1 ratio, which works perfect."

**Tom Albers, Grinnell, Kan.:** Tom's had good luck with **Arthro-IonX**, a liquid medicine for pets (Vetionx, ph 866 977-0888; www.vetionx.com). "I have a dog that had hip dysplasia and arthritis so bad that he couldn't even get up for three months. I gave him the recommended dosage of Arthro-IonX for one month and he started walking and running again. The vet said he had good range of motion in his body and that I should keep doing whatever I was doing. I had brought the dog in earlier to the vet on a stretcher, but now his lifestyle is the same as when he was younger."

**Kenneth Karstens, Massena, Iowa:** "My 2007 **Cub Cadet 11050** riding mower turns hard. I took it back to the dealer 3 or 4 times but he couldn't solve the problem. I use this mower on a steep roadbank.

"My **Gravely** zero turn riding mower is a great machine."

**Jim Hlebechuk, Killdeer, N. Dak.:** "My **KingKutter** finishing mower is well-built. Parts are easy to get and made in the U.S., which is important to me."

**Zach Shaw, Fremont, Neb.:** Zach's the satisfied owner of a 2003 **Dodge** 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. "This pickup has about 140,000 miles on it with no problems. It has awesome power and can easily pull a 24,000-lb. load. We use it to haul cattle and hay. This pickup is easy to maintain and starts even in the coldest weather. Also, the 4-WD is smooth and trouble-free."

**Charles Henkel, Norfolk, Neb.:** Charles is disappointed with the **ITP Mud Lite** 6-ply tires on his ATV. "Three of the tires failed in the same way after lasting only about one third as long as they should have. They rapidly developed tears in many of the hollow cleats on the tread pattern. The ATV dealer said I was at fault for keeping the tire air pressure too low, and wouldn't compensate me.

"I have other ITP tires that have served well, two of which are now bald. As an experiment, I deliberately ran them with low air pressure for a few hundred miles, and I even drove one of the tires for another 50 miles completely flat and they didn't show any pattern of failure like my bad tires. I suspect there wasn't enough real rubber in some batches of material that were used to make the tires."

**Bob Palmer, Grove, Okla.:** A 1999 **Ford F-250** heavy duty 4-WD pickup equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine rates as Bob's "best buy". "I bought this pickup slightly used in 2000. Now it has about 213,000 miles and all I've replaced was an alternator at 210,000 miles, tires at 50,000 to 60,000-mile intervals, and several headlights. This pickup is still running strong and works great pulling a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer."



**Don Sommer, Adams, Mass.:** "I've abused this mower but it still runs great," says Don about his 1990 **Scag** 52-in. riding mower (Scag Power Equipment, Mayville, Wis.; www.scag.com).

**Robert Spiker, Warren, Ind.:** Robert's had a lot of problems with two different **Holland TC55DA** tractors, one a 2007 model and the other a 2008. "I farm 30 acres of hay, which I cut with a 7-ft. sickle mower and rake with an old 4-bar Deere steel-wheeled model. The 2007 model was a lemon so the dealer took it back and replaced it with the 2008 model. However, last June I was working in the field when the tractor's drawbar fell off. The tractor had only about 400 hrs. on it. Then in August the hydraulics failed. By that time the tractor was out of warranty, despite having only 540 hrs. on it. It cost \$1,263.79 to repair."

**Tom Kussow, Little Suamico, Wis.:** "It's the most reliable tractor I've ever owned," says Tom about his **Deere** 2350 MFWD model equipped with a front-end loader. "It has about 10,500 hrs. on it, but the engine still doesn't use any oil unless it's working very hard. I use the loader for doing logging work and for general chores. The clutch was replaced and the pto was rebuilt at about 9,000 hrs., and the hydraulic pump was rebuilt at about 9,500 hrs."

**Stan McCarty, Promise City, Iowa:** Stan nominates **CertainTeed** organic asphalt shingles as his "worst buy". "During the fall of 2003, I built a new home and installed these 25-year organic shingles. However, by the spring of 2009 the shingles were already going bad. Now I have a metal roof on my home, and I don't plan to buy anything from this company again."

**Marshall Orcutt, Siloam Springs, Ark.:** Marshall's pleased with his 2006 **Ford** Ranger pickup equipped with a 4-cyl. engine, 5-speed transmission, air conditioning, and power steering. "This pickup cost about \$11,000 new. It averaged 32 mpg on a recent trip to California and averages 25 mpg around town. No problems.

"The choke has never worked right on my 2005 **Yamaha** 9.9 hp, 4-stroke outboard boat motor. Three dealers and \$400 haven't solved the problem."

**Troy Dean, Rapid City, S. Dak.:** "It's probably the best pickup I've ever owned, but definitely has the worst engine," says Troy about his 2006 **Ford** F-550 pickup. "It gets terrible mileage and lacks power, and now it has started leaking anti-freeze, probably into the engine. I took the pickup back while it was still under warranty, but they couldn't find the leak. They checked the EGR cooler and compression. It also developed a high pressure oil leak so the fuel injectors wouldn't

## Revolving Wagon Picks Up Small Bales

Eugene Tollakson says one of his "best buys" ever, made back in 1977, is an unusual bale wagon that picks up small square or round bales. The wagon was built by Lavern Sunderman, a Clarinda, Iowa, farmer, (see FARM SHOW's Vol. 1, No. 5).

