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"Gopher baits and bait stations for squirrels don't work for controlling these pests in my orchards."

Myron D. Hebbert, Chadron, Neb.: "My air-powered T-Post driver made by **Rohrer Mfg.** is my worst buy. It's advertised as one-person operation, compact in size, with interchangeable sleeves that allow it to be used with almost any post on the market."

"However, I found I needed another sleeve to drive the posts I was using. Unless I bought the sleeve - which isn't cheap - I could use it on only about half my posts. Another problem is that it works slow."

"When I ordered the machine, the dealer told me it would work fine and that they had used it to drive posts through pavement. However, I found it worked so slow I could drive two or three posts in by hand in the same time it took him to use this product. I felt the dealer misrepresented this product in his advertising and over the phone. After I paid UPS \$25 to return the driver, the dealer refunded the purchase price minus \$50, a so-called restocking fee."

"My **Brawler** stock tank liner is my best buy (Western Industries, Miles City, Mont). My old stock tank had a cement bottom in it that had rusted out. The liner fit fine and eliminated the need to buy a new tank and do the work of installing it."

Steve Domstrich, Poynette, Wis.: "It works great," says Steve about his 2001 **Woodmaster** outdoor wood burning stove. "The first winter we burned 12 cords of wood, and last winter about 15 cords."

Edward B. Edelen, Jr., Bryantown, Md.: Edward's impressed with Bead Cheata and Rust Converter sold by **Gemplers**. "Bead Cheata breaks tire beads loose quickly and easily with no damage to the wheel rim. It works well on any rim. Rust Converter is easy to apply, works fast, and gives you a good finish even if you don't paint it on. Works great to put a finish on old tools that I want to put on display."

Kale Monroe, Castalia, Iowa: "Our 1997 **JCB Fastrac** 185-65 tractor is a best buy. My 75-year-old father puts more than 800 hours per year on it, mainly to operate one of our New Holland big square balers. It's the smoothest riding, fastest tractor on the market and makes road travel a joy. I just bought a new 3185 Fastrac to put on my other New Holland big square baler."

Zeigler Dairy Farms, Newton, Wis.: "My worst buy was a loan from **Farm Credit**. These people aren't lenders, they're money salesmen. Their lending knowledge is very limited. They kept coming to my farm until they sold me a loan. After that it was nothing but harassment and abuse. I'm glad my loan is now paid off. I don't recommend Farm Credit to anyone."

Roger McKenzie, Hatchchubbee, Ala.: "I have more than 86,000 miles on my 2000 **Dodge** 3500 pickup, which is my best buy. I've used it many times to pull a Deere bull dozer. A hole wore through a transmission line at 53,000 miles - otherwise no problems."

"My 2002 **DR** brush mower is my worst buy. The coil on it failed with less than four hours of use. Also, this mower is hard to handle on uneven land."

Debbie Foe, Lockport, N.Y.: "Our **Case-IH CX90** is a handy tractor. The cab offers a good view, and the shuttle shift transmission makes backing up to equipment an easy job."

Tom Griggs, Athens, Ala.: "After 55 years of farming I believe my best buy is what I like to call my 'Free Tractor' - a 1976 **International Harvester** 686 which I bought for \$4,000 less than a comparable Deere. I placed the \$4,000 in a savings account, and in the years since then the account's value has

grown so much that now it totals several thousand dollars more than what the tractor originally cost. It has been a good, reliable tractor that has required very few repairs. It really hasn't cost me a dime."

On the worst buy side are some combine belts he purchased from **Jay-Dee Enterprises**. "These belts weren't worth the time it took to put them on. The only way I could ever get the company to reply to my complaints was to threaten legal action, and this matter was never resolved to my satisfaction."

Morgan Sellers, Eutaw, Alabama: "Our **Hardy** stainless steel outside woodburning furnace is our best buy (ph 800-542-7355 or www.hardyheater.com). We use it to heat our home and basement, as well as our hot water, using wood that we cut on our own farm. It heats about 3,000 sq. ft."

Harold W. Wittler, Carroll, Neb.: "My 2003 **Chevrolet Silverado** 2500 heavy duty pickup rides smooth and has a lot of power. No problems so far."

