

My 112 lawn tractor broke 7 different axles. Neither the dealer nor the company would pay for the repairs. My third tractor, a 20 hp. 650, needed a new electric front pto clutch but a replacement wasn't available. The fourth, a 670, came with the poorest front-end loader design I've ever seen."

**James Hilderbrant, Whitney Point, N.Y.:** James is the satisfied owner of a 2015 Ford F-150 2-WD pickup equipped with a 2.7-liter Ecoboost engine. "I use it to tow equipment to jobs and to haul loads of firewood back to my home. No problems. It has plenty of power and is fuel efficient, averaging 20.9 mpg."

**Marvin Hammer, Bartow, Fla.:** Marvin's "best buy" is **Evapo-Rust**, a water-based product that removes rust in minutes without scrubbing ([www.evapo-rust.com](http://www.evapo-rust.com)). It's sold at Walmart, Amazon and Harbor Freight. "This stuff works like magic to restore rusted tools. I've used it to restore vise grips that had been laying outside for 2 years and were frozen up. It really works."

**Jim Lorbiecki, Wittenberg, Wis.:** He likes his Firehose work pants from **Duluth Trading Co.** ([www.duluthtradingcompany.com](http://www.duluthtradingcompany.com); ph 855 985-3986). "These pants wear like iron and the size and fit are excellent. Great customer service, too."

**Jimmy Hayes, Union City, Tenn.:** "It's the best vehicle of any kind that I've ever owned," says Jimmy about his 2001 Ford Ranger. "It has about 286,000 miles on it with very few problems and still looks and drives great."

**Dewey Ball, West, Texas:** "My 2012 Husqvarna 455 Rancher chainsaw never fails to start. I just press the primer bulb a few times, pull the choke, and it'll start within 3 pulls every time. The 20-in. bar really chews up logs."

**Gary E. Redeker, Hartford, Kan.:** "It has almost 15,000 miles on it while requiring only routine maintenance," says Gary about his 2011 Polaris 800 Ranger. "My wife, sons and grandkids drive this utility vehicle every day. It runs quiet and rides smooth, and it starts good in cold weather."



**Cotton Schiever, Harmony, Penn.:** He's impressed with the **Demotec Easy Block** hoof kit he uses on his cows ([www.valleyvet.com](http://www.valleyvet.com); ph 800 419-9524). The kit includes a quick-setting resin that's used to bond a plastic slip-on boot to the healthy claw, taking stress off the afflicted claw.

"For about \$9 a hoof, they transform hopelessly lame cows into movers and shakers."

He's disappointed with his **Baumalight** 3P40 3-pt. mounted, pto stump grinder. "The steel brackets that hold the grinder teeth started to crack after only a few uses, and the entire grinder wheel fell apart within a few months. We had to replace the wheel 3 times in less than a year. Fortunately, the wheel was covered by warranty. However, we had to do the replacement work ourselves."

**Theodore W. Hughes, Arrington, Va.:** Theodore's impressed with his 2011 Kubota 3400 4-WD tractor equipped with a **Woods** front-end loader. "This little tractor has a lot of power and just keeps on going. It never

fails to start and still has the original battery."

He's disappointed with his **Swisher** walk-behind string trimmer. "We wanted an electric start model but the dealer said it wasn't necessary. However, we find it takes 3 people to start this trimmer and when it gets hot, it won't start at all. We finally junked it and bought a **DR** electric start model."

**Cody Rufer, Monroe, Wis.:** "I operate a landscaping business and am well-pleased with all my **Stihl** equipment which includes many different chainsaws, chop saws, trimmers and blowers. I have more than \$4,000 invested in Stihl products."

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**Curtis Melcher, Marysville, Kan.:** "I read about the **Lumber Smith** portable sawmill in FARM SHOW. It sounded good so I bought one. I can't believe how easily the blades break. I wish I had saved my money and bought a standard sawmill instead."

**Frank Stehno, Stratton, Neb.:** "I'm happy with my **Kinze** 1300 grain cart equipped with tracks and an electronic scale. It operates smoothly going over center pivot irrigation tracks and isn't top heavy. It also unloads fast and has an accurate scale."

"My 2013 **Deere** 825I Gator has been in the shop continuously for repairs. The warranty ran out early last year, and since then I've spent more than \$3,000 on repairs. That doesn't count all the repair work done while it was still under warranty."

"I like my 2014 **Case IH** 400 tracked tractor, but the Goodyear tracks haven't held up very well. They had less than 1,000 hrs. on them at the beginning of last fall but already were in poor shape, with chunks of tread missing. Goodyear says it isn't their fault, and Case IH will only offer to sell me new tracks at a reduced price."

**Joe Dreiling, Hays, Kan.:** Joe's impressed with **Rock "N" Roll** bicycle chain lubricant ([www.rocklube.com](http://www.rocklube.com)). "What I like about this lube is that it doesn't attract dust and dirt. It works great for everything from light chains to hinges, padlocks, and a lot of other things."

