

**James DeBolt, Mascotte, Florida:** "My 1998 **Kubota** G6200 H diesel tractor, which I use with a mower, is one of my best buys ever. I've replaced the batteries once and also rebuilt the mower deck. I used this tractor to mow 2 1/2 acres every year for 10 years, and I still use it to mow one acre every week."

**Ken Java, Frederic, Wis.:** "After 60 years, my 1945 **Ford** N tractor still performs with flawless efficiency. It has required only routine maintenance.

"My **Drill Doctor** bit sharpener is my worst buy. I fought with it for hours, but all I got was a bunch of dull drill bits."

**George Krantz, Chardon, Ohio:** "My all-time worst buy is the Duramax engine in my 2002 **Chevrolet** Silverado pickup. This pickup has been broken down 38 different times. I'm afraid to leave town with it."

**M. Bruce Carr, Ballville, Texas:** "He's happy with his **Rodenator** underground rodent blaster (ph 800 750-4553; www.rodenator.com). It uses a mixture of oxygen and propane injected into the rodent's burrow and has a built-in, self-contained ignition system that allows the operator to instantly eliminate the animals and their underground tunnels. I used it on twenty gopher-infested acres. There are still a few gophers left, but not nearly as many as before. I use a golf cart with the gas tanks strapped to the back of it. My wife says I have too much fun blasting them. I use moth balls to make them move out of areas where I can't blast."

**Caleb Myers, Santa, Idaho:** Caleb's had good luck with his 1998 **Stihl** 028 chain saw. "I bought this chain saw at a pawn shop, dirty and bent. I ran some Duralube oil through it and had it bent back into shape. Over the years I've used it to cut at least a hundred full cords of firewood, and it has gone through many new bars and countless chains. I put a new sprocket on it once but that's about it, which I think is unbelievable."

**Barry McDermott, Buhl, Idaho:** Barry's unhappy with his **Sears** 19.2-volt cordless drill. "The motor burned up, and the drill wouldn't run very long before it had to be recharged. Also, the battery failed and wouldn't charge. The chuck loosens frequently which causes the bit to drop out."

**Glen Teel, Hays, Kansas:** "My 1989 **Honda** Civic wagon gets 38 mpg on the highway. It's a dependable little car. I drive it every day. Taxes on it are very low, and I only have to carry liability insurance on it."

**Shannon Nowak, Glyndon, Minn.:** "My worst buy is my **Sears Craftsman** motorized tool. I bought three different products equipped with an 'easy start' system: a 2000 push mower, a 2002 16-in. chain saw, and a 2006 Craftsman riding mower. Unfortunately, the easy start system isn't easy to start. The first time I went to use the riding mower it wouldn't start and spent two weeks in the shop. When we finally picked it up and brought it home, it still didn't work. Sears had to come out two more times to get it running. No more Craftsman for us.

"My husband loves our 2007 **Hyundai** Elantra. It has 100 percent bumper-to-bumper warranty coverage up to 5-year/60,000 miles, and a 10-year/100,000 mile power train warranty. It averages 34 mpg."

**Roger L. Jun, Otoe, Neb.:** "My **Troy-Bilt** 200 rear tine tiller equipped with a 6 1/2 hp Tecumseh engine is my worst buy. Whenever I use this machine it suddenly lurches forward out of my hands and goes out of control, traveling 5 to 6 ft. before stopping. You're supposed to hold the handles up, which I do, but that doesn't help. I'm 6 ft. 3 in. tall and weigh 350 lbs. and I don't have any problem handling 600-lb. animals, but I can't keep control of this machine."

**Walter J. Gray, Vidor, Texas:** A 2008 **Husqvarna** 125L weed eater rates as Walter's "best buy". "The first time I picked it up the angle of the head fit me perfect - I didn't have to bend over or bend my arms. This tool starts easy and the string lasts a long time. It's the best weed eater I've ever used."

On the negative side, "The 2007 **Weed Eater Feather Lite** 255 I bought at Wal-Mart was worthless. The first time I used it the spool lasted only about 10 minutes. I refilled the spool a couple of times, but it wouldn't last more than 5 or 10 minutes. The only way I could use it was to put a knot in the string and stick it through the holes. Finally I bought the Husqvarna."

