

spark plug but it didn't help. We've had a lot of trouble with Huskies over the years."

Francis Przybylski, St. Catharine, Mo.: "About 4 years ago we bought 3 used **Ford New Holland** tractors at an auction - a 3930

"They're super fuel efficient and will run all day on 5 gal. of fuel."

and a pair of turbocharged 4630's. All 3 have 3-cyl. diesel engines. We use them to do haying work. They're super fuel efficient and will run all day on 5 gal. of fuel. They do a great job handling our 7-ft. disc mower, V-rake and small square baler."

Andrew Schubert, Tamaroa, Ill.: "Rataway Fragrance is supposed to stop the odors that attract pests and it may work for some people, but not for me. You're supposed to dilute it with a gallon of distilled water and spray it on all types of surfaces including wiring, engines and other parts of vehicles. I sprayed it on our tractor often, but still found a mouse nest on top of the battery.

"Another product that didn't work for me is **Carpal Solution**, a 6-week therapy using a disposable flexible brace worn at night that's supposed to cure Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. The brace has 3 adhesive strips that tug and reshape the soft tissue surrounding the carpal tunnel while the hand is relaxed at night. I sent the brace back to the company but never got a refund."

Amos Fisher, New Holland, Penn.: "I mounted my 2014 **Zena** 150-amp DC stick welder on a homemade cart to make it portable. The company recommends using an 11 hp. gas engine to drive this welder, but I get by with a 9 hp. model. A 12-volt battery is required for your power source because all the welding controls are built into the electrode holder. That makes it handy to use. No problems (www.zena.net; ph 615 897-2011)."

Frederick Whipple, Chittenango, N.Y.: "The 2011 Wood Gun wood boiler I bought from **Alternate Heating Systems** often plugs up with creosote, no matter how dry the wood is. One time it plugged up so solid the blower burned out and had to be replaced. The fire bricks have 9/16-in. slots and have to be replaced at least twice a year. Also, the insulation is inadequate and loses too much heat."

Bill Peacher, Laclade, Mo.: Bill has about 260,000 miles on his 1997 **Dodge** 3500 pickup but still uses it in his plumbing and electrical business. "I use this pickup to pull a trailer and backhoe, which results in a gross vehicle weight of 29,800 lbs. A lot of my driving is up and down steep hills."

Timothy Stegman, Neche, N. Dak.: "I like the 2016 **Quick-Attach** Quick Claw grapple rake I bought for my New Holland LX565 skid loader (www.quickattach.com; ph 866 428-8224). We use this grapple to move logs and brush for our tree care service. It's built heavy with T-100 steel and we use it hard, but it always asks for more. It does a great job of crushing branches before we load them into our dump trailer. We can load at least 3 times as much brush in the trailer compared to hand loading. It's an amazing labor saver."

Bill Richter, Erie, Penn.: "We own 7 different **Landini** vineyard tractors and they're all very reliable. Some have almost 10,000 hrs. on them.

"We've had problems with our **Case IH** 95N and 75N tractors, including oil leaks,

miscellaneous electrical problems, and hydraulic controls that sometimes 'drift' during cold weather. Also, after we start the tractors they won't move until we apply heat to the transmission. We own several older IH models that are reliable workhorses, but no more new Case IH tractors for us."

Carl Henneman, New Auburn, Wis.: "My 2014 **Cub Cadet Z-Fow** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck has been trouble-free. I use it to mow 2 acres of lawn and have already gone through a set of blades. It cuts evenly and does a great job.

"My **Chevrolet Equinox** is fuel-efficient and a pleasure to drive."

Ron Betts, Bronson, Mich.: Ron says his **Ridgid** 1/2-in., 18-volt cordless drill helped him out in a pinch recently. "I'm 74 years old and was working on a roof when the ladder blew down. I was trapped, and had left my cell phone in my truck. I live alone and, with night time temperatures forecast to dip to 25 degrees F, it didn't look good. But I was able to use the drill to remove screws in the roof's sheet metal so I could peel it back, and then I climbed down inside the wall. The drill's battery hadn't been charged in 2 weeks."

Karl Pfankuch, Hiram, Ga.: Karl's happy with his 2015 **DeWalt** 40-volt XR chainsaw equipped with a 16-in. bar. "There's no gas to mess with, it weighs only 12.3 lbs., and it has a lot of power. I use this saw all day long to cut 12 to 16-in. dia. logs. It has a self-lubricating chain and a tool-free tensioning system that allows for quick bar and chain adjustments."

Errol Borsky, Kamloops, B.C.: Errol's annoyed by some of the features on modern cars, pickups and SUV's. "What happened to the good old stepside pickup? On newer pickups there's no way to put things in the bed, let alone see what's inside it, unless you have a double step stool handy. And newer pickups have no proper mud flaps/rock guards, so when they pass you on the road rocks can smash into your windshield.

"In my opinion no one makes a decent heater/defrost control system any more, either. They're all fancy shmancy now. Good luck trying to adjust the defroster while you're driving down an icy road. In the old days, you would just feel for the knob and slide it one way or the other. But now you have to look at little pictures and press buttons on a dashboard monitor to see where the arrows are pointing.

"Another problem is that the new headlights/foglights glare into your face. Coming home one night I blipped a couple of oncoming pickups with super bright headlights, but in response they just put their lights on high and blinded me. Who's looking after these things?"