**Andy Jackman, Louisville, Neb.:** "In 2001 I bought a **Bunn** coffee maker to use at work, and it has made at least 3 pots of coffee a day ever since. Each pot brews quickly and consistently. The Bunn coffee maker we had been using before this one lasted more than 20 years, so I guess we're not surprised. They're well made and worth the money."

**Faris Maupin, Richmond, Ky.:** A 2012 **Bad Boy** Outlaw zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 31 hp. Kawasaki engine and 61-in. deck rates as Faris's "best buy". "We use it weekly to mow 3 properties totaling about 6 acres. It always starts and has ample power, and the deck is built heavy and never bogs down."

"The 2002 **Kiotti** K-2554 20 hp, 4-WD tractor I bought used 10 years ago is just the right size and power for my needs. I use it to till our garden and to clean out our barn."

**Charles W. Cotterell, Independence, Mo.:** Charles is the owner of a 2001 **Ford New Holland** 43 hp., 4-WD diesel tractor. "This tractor is a dandy. It's powerful, dependable, and starts in the coldest weather. I can bushhog all day with it and still have plenty of fuel left in the tank when I'm done. An excellent tractor."

**Topper Tastad, Groton, S. Dak.:** Topper read in FARM SHOW about the kit from



Bertram's stove and refrigerator still work fine, as does her 69-year-old water heater.

## She Still Uses Appliances Bought For Her First Home In 1948

By Carolyn White

Gladys Bertram lives in the same house she moved into nearly 70 years ago after getting married in 1948. And she still has the same stove, refrigerator and hot water tank that were installed in the home when her husband built it.

"My husband, George, wanted things that would last so he decided on the Crosley brand, which was top quality," she says, noting that she and her husband raised cattle on their ranch near Cedaredge, Colo.

"We literally saved up penny by penny to buy those appliances. That stove was really heavy. We could barely get it into the kitchen."

The Crosley stove was fancier than anything else on the market at the time, including two ovens, a timer, and a broiler. Gladys, 94, worked at that stove for many years to feed her family and every hired hand who ever worked for them. The Crosley refrigerator, which was the first to patent shelves in the door, has likewise held up well. Amazingly, so has the water heater.

Nowadays, Gladys is more likely to use the microwave than the oven. She's not ready to shut down the appliances, though. "I'm saving them for my grandchildren," she says.



**Don Knasel** that turns a garden tractor into a mini-8N Ford ([www.awesomehenry.com](http://www.awesomehenry.com); ph 937 489-8440). He decided to convert a Toro 1238 riding mower. The kit consists of a single piece fiberglass hood that fits over the tractor and is reinforced at the bottom. It attaches with 2 bolts.

"It was a fun project, and they're good people to work with," says Topper.

**S. Johns, Nicholasville, Ky.:** He bought a **Brush Grubber** brush pulling tool that's designed to yank out small trees and brush by the roots, completely eliminating regrowth ([www.brushgrubber.com](http://www.brushgrubber.com); ph 952 945-9058). The tool consists of a pair of rotating "grip pads", with 8 spikes on each pad. The pads attach to spring-loaded, scissors-type jaws that tightly grip the trunk when pulled backward. The harder you pull, the harder



the spikes grip. A spring keeps the pads tight against the trunk.

"I bought it to remove honeysuckle bushes on my farm and have found that it works exactly as advertised," says Johns. "I use it with my Kawasaki Mule utility vehicle. It's extremely well made."

**Paul Peyton, Ava, Mo.:** "My **Harbor Freight** 5-drawer tool cart has a rated capacity of 750 lbs. Fully loaded, the large caster wheels make the cart easy to move around, even on a rough or cracked floor. This tool cart was a bargain at \$169, which is only about a third the cost of other, lesser-quality products."

"Two years ago we installed eight 12-volt **Trojan** batteries in our solar power system and they've been trouble-free ([www.trojanbattery.com](http://www.trojanbattery.com); ph 800 423-6569). Other batteries we've tried have failed in as little as 6 mo."

"We built our house using a **Makita** 10-in. power miter saw. It cuts square every time, even after being reset to cut angles. The angles are perfect and repeatable. It's equipped with a **Freud** blade, so every cut is perfectly smooth with no splintering. I highly recommend both the Makita saw and the Freud blade ([www.freudtools.com](http://www.freudtools.com); ph 800 334-4107)."

"My 1994 **Husqvarna** 66 chainsaw has performed flawlessly with no repairs and still has the original spark plug. When the fuel hose collapsed a couple of years ago, I discovered the only available replacement hose was too short. (It's a special molded hose with one end larger than the other and an integral grommet to seal where it goes into the tank). The dealer and company rep argued that the new, shorter fuel hose was correct, but the hose can't reach the fuel once the tank goes below half-full. The arrogance and unhelpful attitude of this company was disappointing."