**Keith Jensen, Delta, Colo.:** "My 1972 **Gleaner** F combine is easy to switch from one crop to another, and easy to work on if a part has to be replaced. This combine's cleaning system is the best, and it's easy to turn around at the end of the field. I wish there were more machines as good as this one."

**Albert J. Meyer, Fairborn, Ohio:** "My 2007 **Campbell Hausfeld** pressure washer is my worst buy. It's supposed to deliver 1,800 psi at 1.8 gpm electric. I bought it on the internet. I had a problem starting this machine from the beginning. I called the company for help and they sent me to a support center 25 miles away, where I left the unit. About 30 days later I was told to pick up a new pressure washer, which I did. I drained it and stored it indoors for the winter. But the following spring that machine wouldn't start. It had only a 90-day warranty so I decided to solve the problem myself. I discovered that a small brass fitting, which was part of the press switch assembly, had failed.

"I was told the company policy was to replace within 90 days of new, and that no further service or parts were available after that. I've since designed a new fitting made from 304 stainless steel, that works fine. I had a friend turn it on a lathe. I'm ashamed of a manufacturer that doesn't support what they sell. This machine was made in China, but I didn't know that until after I received it in the factory-sealed box."

**Dave Mertell, Independence, Mo.:** "The 12 1/2 hp Kohler engine on my Deere 42-in. riding mower finally gave out so I replaced it with a **Honda** GX 530 engine. It went in the tractor with no problems. The Honda engine doesn't have a fuel pump so I added a new tank on top of the tractor's factory tank to provide gravity fuel feed."

**Jerry Fisher, Carlton, Minn.:** Jerry's happy with his **Deere** 4010 tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "This tractor does a great job of mowing, and the loader is easy to put on."

**Larry Gull, Garnaville, Iowa:** Larry nominates his 2007 **Cub Cadet** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck as his "best buy". "It starts easy and is well built. It also reduces trimming time afterward."

**Marvin W. Anderson, Glyndon, Minn.:** "I'm happy with my 20 by 40-ft. **American Steel Span** metal building. Everything fit well together and the company was prompt and fair in dealing with me. But I suggest not to anchor the building or erect the arches the way the company recommends. I anchored my building to a flat concrete slab and erected the arches in place one at a time."

**Garry Rivers, Stamps, Ark.:** "It's the most dependable tractor I've ever owned," reports Gary about his 2006 **Massey Ferguson** 4360 100 hp model.

**Walter L. Blackert, Mineral, Ill.:** "My **Case IH** JX 55 front wheel assist tractor and **Hesston** 540 round baler are both best buys.

"My **Case IH** LX 130 loader tractor has problems. The loader can't control the bucket.

## Clear Caulk Seals Roof Leaks

Antonio Buenaflor of Houston, Texas, recently contacted FARM SHOW about a "best buy" roof leak sealer he bought called **Through The Roof**.

"I've used it to seal asphalt shingle leaks. It's clear so you can't see it on shingles, metal or shake roofs," he says.

**Through The Roof** is a synthetic, rubber-based product that contains no fillers or extenders. It can also be used to seal vents, gutters, skylights, chimneys, roof jacks, cables, duct work, air conditioning units, and more.

"It'll twist, bend, stretch over gaps up to 2 in. wide, or compress to absorb just about

I got no help from the company after three trips to the shop."

**Mike Takeuchi, Columbus, Montana:** Mike likes his **VAL-6** diesel-fired radiant heater (ph 866 369-3020; www.midwestradiantheaters.com). "My shop is in an unheated pole building and winters get pretty cool here. I tried heating with various heaters and even a barrel stove, but without much luck. Then I bought the VAL-6 heater. It uses no. 1 diesel or kerosene and draws only 80



watts of electricity which is a lot less than the 'jet engine' kerosene heaters. This heater is also quieter. Now I can use my shop in comfort all year long."

**Marion Futhey, Rose Hill, Kansas:** "I've been using my 1968 **REDA** 1/2 hp submersible pump to pump water on our farm for more than 40 years. This water pump has been out of the well only twice, and not because of any problems with the pump. One time it had to come out because of a leak in the pipe, and the other time to install a new well casing."