Mike Laduron, Pelican Lake, Wis.: "My 2006 **Wood-Mizer** LT 40 sawmill just keeps on cutting. Occasionally I might have a problem with an electrical switch, but the company promptly takes care of it. Great customer service."

Tom Suhly, Buckhannon, W. Va.: "It's one of the most valuable tools I own," says Tom about his **Rockwell** portable work support station (ph 866 955-4175; www.rockwelltools.com). It comes with clamping jaws that allow you to securely clamp anything for hands-free access to your work. "I do a lot of handiwork by myself. This tool does everything the company claims, and then some."

Joseph Jasinski, Erie, Penn.: "My 2012 **Deere** X720 Ultimate garden tractor cuts fast without bogging down or losing power. No problems.

"My 2013 **Chevrolet** Silverado pickup is the best truck I've ever owned."

Larry Williams, Shepherdsville, Ky.:

Sampling Wild Boar

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "Living in a state not yet invaded by wild boar, I've often wondered what the meat tastes like. I found a company called Broadleaf that sells meat from Texas wild boar.

"With prices as high as \$54.99 for a 6-lb. boneless shoulder roast and \$39.99 for 6 shanks, I opted for a \$9.99 pound of bacon and a pound of medallions for \$18.50.

"Shipping cost nearly as much as the meat did, but it arrived a day after I ordered. The packages were still frozen inside the poly foam cooler.

"I fried up some of the thick cut bacon the next day. It had a lightly smoked flavor. Strips were very meaty, almost too thick. It tasted like thick-cut Canadian bacon.

"I found a recipe for the medallions that called for them to be browned a minute on a side and then finished with a sauce in a 350-degree oven for about 10 min. Because the medallions were thicker than normal, at 10 min. they were still raw and barely above 115 degrees. Five min. later they were in the 130's. Five min. more and they were above the suggested 140 degrees.

"They were still a light pink on the inside, but were a little dry and tough. The meat was extremely lean, as expected with wild game. The flavor was pretty good with and without the sauce.

"I sliced up the leftover medallions very thin and left them in the sauce overnight. Warmed up the next day, the slices were much more tender.



Jim Ruen sampled the wares from a Texas company that sells meat from wild boar, including medallions (above) and thick-cut bacon.



"I might have enjoyed them more if not for the 2 small pieces of shot I found when chewing. Not anxious to shatter a tooth, I gave the rest to my dog...the most expensive dog food he'll ever get.

"It wasn't the worst buy I've ever made, but it certainly wasn't the best either. I think I'll wait until the wild boar make it to Minnesota before I eat any more."

Larry likes his **Deere** 870 and 970 tractors which he bought used. "These great small tractors are easy to drive and fuel efficient. I use them for tillage and mowing work. No problems."

J. Johnson, Sauk Centre, Minn.: He likes his 2015 **GrassFlap** foot pedal control designed for zero-turn mowers (www.grassflap.com; ph 502 594-3546). It lets you



open and close the flap on the mower's grass discharge chute hands-free. The steel flap mounts on the grass chute, while the foot pedal mounts on the foot deck where it can be operated with the heel of your foot.

"It works great, and the company helped make sure that it fit my mower," says Johnson. "Hands-free control is especially helpful while steering in close quarters."

Glenn Smith, Penfield, Penn.: "My walk-behind **DR** Field and Brush Mower is hard to handle, lacks brakes, and doesn't have enough traction. It cuts small brush but doesn't chop it up so material ends up scattered all around. It works okay on smooth, level ground for cutting weeds and brambles but is hard to operate - you almost need to be 6 1/2 ft. tall and weigh 260 lbs. to operate it. Also, the engine starts hard."

Jim Cottrill, Maine: "I bought a new **Stihl** 034 AV chainsaw in 1984 while the saw was still made in West Germany. I've used this saw every year since then to cut firewood, averaging 6 cords a year, and to cut posts around our farm. It still runs like new and has plenty of power.

"We used our 1988 **Ford** F-250 4-WD pickup every day for 26 years until road salt finally rusted the frame away. Best work truck we ever had.

"My wife still drives her 1994 **Chevrolet** Silverado 1/2-ton, 4-WD pickup every day."

Loren Konda, Sherman, S. Dak.: "My **Stihl** MS 290 chainsaw equipped with an 18-in. bar is my best buy. I've run 44 gal. of gas through it over the years, but it has only been back to the dealer once for a checkup. It's an unbelievable saw.

"I own a lot of **Sears Craftsman** tools that used to be made in the U.S., including allen wrenches and ratchets, and they work great. But the company's newer tools are made in China and the quality has gone down. I'm very disappointed in them."

Luke Heinle, Buchanan, N. Dak.: "The **Medi-Dart** crossbow kit is an excellent way to deliver medication to animals (www.livestockconcepts.com; ph 800 738-7012).



It lets me treat animals individually in our pasture, without having to run the entire herd into a corral. We had foot rot issues with some of our livestock, but within 10 min. I was able to treat 3 animals with the Medi-Dart. It also reduces stress on animals because they don't have to be restrained."

Jon Otts, Canastota, N.Y.: Jon's disappointed with his **Porter Cable** 20-volt, lithium ion 1/2-in. drill/driver kit. "I was using it to back out some screws one day when it started sounding like something had let loose and stripped. I tried calling the company but couldn't get through, so I sent them a certified letter but they never replied. No more of their products for me."