"Our **DeWalt** tools are best buys. No problems."

Chris E. Hendrickson, Cambria, Wis.: Chris is the satisfied owner of a 2000 **Bobcat** 873 skid steer loader. "So far we've put about 1,200 hours on it with few problems. It has an enclosed cab with heater which we really like. We added a radio."

"Our 1999 **Chevrolet Silverado** 1500 extended cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5.3-liter, V-8 engine is a best buy. It rides comfortably and handles well. It has about 36,000 miles on it with few problems."

"My **Harvestore** silage storage system is almost 30 years old. It has always cost a lot of money to keep running and has required multiple major repairs over the years. We've had good luck with high moisture corn in Harvestores, but this silage unit has always given us headaches. We've switched to putting silage in bags because we get much better silage, and because we don't have to climb up bags like we do with silos."

"It has always cost a lot of money to keep running."

Jon S. Iverson, Northwood, Iowa: A 2000 **Ford F-150 XLT Supercab** 2-WD pickup equipped with a 5.4-liter engine rates as Jon's "best buy". "I've owned four Ford F-150's during the past 20 years and they've all performed well. I put a lot of miles on my pickups, and this one already has about 38,000 miles on it. It does a good job pulling our 30-ft. travel trailer. It's more stable pulling the trailer in crosswinds than a pickup equipped with twin I-beam suspension, but it rides a little rougher."

Patrick McGoldrick, Oxford, Penn.: Patrick's impressed with his 1998 **Troy Bilt** wide body lawn mower. "We use it to mow our 1-acre lawn which is very steep. We had been using a Cub Cadet riding mower, but even when it was equipped with wheel weights it didn't do a very good job. The Troy Bilt does a great job and has been trouble-free."

"I don't like **Sears Craftsman** power tools and lawn and garden equipment. My most recent negative experience was with a gas-powered leaf blower. If I tilted the blower the least bit to the left or right it stalled. The company says that's normal, but I don't think so."

Paul Baer, Carsonville, Mich.: Paul's pleased with his 2001 **Kubota M5700** tractor equipped with a front-end loader and shuttle transmission, powered by a 5-cyl. die-

Peroxide Use Catches On With Reader

FARM SHOW recently published an article on the benefits and cost savings of treating livestock water with hydrogen peroxide instead of chlorine (Vol. 26, No. 4).

Reader Fred Hill, Luzerne, New York, contacted us to point out that there are other benefits to using this oxidation agent around the home and farm. Hydrogen peroxide is available as a 3 percent solution in many retail stores. You can make a 3 percent solution by mixing an ounce of 35 percent peroxide into 11 ounces of distilled water. If you have 50 percent peroxide solution, you mix 1 oz. with a pint of water to make approximately a 3 percent solution.

Here's how Hill uses peroxide:

Cleaner for vegetables and salad greens. Add one cup of 3 percent peroxide solution to a sink of cold water and wash vegetables thoroughly. Then rinse and drain. If pressed for time, spray vegetables with 3 percent solution and rinse immediately.

For cleaner dishes, use 2 oz. of 3 percent in your regular dish washing formula. This will make your glasses sparkle and your dishes cleaner.

Freshen and disinfect the kitchen with 3 percent solution in a spray bottle. Use to wipe off countertops, appliances and give the kitchen a clean, fresh smell. Can also deodorize refrigerators, lunch boxes, etc.

In humidifiers or steamers, use a pint of 3

percent solution. But he says it could use a couple improvements. "It runs smooth and has a lot of lugging power, and the loader is well built. The only negative is that as the engine rpm's increase, the engagement of the hydraulic shuttle is much more aggressive so I have to watch how I operate the foot clutch. In fact, engaging the hydraulic shuttle can be tricky at any engine rpm's. I'd also like to see telescoping lower 3-pt. hitch arms, and have the pto on-off lever moved to the dash area. The lever is somewhat difficult to use where it is now."

Russell Anderson, Covington, La.: "The design is excellent and it's well built," says Russell about his 1996 **Morton** horse barn. "Excellent materials and good workmanship. This building stood up to two severe tropical storms without leaking water or any other problems."

