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well satisfied with my 1987 **Deere** 4050 MFWD tractor equipped with a **Deere** 260 front-end loader. "I really like the front wheel drive and the power shift transmission. The front wheel drive has gotten me out of many tough places. This tractor is 14 years old now, so I suppose the company has made many improvements on the newer tractors in this power class. I know tractors are a lot higher priced now. The loader works okay, but the mounting brackets for this tractor are built too light."

Doyle Gorby, Peru, Kansas: Doyle's impressed with his 1998 **Rhino** 10-ft. rotary mower. "It's built heavy and does a wonderful job. I don't see any strips where I turn at the end of the field to make another round."

Harold Painter, Springview, Neb.: Harold likes his 2000 **New Holland** 1473 swather equipped with a 16-ft. head. "It can handle a lot of material without plugging. It's a good machine."

"My 1998 **Chevrolet** 2500 3/4-ton pickup was the worst investment I ever made. It was equipped with a 350 cu. in. Vortec engine and a 5-speed transmission. One problem was that I had to run the engine at 3,000 to 4,000 rpm's just to get power. It also used a lot of fuel and got only 10 mpg. I finally traded the pickup off."

James A. Shay, Eureka, Montana: James says his 1962 **International** Farmall 560 tractor is his all-time "best buy." "I bought this tractor in 1975 with 2,000 hours and it now has about 9,000 hours. Over the years the only repairs I had to make were to rebuild the fuel injection pump and replace the injectors and the hydraulic pump. I added a pair of fenders with lights mounted in them just after I bought the tractor."

Jon Davis, Gowanda, N.Y.: A 1948 **Ford** 8N tractor rates as Jon's "best buy" ever. "It does all the work I need it to do. I use it with a manure spreader, 2-bottom plow, 6-ft. 3-pt. disk, small snowblower, 8 by 4-ft. wagon, and a Bush Hog. This tractor was well designed for its time. It would be nice to have a little more power and a live pto. I added

lights on front and back and also added a straight drawbar. And I built a frame on front of the tractor so that I could mount a 7-ft. snow plow on it. The frame can easily be detached when I don't need the snow plow."

Leonard Anderson, Indiana, Pa.: "Our 1990 **Ford** 655C backhoe has a lot of power. When a 4-lane highway went through the middle of our farm, we used it to help move five houses, a barn, and five garages. We also use it to dig foundations, ditches, sewer lines, etc. It has had a couple of problems. The plastic window knobs and heater adjustment dials broke off soon after we bought it. Also, the seat cushion covers deteriorated and tore."

Douglas B. Price, Meadville, Pa.: "My 1984 **Honda** 250 SX 3-wheeler ATV is like the Energizer Bunny. It just keeps going and going and going."

Sheldon Culham, Huntsville, Ontario: "I bought my mid 1980's **Kubota** L245DT tractor used five years ago with 2,200 hours on it. All I've had to replace was the starter. I use this tractor to blow snow from sidewalks in a nearby town. I love the heated cab. The only problem is that reverse gear is too fast in high range and too slow in low range. The front pto makes it difficult to change the alternator belt, but fortunately I haven't had to replace the alternator. I made my own quick hitch adapter similar to the ones found on big tractors. It saves a lot of time hooking up to 3-pt. implements."

Thomas Gucwa, Bad Axe, Mich.: "I like my 1976 **Ford** 9600 tractor. I've spent very little money on repairs."

"My **Belarus** 1025 tractor has been nothing but trouble since day one."

Wesley M. Andersen, Grantsville, Utah: Wesley likes his 1985 **Ford** 4600 tractor. "I use it to rototill gardens, some of which are in tight quarters. It handles great. I don't like the tractor's ignition lockout, and road speed is a bit slow."

Cal Jans, Tea, S. Dak.: "My 1959 **Minneapolis Moline** Jetstar tractor has a lot of power for its size and I really like the shuttle shift transmission. I reworked a **Dual** 105 front-end loader to fit the tractor. I had to remove part of the sheet metal to allow

LED Flashlight Is Easy On Batteries

By Mick Lane, Contributing Editor

After reading fantastic claims about new LED flashlights that "never burn out", I decided to buy one and test it out.

I bought a Quantum 2000 flashlight, through a Website called gotsolar.com. It uses four AA batteries to power a white LED flashlight bulb. Made by Premiere Electronics, the company claimed it would operate at full light output even after 50 hours or more of continuous use.

I decided to check that claim by installing new batteries, turning it on, and letting it sit. Two days later it was still shining bright. I installed a new set of batteries and there was no noticeable difference. So I put the old batteries back in and left the light on again. It was still putting out good light after four more days when we finally shut it off.

The flashlight is watertight and the LED bulb, having no filament, is virtually indestructible.

One obvious drawback is that the LED bulb doesn't put out as much light as a standard flashlight bulb. Still, it does make enough light for most flashlight uses. When more light is needed, the manufacturer



includes a standard bulb in a special case attached to the wrist strap of the flashlight. It takes only a few seconds to make the switch.

