

for this tool are endless.”

Loyal Fulton, Selma, Iowa: “Last year I bought a new **Vermeer MC3300** mower conditioner. I have a rough farm but the hydraulic suspension on this machine follows the ground closely, with no scalping. Also, the knives on the machine stay sharp much longer than on mower conditioners equipped with a spring suspension system.”

K. Enos, Poplar Grove, Ill.: “I have four different **Worx** tools and all have been trouble-free. These tools work hard and are well worth the money.”



Dan Lammi, Blaine, Minn.: “I like my 2014 **Prowler Stump Bucket**, which is designed to quick-tach to a skid loader or loader tractor (www.prowlertracks.com; ph 877 477-6953). I use the bucket on front of my compact loader tractor, with a 3-pt. mounted tree puller on back. The bucket itself is built like a tank. Works great for removing stumps, roots, and rocks on my hunting trails, and also for clearing brush. The bucket has a narrow bite but can still grab a good size brush pile when clearing brush.”

Duane Esarey, Yoder, Colo.: “Our 1995 **Dodge** Dakota pickup will soon turn 200,000 miles but still runs beautifully. We had one minor glitch with the transmission and have replaced the fuel pump, but otherwise this pickup has been trouble-free.

“We use our **Deere Gator CX** utility vehicle like a horse and buggy to get around our 240-acre ranch. Works great.”

Betsy Bacon, Spring Valley, Wis.: “My hearing aids from **Costco** were half the price of other places and you get better service. I also like Costco for buying vehicles. Cars and trucks sell for \$750 over invoice. We saved \$400 on a 2018 Toyota Highlander.”

Steven Putkowski, Enfield, Conn.: “Waterproof marine grease from **CRC** is great on all kinds of parts that are exposed to water, such as splined shafts on tractors (www.crcindustries.com).”

Ken Dittbrenner, Denton, Neb.: “Last year my wife found an old **Sears Craftsman** stick welding machine advertised on Craigslist. It wasn’t running but all it needed was some lubrication to free up the control. I used a 50/50 ATF/acetone to soak the affected parts and in a couple hours the shaft was freed up. Since then, the welder has worked perfectly. I’ve done a lot of work with it, no problems. I noticed one of your readers recently also praised his 1960’s **Sears Craftsman** welder and I have to agree. This is one heck of a machine.”

James Podraza, Walnut, Iowa: “My worst buy is a pair of **CasMac Innovations** “foolproof” live catch mouse traps that I read about in **FARM SHOW**. I never caught a mouse in either one. I placed regular mouse traps next to them and caught lots of them. I’m disappointed in **FARM SHOW** for featuring this trap.”

Walter Clark, Sherburne, N.Y.: “I have one of those **CasMac Innovations** mousetraps that everybody’s been complaining about. I found that it works great if you are smarter

than the mouse. Put your bait inside the trap and also put some of the same outside the trap and on top of it. I have had up to 6 mice in the trap at once.

“When it comes to chainsaws, bigger is better. Smaller, cheaper saws seem to have lots of troubles and nickel and dime you to death. It doesn’t matter what brand. Bigger saws are better in every way.”

Bob Muller, Delanson, N.Y.: “Like most guys, I’ve tried just about every hand cleaner, from Orange Pumice to gasoline. There’s a relatively new product called **Bearpaw Hand Cleaner** that I’ve found to be the most effective hand cleaner for really tough grime and it’s easy on the hands, too. You can buy it at Amazon.com or at www.bearpawhandcleaner.com.

“I keep a spray bottle of water plus detergent in my shop. I go heavy on the detergent (1:10) compared to what you use on a dishpan. Want to get grease off a wrench? Just give it a couple squirts. Need to wash off welding goggles or clean up an oil spot on the floor? Grab the spray bottle. Once you have it on hand you’ll use this just about every time you’re in the shop.”

Mark A. Miller, Belvidere, Tenn.: “Last March I bought a **Woodmaster 718** planer for my shop and so far I like it (www.woodmastertools.com; ph 877 982-5019). It can be used to mold, plane, sand, and saw. I bought a dust collector and hooked it up to the planer, but it didn’t suck up the shavings like it should so I modified it with a new metal frame. Works great.”

William Robison, Ardmore, Tenn.: William bought a used **Deere 5055** diesel tractor with about 300 hrs. on it for \$28,000.

“This is the worst tractor I’ve ever owned.”

The tractor is equipped with a cab and was made in India. “The first time I used it the fuel line came apart, causing a full tank of fuel to leak out. The hydraulic couplers leak, a metal caution sign fell off, and the tractor vibrates badly when driving down the road. Also, the transmission is very loud. This is the worst tractor I’ve ever owned.”

Dan Geer, N. Smithfield, Rhode Island: Dan bought a sprayer designed for a walk-behind tractor from **Iva Mfg.** (www.ivamfg.com; ph 717 768-0747). “We operate a diverse market garden and cut-flower operation so we use walk-behind tractors extensively. We needed a sprayer to use with our beans and tomatoes and this sprayer was recommended. It’s well made.”