After building a toy model, Sunderman built two for testing with an implement manufacturer. The company later backed out.

Tollakson was impressed with the wagon because it made it so easy to pick up bales. He convinced Sunderman to sell him one of the wagons for \$4,500. (The other unit is in Minnesota.)

The Sunderman bale wagon is like a big revolving door or combine reel with 9 compartments. Each compartment holds seven 60-lb., 36 by 24-inch bales.

The wagon is operated by hydraulics using three levers. Push one lever when approaching a bale to pick it up. Another lever turns the reel. The third lowers the pick-up for loading bales and raises the pick-up for transporting. With extra bales in the pick-up Tollakson hauls 66 bales at a time.

To unload, he reverses the process and unloads them onto an elevator to store in a barn loft. The bales can also be unloaded out the back in a row on the ground. Because it's so easy to operate, when



**Eugene Tollakson's unusual bale wagon uses a big revolving reel to load small square or round bales.**

Tollakson's children were young, they unloaded the wagon while he stacked bales.

"I haven't put \$200 into it since I bought it," Tollakson says. Last year he welded a piece of steel to replace a guide for the pick-up, but that's about it.

"It's an oddity to see small round bales in the field," Tollakson says. At 70, he knows that if it weren't for the Sunderman wagon, he wouldn't be putting up round bales either.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eugene Tollakson, 3024 Mink Farm Rd., South Wayne, Wis. 53587 (ph 608 439-5949).

fire. Next time I buy a pickup it'll definitely be equipped with a Cummins diesel engine."

**Ron Carey, West Chester, Iowa:** "My 2006 **Volkswagen** Jetta TDI is my worst buy. This was our second new TDI. The first one was a 2004 model which worked great until we traded it in at about 75,000 miles for this top-of-the-line model, which cost about \$30,000. About 400 miles after the warranty expired, the fuel pump went out and cost \$600 to replace. The dealer installed the pump wrong and as a result we got stranded in Des Moines, Iowa. Then the glow plugs started failing, one by one, about a month apart. About the time we had to change the fourth glow plug, one of the ones we'd already replaced burned out. The glow plugs cost \$150 apiece.

"Next, a vacuum/whistling noise developed. The dealer said there was a problem with the EGR valve which was replaced at a cost of \$400, but that didn't solve the problem. Next, some type of flapper valve in the exhaust failed which caused the engine light to go on. The repair cost for new parts and labor was about \$400. The car also needed new rear shocks, front-end alignment, and new tires because they were getting chopped up so bad. One of the front outer CV joints had to be replaced at a cost of about \$700. The car did average 45 mpg. Finally at 114,000 miles we traded it for a Kia Sorento."

**Clark Carns, Fontanelle, Iowa:** Clark's had problems with his 2009 **Harley Davidson** ElectraGlide motorcycle. "The same day I bought it I was on the way home when the rear brake pedal came loose from the master cylinder. The front tire 'cupped' and had to be replaced. The muffler on one side of the motorcycle has had to be replaced three different times. The rear turn signals fell off and scratched the paint, and the license plate bracket vibrated so bad that it broke in half. The rear wheel bearing went bad, and the gas tank mounting bolt shook out and is missing completely.

"The fuel economy on this motorcycle is terrible. The front wheel weight came

off while I was driving in Nebraska, but the dealer told me not to worry about it. Sometimes the cruise control disengages when I hit a bump in the road, and now the front end has started to shake. I'd like to hear from anyone else who has had similar problems with this motorcycle."

**Ronald Miller, Bonner Springs, Kan.:** "My **Stihl** MS210 chainsaw is hard to start. I took the saw back to the dealer three different times, but after spending more than \$200 it doesn't work any better. Thank goodness I still have my old Homelite Super XL."

**Brian Talbott, Maryville, Mo.:** "I like my **Sears** Professional cordless drill, which is powered by a 20-volt Lithion battery. This drill has more power than any other drill I've owned, including electric drills. I left the battery three fourths charged in an unheated garage for a long time, but it didn't lose its charge at all."

**Bill Faul, Hurdsfield, N. Dak.:** "My **Deere** 9500 combine has been trouble-free and is a nice machine to operate. The cab is really comfortable."

**Wayne K. Johnson, Madison, Mo.:** "My 1998 **Deere** 345 riding mower equipped with a 50-in. deck is dependable and trouble-free. It has about 900 hrs. on it.

"My best buy **Troy-Bilt** garden tiller, equipped with an 8 hp Kohler electric start motor, is on its third set of blades. The tines on this machine are nearly worn out but it still does a good job."

**Jim Viergetts, Beulah, Wyo.:** "My 1982 **Kubota** BB200 tractor equipped with a front-end loader performs a wide variety of duties, from mowing to tilling and snow removal. No problems. It always starts and is easy and comfortable to operate. I'll never sell it."

**Charles Ewton, Chattanooga, Tenn.:** "I bought my **Cub Cadet** garden tiller in 2009 but, due to health problems, I didn't use it until this year. It was stored in the barn last winter. When I tried to use the tiller last spring the gearshift lever wouldn't move,

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