

410 shotgun shells as well as 45 cal. bullets.

"My 1993 **Dodge** Dakota pickup has more than 170,000 miles but still runs like a top. It's equipped with a 3.9-liter engine that gets 20 mpg. This pickup has never let me down."

Levon Brubacher, Nappanee, Ind.: A 1999 **Dodge** 2500 extended cab pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and automatic transmission rates as Levon's "best buy". "Mud or snow or dry ground, it doesn't matter - this truck can't be stopped. It has a lot of pulling power and is easy on fuel. Also, the cab is easy to access and rides nice."

D.J. Pellegrin, Cherry Valley, Calif.: "My 1995 Deere Gator utility vehicle is equipped with a Kawasaki 2-cycle engine that lets gas into the crankcase. As a result, every so often

"The machine doesn't have enough power and the windshield won't stay tight."

I have to drain the engine to dump out the oil and gas mix. The rig's seats are the worst and crack all over the place. The machine doesn't have enough power and the windshield won't stay tight. The plastic fenders cracked and had to be replaced. Also, it has an undersized battery. I bought three replacement batteries before finally deciding to buy a bigger one. I paid about \$10,000 for this machine and wouldn't buy another one."

Brian Forrest, Trumansburg, N.Y.: Brian's impressed with his two **Jonsered** chainsaws - a 1997 model 2054 and a 2000 model 2149. "The 2149 model has never needed repairs, and the 2054 model has only needed 2 ignition switches replaced. Both saws have cut a lot of wood. They have especially good anti-vibration handles."

Robert Plummer, Swaney, N.H.: "My 1979 **Ford** F-350 pickup is a worst buy. One year when I was in Florida and driving home to New Hampshire the pickup had ignition problems. I ended up spending quite a bit of money buying coils and ignition boxes when the real problem was with the coil wire. Also, I went to 3 different garages and paid them for their labor without getting the problem solved."

Curtis W. Fox, Brainerd, Minn.: "In response to Jack H. Leslie and his problem with grass building up on the underside of the decks on riding mowers (Vol. 34, No. 1) there's a product called **Por 15** that can help



(ph 800 726-0459; www.por15.com). Por 15 is a rust-preventive coating that can be painted directly onto rusted metal surfaces. When it hardens it's really smooth and shiny.

"I know a guy who used Por 15 on his snowplow, and now snow doesn't stick to the blade like it used to."

Dustin Jarshaw, Newfolden, Minn.: "I bought a used **Massey Ferguson** Ski Whiz snowmobile last year. This old snowmobile was able to keep up with my friends' much newer models, and it has plenty of power for pulling my wood sled.

"My **Sears Craftsman** 29 cc, 4-cycle, gas-powered weed trimmer is my worst buy. After less than an hour of use the pull rope

on it broke. Later the muffler screen partially plugged up, causing the piston to seize. I'll never buy a Craftsman trimmer again."

Dennis Jannusch, Zimmerman, Minn.: "My best buy is the 1994 **Mercury** Grand Marquis I bought used 4 years ago. It's equipped with a 4.6-liter OHC engine and has about 129,000 miles on it.

"Last April my daughter bought a full-size car from a private party in Merrill, Wis. We decided to rent a 2-wheel car dolly and tow the car home about 400 miles. We had filled up with gas before we left home. After hooking up to the car to be towed, the on-board computer on the Mercury showed 83 miles until empty. We filled the car up with premium gas and headed back home, without using the Mercury's overdrive at all and driving 50 to 55 mph on Wisconsin's long, steep hills. When we got home the onboard computer showed 79 miles until empty. So I was getting practically the same mileage while towing twice as much weight. I was proud of my car that day.

"A 1995 **Polaris** Sportsman 500 ATV equipped with a 2-cycle engine, which my brother bought new, is a worst buy. We brought the ATV home and used it only for about 2 weeks before it started acting up. We'd go to turn off the ignition key but the machine kept running. After 6 months we took it to the dealer. He couldn't find anything wrong but said the piston was scored, so they overhauled the top end of the engine. That work was done under warranty. Unfortunately, when we got the ATV home it still had the same problem.

"Two years passed and the problem got even worse. We brought the ATV back to the dealer again and I suggested that maybe the ignition module was at fault. They told me that if their fix didn't work I'd still have to pay for parts and labor. I told them to take the comparable part off a new model and try it first, and then they'd know for sure. They did and it finally worked right."

Loraine Tichenor, Sparta, Wis.: "Five years ago I bought a 1996 **Dodge** van used with about 89,000 miles, and now it has more than 131,000 miles but still drives and rides like new and doesn't use any oil. It's the best vehicle I've ever owned."

Earl Troyer, Pryor, Okla.: Earl's the satisfied owner of a 2007 **exMark** riding mower equipped with a 60-in. mulching deck and Kohler 25 hp engine. "It does a smooth job of cutting grass. No problems," he reports.

"My **EdenPure** heater uses an enormous amount of electricity. After we bought it our electric bill went from \$142 per month to \$292 for just a partial month."

Gary Anderson, Garden City, S. Dak.: Gary likes the **Briggs & Stratton** engine on his 2004 push mower. "The engine still starts and runs great, and even at full power it's easy on gas and oil. I wouldn't trade it for a new model.

"I used a new **Murray** Centura garden tractor to rototill a garden. Unfortunately, the oil seal on the tractor's Tecumseh 4 1/2 hp engine failed after one use. I'm a small engine repairman but I won't work on Tecumseh engines. They can't take a beating like Briggs & Stratton engines can."