The Quantum 2000 sells for \$35, including shipping. It can be ordered from Premier Electronics or the gotsolar.com Website. The flashlight case is black rubber.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Premiere Electronics, 765 North Bluff St., Suite A, St. George, Utah 64770; or Gotsolar.com, 420 Hillside #2, Brookings, Ore. 97415 (ph 541 412-7276; E-mail: sales@gotsolar.com; Website: www.gotsolar.com).

access to the carburetor. I also converted the tractor to 12 volts."

Guy Manifold, Batavia, Ohio: "I like my **Hardy** outside wood burning stove. It's located 30 ft. from my house and delivers 180,000 btu's. I use it to heat my house, to provide hot water, and to provide hot air to my clothes dryer. It'll burn almost any wood, from fresh cut wood to wood that has never been covered. If I can get the wood into the stove, it will burn it. I keep the stove running all year long."

Anthony L. Ban, San Jose, Calif.: "We bought a **Mighty Mule** automatic gate opener in 1993. It was easy to install and we haven't had any problems with it. My brother was so impressed that he also bought one. Several other people have told us they liked the gate and have asked for information about purchasing one. It's a best buy."

Daniel Knutson, Centerville, S. Dak.: "I'm well satisfied with my **Case-IH** 7110 tractor equipped with a **Westendorf** TA 46 front-end loader. It has almost 7,000 hours on it with very few problems, and the engine has never been touched. We use this tractor to pull our sprayer. Until recently it was the main pulling tractor on our farm. It came equipped with a hydraulic-operated seat, but I think an air-operated seat would be far superior. We've had very few problems with the **Westendorf** loader, which is also a best buy."

Claude M. Conley, Alamo, Tenn.: "It's a great tractor," says Claude about his **Deere** 5410 tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "I've used three other Deere 5400 series tractors and they've all worked good. The 5410 has great resale value and hasn't required a lot of repairs."

B. Schollendorf, Rhinebeck, N.Y.: "We use our 1993 **Chevrolet** pickup to pull wagons. It still has the original battery and we haven't had any problems with it at all. We really like it."

Benjamin Kennedy, Coeburn, Va.: "I bought a 1967 **Ford** 3000 tractor used last spring with a little more than 3,000 hours on

it, and it's my best buy. I use it almost every day for such jobs as mowing and raking hay, plowing, skidding logs, and much more. It doesn't use any oil and it runs great. I didn't like Ford tractors before, but I wouldn't trade this one for anything else."

Donald Hutson, Paris, Ky.: "I like my 2001 **Stanley** hydrostatic garden tractor equipped with a 17 1/2 hp engine and a 42-in. mower deck. It starts easy and steers easy, and it has a short 16-in. turning radius. It's equipped with a 2.7-gal. fuel tank which results in a long running time. I really like the infinite speeds available because of the tractor's hydrostatic pedal drive system. This mower is simple to maintain, and changing belts on it is an easy job. I can use a toll-free phone number to order parts if they're needed."

"My 2001 **Generac** 10 hp, 6,000-watt generator is my worst buy. It had less than five minutes on it when the low-oil switch on the motor shut it down, even though the oil reservoir was full. I just wired around the switch and since then I've used the generator for a few light jobs with no more shut-downs. I just make sure that I check the oil every time I refuel. The generator has a big 5-gal. gas tank on it, which I like, and is equipped with a decompression release valve so it starts easy."

Douglas B. Price, Meadville, Pa.: "My 1998 **Massey Ferguson** 1240 4-WD tractor is a pleasure to operate. It has a lot of power and is easy to get on and off. A great value."

He's not as impressed with his 1990 **Belarus** 310 tractor equipped with an air-cooled engine. "The engine was okay but the transmission was poorly engineered. It popped out of gear and had a low range factory lockout. A terrible design. I thought about buying a new 1998 Belarus. But after I inspected one, I found it had the same poorly designed transmission setup."

Dennis Ferlito, Oswego, New York: "This tractor has exceeded my expectations," says Dennis, pleased with his 2000 **New Holland** TN 755. "It has a lot of power and

Corn Champ Switches Planters

Case-IH's Farm Forum magazine recently reported on Francis Childs, Manchester, Iowa, in its fall 2001 issue. He's the well-known four-time national champion in the National Corn Growers Association's (NCGA) non-irrigated class. His highest yield has been 394 bu. in 1999. For years, he planted his crops with an IH 800 Cyclo Air planter. However, last year he switched to a new **Case-IH** 1200 series 8-row trailing planter. He compared the new planter alongside the 800 Cyclo and liked what he saw.

"I had been running my old planter at about 2 1/2 mph to get good uniform in-row seed spacing that varied by only an inch or so. But the 1200 series planter is so close to perfect, I can't believe it. Because the in-row spacing was so accurate, I planted at 4 1/2 mph with the planter and still saw the consistent in-row seed spacing I want."

"Overall, the 1200 series planter is very user-friendly. Its patented All-Seed Meter (ASM) can handle a wide range of seed sizes without requiring any adjustments. That's a



good feature. I also like the in-cab monitor that displays actual seed rates rather than a range or percentage."

Even though Francis plants in a fairly clean seedbed, he uses trash whippers ahead of each planter row unit and recommends them because they also flip aside clods that can affect planting depth and seed-to-soil contact.