



Rex Gogerty, Hubbard, Iowa: “If you have a bad knee or other aches and pains, the **Car Cane** really helps get up and out of a car. It slips into the door latch bracket on any car and gives you a solid handle to push on. Stores in the glove compartment or side of the door. Also has a built-in flashlight, seat belt cutter and window breaker. Sells for about \$15 on Amazon or you can go to the company direct (www.carcane.com).”

Dave Wampler, Sidney, Va.: “My **Hardy** outdoor wood stove with its 100-gal. water jacket has kept my home warm for 23 years. I haven’t spent a dime on fuel oil or propane. I have to split wood, but it’s worth it.

“It has 2 small circulating pumps and a fan, but those small motors hardly take any power to operate. They only turn on when heat is needed.

“I’m not alone in being satisfied with a **Hardy** furnace. I have at least half a dozen neighbors who also have Hardys. One has his tied into his hot air furnace. Mine supplies hot water directly to a baseboard heat system. I installed it and the stove when I built the house.

“I do have to haul wood, but with the help of a rebuilt manure spreader, that job is fairly easy. I removed the beater, put in a new bed, and reinstalled the drag chain. I also kept the hydraulic end gate. It is easy to bring a load of wood to the furnace, lift the gate and dump the wood with the drag chain.”



Bill Reeks, Cromwell, Ky.: “I’d be lost without my 1948 **Willys** jeep which helps me get all kinds of chores done around my place. It has a front hitch and lift boom so I can pull or push trailers around with it – including my log hauling trailer shown here. I use the lift



boom alone to move smaller logs. A gas-powered generator rides in the back to power the 2,000-lb. winch on the front boom and to power a 16-in. electric chainsaw. I like the easy starting and operation of both the generator and chainsaw.”

Brad Miller, Ridgeport Corners, Ohio: “Anyone who does any kind of mechanical repair work will love these pliers,” says Brad about the **VamPLIERS** made by Vampire

Professional Tools (ph 949 748-0552; www.vampiretools.com).

“They’re designed to remove screws with stripped or rusted heads. Nothing usually works short of drilling it out or using a special screw extractor, which can be a time consuming process.

“**VamPLIERS** are screw-extracting pliers with patented vertical and horizontal serrations on the inside jaws, which makes it possible to grab and turn a fastener without slippage.

“The pliers are made from treated high quality carbon steel. A variety of models are available.

“I’ve used my **VamPLIERS** to remove stove bolts, sheet metal screws and wood screws, and it has worked perfectly every time. Prices range from \$17 to \$49.”



John Houston, Davidsonville, Md.: “I like my new **Hudson** bandsaw mill but the tracks that it’s mounted on are too flimsy. The tracks consist of two 6-ft. sections of welded-together 2 by 2 angle iron.

“I wanted to reinforce the tracks and make the sawmill easier to move around, so I bought another 6-ft. section of angle iron track and welded it onto one end. Then I used 3-in. sq. tubing to build a support frame and welded it onto the underside of the tracks. I also added tandem axle wheels to each side.

“The wheels, which came off a pair of small hand trucks, are supported by homemade axles. The wheels are spaced farther apart than necessary because I had earlier used them for another project. I mounted the hand truck’s handles on one end of the trailer so that I could move it around by hand, but the trailer proved to be too heavy. So I welded a coupler onto the other end so I can move it around with my skid loader.

“The portability really comes in handy. For example, if I get too much sawdust where I’m cutting up trees I can quickly move to another location. I use 4 jacks to keep the sawmill level on uneven ground. I spent less than \$500, whereas a new trailer for the sawmill would have cost at least \$2,000.”

David Fortenberry, Winnsboro, Louisiana: Last year David mounted a **Crary Wind System (CWS)** on his MacDon FD75 40-ft. flex draper header (www.crary.com; ph 800 247-7335). He says it increased his soybean yields by at least 10 percent, which helped pay for the system in one year.

“The CWS uses a Crary 8-in. fan powered by a pto shaft to distribute air to a series of drop tubes to provide a high-velocity stream of air that pushes the crop from the cutterbar into the header. The forced air, which is adjustable from the cab, ensures that harvested grain moves into the combine, rather than falling to the ground.”