Ron Isaac, Hythe, Alberta: Ron's the satisfied owner of a **Deere** 855 tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "This little tractor is fast and has a lot of power. It's easy on fuel, has good traction, handles well, and rides nice.

"The **Veritas** dowel maker I bought from Lee Valley Tools has performed far beyond my expectations (www.veritastools.com).

Once I start using it to make dowels I can hardly stop."

Jon Easley, Versailles, Ill.: "My **Central Boiler** Maxim 175 outdoor corn pellet stove is my worst buy. I used this stove for 3 years and had to replace 4 or 5 aerators. The front part of the stove rusted out along the bottom and the door also rusted. The stove used 3 to 5 bu. of corn per day, whereas I had been told it would use just 1 to 1 1/2 bu. per day. The fire was constantly going out because corn or pellets weren't falling through the hopper. Finally, after the stove sat idle it wouldn't re-fire.

"The company took the stove back and sent me a replacement unit. However, I told the dealer I wouldn't install the replacement unit because I was so disappointed with the original one. The dealer offered to buy my stove but has since rescinded the offer."

Josh Hennings, Wickes, Ark.: "I really like my 2000 **Deere** 4 by 2 Gator which I bought used. It works great for repairing fences, checking on livestock, and doing branding work.

"I'm disappointed with **Liquid Nails**. The company offers silicone and adhesive-type products and I've used both of them, but they perform poorly. These products are hard to work to a good finished surface, so don't expect them to look good on your projects."

Eddie Moore, Temple, Ga.: "My 2006 **Chevrolet** Silverado 3500 diesel pickup runs great, can pull heavy loads, and gets great fuel mileage. I wouldn't drive anything but a Chevy.

"My 1989 **Ford** F-250 pickup broke down all the time. The fuel injectors and clutch housing on it went out, and I couldn't keep the tires on the pickup's twin I-beam front-end. The gas converter broke down repeatedly. I bought this pickup to pull a cattle trailer but finally sold it at a big loss. No more Fords for me."

Roy Lewis, Pearson, Wis.: "I use my 2003 **Toyota** Tundra pickup to haul my Bobcat 873 skid loader, which weighs more than 10,000 lbs. The pickup has more than 140,000 miles on it with no problems."

Reuben Plank, Lovington, Ill.: "It's the handiest metal shear I've ever used," says Reuben about his **Malco** Turbo Shear (ph



800 328-3530; www.malcoproducts.com). "It fits most 14.4-volt or larger cordless drills. It makes fast cuts and can handle up to 18-ga. galvanized steel."

Gary Myers, Gloucester, Va.: "My 1997 **Dodge** Dakota pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. engine has more than 440,000 miles but has required only routine maintenance. I still drive it every day. It could use a paint job, though."

Tom Rabe, Winthrop, Minn.: "Last year I bought a new **AgLeader** Insight monitor to use on my new White 8200 hydraulic drive planter. The planter worked fine, but the

monitor and the planter's hydraulic drive system did not work well together. As a result my field has many bare spots ranging from 30 to 75 ft. long, even in the middle of the field, where no seeds were dropped yet the monitor never showed anything was wrong. At the end of the field I had to replant 2 acres where it didn't plant, even though the monitor said it did. The seed population varied from 20,000 to 77,000 by itself.

"For every field we planted we had to first recalibrate the monitor and set the population. It took from 45 to 90 min. to get planting again and required phone time with the company. I asked the company to come out and fix it, but I was told they do everything over the phone and didn't need to send anyone out.

"After we started planting one field we were able to cover only 300 ft. in 3 hours - all that time we were on the phone with the company because the planter wouldn't plant. Another field of 32 acres took 13 hours to plant. Again, no one from the company would come out. The dealer's service man didn't know what to do to solve the problem so the dealer brought out a different planter for me to use, and it worked great.

"After I had spent 4 or 5 weeks trying to make the **AgLeader** system work, the company finally decided they had a problem and said someone would come out as I planted my last field of sweet corn. I said I wanted my money back because I couldn't trust the Insight monitor. There's another **AgLeader** dealer close by with some very capable people to work with. I told the company to call that dealer out but they said they wouldn't, and that if I got someone else out I'd have to pay the service call bill. I told them to forget it and that I wanted my money back.

"Finally I traded the planter back to the same dealer I bought it from for a conventional planter. Last Dec. 31 I finally got some money back, but I don't know if it was from the dealer or the company.

"The add-on **Grain Grabbers** I mounted on the feeder auger in my combine's bean head don't seem to help at all."

J. Michael Brosier, Beaverton, Mich.: "My 2007 **Deere** Gator 620I has been in the dealership for 3 serious problems. The first problem was covered by the warranty. The second problem developed at just over 12 mo. and involved the Gator's 617 cc Kawasaki engine. Deere covered about 95 percent of that bill. The third problem involves gas getting into the crankcase, which will require major repairs. Deere's Customer Service department said they can't help resolve this problem and that I'll have to pay the bill.

"It's obvious the Kawasaki engines on the 2007 Gators are defective and need to be recalled. In a recent issue of **FARM SHOW** Wayne Harley of Pennsylvania said he had the same problem with his Gator. I wonder how many other people have had this problem?"

Charles Eberhart, Topeka, Kan.: "In regards to the report in your last issue by a reader who was unhappy with his **Taurus** Judge pistol, I'd like to strongly disagree. I collect Taurus pistols and have 18 versions of the Judge pistol that will shoot 410 shotgun shells, shotgun slugs, or 45 cal. bullets. These are fantastic little guns that are useful in many ways. People love to carry them as snake protection. You can't miss with a shotgun shell. I'm not sure what that fellow's problem was but I love these guns."

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