On the negative side, he lists his 1995 **Troy Bilt** chipper/vac. "We've had continual problems with electrical systems and interlocks on it. The machine is now on its third starter solenoid. Another problem is that it has poor carburetor fuel feed. If left alone for more than three weeks, this machine is almost impossible to start because fuel drains from the carburetor line down to the fuel tank which is located below the engine. However, when you can get this machine to run it does a good job."

Howard Whaley, Era, Texas: "The open-pollinated seed corn we bought from **Gerald and Leonard Borries** last spring is our worst buy (ph 217-857-3377). We ordered small flats but that's not what we got. The seeds appeared to be nubbed off the end of small ears. The kernels were about the size of popcorn and only about 50 percent of them germinated. The corn grew ears that never got more than 6 in. long, and the stalks looked more like sweet corn."

"We sent a letter to the company complaining about the problem but they never replied. Maybe they thought that because we lived in Texas we didn't know much about corn. However, before we moved to Texas we had lived in Illinois for 50 years where we grew corn that made more than 150 bushels per acre back in the 1960's. Looks like these boys

percent solution in a gallon of water to keep them clean and make them work more efficiently."

In the laundry, use 8 oz. of 3 percent solution per load, in place of chlorine bleach. Even though 3 percent is a relatively weak solution, it's probably not a good idea to pour it directly onto colored fabric.

Clean your face with 3 percent solution on a cotton ball.

For a rejuvenating, detoxifying bath, add 2 to 2 cups of 3 percent solution to a tub of water and then soak for up to half an hour.

Cure athlete's foot by soaking feet nightly in 3 percent solution until condition clears.

Improve pet health by adding an ounce of 3 percent solution to a quart of drinking water. You can also eliminate some pet odors by mixing peroxide into pet bath water.

Make toothpaste by adding just enough 3 percent solution to baking soda to make a paste. It cleans your teeth and freshens your breath.

Water plants with 1 oz. of 3 percent solution mixed in a quart of water.

Sprout seeds with an ounce of 3 percent solution in a pint of water. Soak the seeds overnight. If you rinse the seeds, use the same amount of peroxide with each rinse.

Control insects by mixing 8 oz of sugar or molasses with 4 to 8 oz. of 3% hydrogen peroxide and a gallon of water.

better clean up their act."

Scott D. Dean, East Peoria, Ill.: "It's an easy machine to operate and set up," says Scott about his 2001 **Miller MillerMatic** welder. "No problems. I'd buy another one in a minute."

Brad Vandersteen, Fisher Branch, Manitoba: "My 2000 **Kubota M9000** front wheel assist tractor has a lot of power and is compact and maneuverable for loader work. You don't get into this tractor, you put it on. The cab is quiet and comfortable, and all controls are within easy reach. Visibility is excellent."

Ed Meyer, Rodex Industries, Inc., Box 160, Midvale, Idaho 83645 ph 800 750-4553: Ed was so impressed with a fly trap invented by a New Zealand farmer that he recently became a dealer. The inventor simply punched holes around the outer circumference of each end of a pop can and also cut some holes around the circumference of a plastic bucket. He put some rotten fish and liquid into the bucket and then sealed the bucket with plastic. Flies head for the holes in the cans. Once inside they're trapped.

The trap has since gone into commercial production and is available in four different sizes.

Jim Jenco, Nucla, Colo.: Jim likes his 1999 **Hardy** 4-WD tractor equipped with a 2-cyl., 25 hp diesel engine (Hardy Diesels and Equipment, 15749 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, Calif. 91935 ph 800 341-7027; website: www.hardydiesel.com). "It's a great little tractor for use on a small farm. I ordered it by phone after seeing an ad. I bought it equipped with a Koyker front-end loader and also with a 3-pt. mounted backhoe. The price was right - I paid less than \$10,000 for everything. Ten-year-old American-made tractors with comparable horsepower cost more than that. The tractor is made in China, but the loader and backhoe are made in the U.S. The company also makes a 50 hp tractor."

"I used the backhoe to dig a ditch for a propane gas line and also to dig a 6-ft. deep hole for my cistern. I also used it to dig holes in hard ground where I wanted to plant some fruit trees. The only drawback is that I have to get off the tractor and climb up onto the