**Matt Wetzel, Henrieville, Utah:** "It's efficient and powerful," says Mike about his **Kubota** B6100 tractor. "My uncle bought this tractor sometime in the early 1980's and willed it to me in 1995.

"I bought my 1999 **Chevrolet** Saturn SL2 4-door equipped with an automatic transmission when it had about 12,000 miles on it. I've put about 100,000 miles on it since then. It has required only routine maintenance and gets 39 to 40 mpg."

**John W. Cox, Oregon City, Oregon:** "The 1953 **Farmall** H tractor that I bought new is my best buy of all time. The engine still has the original pistons, and this tractor still performs like new."

**Robert Smolik, Burwell, Neb.:** "About 10 years ago I needed to buy a new riding mower so I looked at Consumer Reports magazine. Their testing of riding mowers showed that White mowers were the best. Since there was a dealer in my area, I bought one.

"However, the first time I used the mower the muffler deflector fell off. The third time the mower was used, my son discovered the engine was leaking oil. Fortunately, he shut down the engine immediately. I discovered

any movement a home can dish out," says the company. "It won't turn brittle in the sun or cold. It's waterproof and repels water immediately after application. And it's clear, so it won't blacken the look of rooftop fixtures."

Buenaflor says the company claims the product will last two to three times longer than asphalt roof sealants.

**Through The Roof** comes in a 4-pack that sells for \$25 including S&H. A thinner, brushable version is also available.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Sashco, 10300 E. 107th Place, Brighton, Colo. 80601 (ph 800 289-7290; www.sashco.com).

all the bolts holding the engine oil pan were either loose or had fallen off. The oil leak was discovered in time to prevent any damage to the engine. The dealer put the oil pan on properly at no cost to me.

"A fiberglass seal on the starter motor has had to be replaced at least twice every season because the cogs on the gear shear off. After using the mower a couple years, I discovered a small puddle of oil on the floor where the mower was parked. By that time the dealer had moved away and the warranty expired. I took the mower to a mechanic in a neighboring town for repairs. He discovered the oil seal on the hydrostatic transmission wasn't seated correctly. There was a big labor charge to fix the problem. After that I was so disgusted with the machine that I sold it for whatever I could get."

**Richard Albrandt, Sterling, Colo.:** "My **Paloma** tankless water heater hasn't worked properly since I got it. It either shuts off when in use or it gets so hot it'll scald me. I keep the temperature setting at 104 degrees."

**Charles McDonald, Inwood, W.Va.:** "It's the best all-around farm machine we own," says Charles about his **Case** D580 backhoe and loader. "We use it every day and it's always ready to go. The 188 diesel engine starts easy in cold weather and is very economical. We've used this machine for more than 25 years and it's still going strong."

**Steven M. Liss, M.D., Harrison, Idaho:** Steven's unhappy with his 2004 **Deere** Gator. "I'm a Deere enthusiast - everything I own is green and yellow, and over the years I've restored fourteen different 2-cyl. tractors. However, my Gator has been a total disappointment. It's hard to start and keep running, and when the belt gets wet it won't go. Also, this vehicle won't hold back going downhill and the power tilt bed was very weak. None of these problems could be fixed.

"Finally I traded it in for a 2005 **Kubota** RTV 900, which is my best buy. It always starts, even in sub-zero cold. I really like the hydrostatic transmission because it holds back even with heavy loads while going downhill. The cloth cab heater works great, and the dump bed tilts even when it's overloaded. It'll pull trailers and logs well over its rated capacity. It's fuel efficient, too. I can drive it for several weeks on one tank of fuel."

**Cal and Joanne Bogar, Bloomfield, Montana:** "I'm well satisfied with my **Case IH** 2388 combine. The only thing I don't like about this combine is checking the sieves.

You have to take the straw spreaders off in order to adjust them."

**Sandra Miley, Mendonhall, Miss.:** "My 1999 **Mahindra** 3505 DI is the toughest tractor I've ever seen. We've used it like a bulldozer to clear 10 acres. It has surpassed all our expectations."