In 2015 he averaged 79.2 bu. per acre on 1,282 acres of soybeans. “We did numerous field tests on five varieties of soybeans on both dryland and irrigated fields, and were able to hold our yield losses at the header to 1 to 1 1/2 bu. per acre,” says Fortenberry. “That figure was consistent regardless of the moisture of the beans or the time of day we were in the field. The real eye-opener to us was in tests where we turned the system off and compared the losses without it - even



“**Robo Weeder**” is guided by 2 video cameras that use color and pattern recognition software to identify weeds, then synchronize that information with weeding discs.

Organic Farmer Praises In-Row “Robo Weeder”

Manitoba farmer Jeremiah Evans thinks the new Robocrop InRow Weeder that he began using on his farm in 2015 is going to be a complete game changer for organic farmers. Evans, who farms about 500 acres of organic crops, told the *Alberta Farm Express* that he purchased the 22-ft. weeder because he needed better mechanical weed control. The machine removes wild oats, thistle and quackgrass from in the rows. The Robocrop, made by UK machinery manufacturer Garford, is guided by two video cameras that achieve accuracy to within 3/8ths of an inch.

The cameras use color and pattern recognition software to identify weeds, then synchronize that information with the weeding discs. The discs rotate like a precisely-controlled hand held hoe and eliminate the weeds, but not the crop. Evans has used the Robocrop on peas, mustard, beans, wheat, barley and flax. He can cover 10 to 12 acres in an hour.



though we were using a brand new draper header.”

Fortenberry used a foot-square frame to check header losses directly behind the header. “In an irrigated field that produced 103 bu. per acre, without the CWS we counted 20-plus beans per square foot behind the header. But in an adjacent strip with the air on, the losses were only 2 beans per square foot. Our combine manuals say two seeds per square foot equals a bushel-per-acre header loss, so you can see the difference running the air makes.

“If you’re seeing 12 seeds per square foot behind the header, that’s six bu. an acre you’re not getting paid for. Even with \$9 bean prices, over our 1,282 acres it doesn’t take long to pay for the Crary system.”

In a dryland field with a 45 bu. per acre yield average, the difference was even more telling, he says. “There, we saw 32-plus beans per square foot (16 bu. per acre losses) behind the header without the CWS, and with it, only 2 beans per frame.”

Fortenberry says the tests showed consistent yield improvements with the CWS in beans of both 9 and 12 to 13 percent moisture. “On the drier beans, we were seeing 4 1/2 to 6-bu. losses without the air, but well under 2 bu. per acre with the air system running. In 12

At first Evans was nervous about the machine’s accuracy, but a few hours in the field, carefully viewing the monitor, checking the crop and driving slowly convinced him it was performing exactly as planned.

Evans says the machine consistently cuts down weeds that are a few inches tall and ready to rob nutrients from the productive crop. His farm now has test plots to help him determine if the machine has a bearing on overall crop yields. After just one season of use he’s convinced the Robocrop’s \$80,000 price tag was well worth the investment.

The manufacturer Garford says Robocrop can be used in any vegetable and salad crops and also works for herbs, flowers and trees.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Garford Farm Machinery, Ltd., Froggnall, Deeping St. James, Peterborough PE6 8RP, England (ph 011 44 1778 342642; www.garford.com).

percent moisture beans, we had about 5 1/2-bu. losses with the air turned off, but with the air on the losses dropped back under 2 bu. per acre.

“Several weeks after we finished harvest, the test areas where we didn’t use the CWS looked as if they’d been reseeded.”

The more efficient crop handling at the cutterbar also helped Fortenberry maintain his usual 5 to 5 1/2 mph harvest speeds, even on some custom fields with tall, lanky bean plants and heavy infestations of tall grass.

“The forced air blows the stems to the cutterbar where they can be cleanly harvested without shattering in contact with the reel,” he says. “I’ve even raised the reel up where it never touches the crop, and the air still puts the plants right where they belong for a clean harvest.

“Based on our experience with the Crary air system last year, I’d definitely buy another one.”

Wayne Duerr, Avella, Penn.: Wayne’s had problems with his 2015 **Deere** 4050 4-WD tractor. “The engine has a lot of pollution control equipment on it, and as a result just a few drops of water can cause it to lose power and, in some cases, shut down in the field. My daughter was driving the tractor one time when it shut down. They found sludge in the fuel tank, which I think was already there when I bought the tractor. Also, when too many particulates enter the muffler I have to stop and run the tractor at a certain speed until the muffler cleans itself out.

“I previously owned a Deere 2955 and it ran good, but I wanted a tractor with a cab so I traded it. I’ve owned a lot of good Deere