Jerry Wiese, Randolph, Neb.: He’s had trouble with his **Massey Ferguson 1660** tractor equipped with a **Dyna CVT** transmission. “This transmission works fine for moving snow around our yard, but is no good in the field because I can’t ‘feather’ the clutch in the higher gear ranges. I’ll never buy a tractor with this transmission again. Another problem is that the tractor’s 3-pt. hydraulics are a little weak.”

Paul Tennon, Anderson, Ala.: “I use my 1992 **Yamaha Timberwolf 250 4-wheeler** to check on our cows and electric fences. I replaced the starter and tires once and the brakes twice, and change the spark plugs every year. I’ve had many different surgeries so this 4-wheeler is my main mode of transportation. It always starts right up.”

Raymond Taylor, Bessemer, Ala.: “The 2004 **Chevrolet Silverado 2-71** pickup I bought used has about 278,000 miles on it but has required only routine maintenance.”



CADEN’s hard-surfaced “Wheel Tracker” field cultivator shovels are made with an ultra-tough surface that resists abrasion for long wear.

“Best Buy” Hard-Surfaced Shovels

“Two years ago I wrote about **CADEN Edge** hard-surfaced field cultivator shovels for a **FARM SHOW** story and was impressed enough to try them myself,” says Contributing Editor **Lorn Manthey**. “I installed two rows of the **CADEN** shovels and two rows of **OEM** shovels on my **Deere 2210** at the same time to see how they compared. After 1,200 acres the **OEM** shovels had worn about 1/2 in. narrower than the **CADEN** shovels, which looked like they’d hardly been used.”

Manthey says the patented **CADEN Edge** manufacturing process uses robotic equipment to infuse a fine bead of tungsten carbide into the tips and leading edge of shovel sweeps. That ultra-tough surface resists abrasion, unlike the **OEM** shovels that quickly show signs of wear, especially on shanks behind the wheels or on the front row of a field cultivator.

Manthey says even though **CADEN Edge** sweeps cost more than regular sweeps, it looks like they’ll be wearing 3 or more times as long. For him, that certainly makes the extra investment worthwhile.

USM Wear Technologies, which carries

the **CADEN Edge** patent, also produces a “**Wheel Tracker**” shovel for field cultivators. Designed to mount on shanks behind tractor or cultivator wheels, **Wheel Tracker** has a metal ‘fin’ that extends 3 in. below the center of the shovel to cut a narrow slit in those more compacted areas. **Manthey** mounted those shovels on his and a neighbor’s field cultivator two years ago with excellent results. “Those we put on the **DMI** have covered more than 1,800 acres and don’t show hardly any wear,” **Manthey** says. “The fins are the same size that they were when the shovels were new.” About 400 acres of their use was in heavier clay soils with a fair amount of rocks. “It looks to me like these shovels are tough enough to outlast the shank arms that hold them,” **Manthey** says.

Farmers interested in **CADEN** shovels can ask their equipment dealer or contact **U.S. Manufacturing** in Eldora, Iowa at 800-800-1812 or service@usweartech.com.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, **Lorn Manthey**, Northfield, Minn. 55057 (redoakridge@mac.com).



Andy Rushing, Hemphill, Texas: Andy owns a 1962 **Ford 1200 4-WD** compact diesel tractor. “I use it to pull a 5-ft. rototiller in my mostly sandy soil. This machine is still going strong and is a real workhorse.”

Daniel D. Miller, Holland Patent, N.Y.: “It’s easy to start and a joy to use,” says Daniel about his 2017 **Stihl MS201TC** chainsaw. “This saw is small but has a lot of power and can be operated with one hand. We use a mill to cut walnut trees into lumber and sometimes the lumber accidentally falls onto the saw, but it just keeps on going.”

Charles Coleman, St. Matthews, S.C.: Charles likes his 2016 **Titan Attachments** Cat. I, 3-pt. mounted ballast box (www.palletforks.com; ph 800 605-8241). “It holds up to 800 lbs. of rocks, concrete, sand or steel and makes lifting heavy loads in tight spaces an easy job. It also provides a compact counterweight to the front-end loader on my **Kubota 4400** tractor.

“A sliding door on front makes the box easy to empty, and a pair of built-in tube holders work great to carry long-handled tools. It also comes with forklift slots and with a 2-in. ball hitch receiver for towing behind a pickup. It sells on their website for \$265.05 which I think is very reasonable.

“My 2017 **Husqvarna 350BT** backpack leaf blower runs fine but has less power than my 2003 model.”

Allen Guse, Stanley, Wis.: “I’m impressed with the three **Kuhn 2190** variable chamber silage balers I bought new in 2013, 2014, and 2015. I use them in my custom baling business. All three balers were set up the same with a 14-knife cutting rotor, a second belt drive to keep everything going in heavy silage conditions, and twine or net wrap to hold the bales together. They all worked right from the start, and I was able to make several thousand bales with them before they needed any kind of repairs.

“These are high capacity balers that can bale a wide variety of crops or residue, whether it’s dry or ‘in the rain’ wet. In big windrows I’ve been able to make 40 bales per hour of wet hay with the knives up, and 60 bales per hour of corn stalks with the knives down. I’ve been able to make 4 by 5-ft. wet bales of hay weighing about 2,200 lbs. after a day of drying, and 4 by 6-ft. dry corn stalk bales weighing about 1,400 lbs.

“The balers are equipped with a hydraulic drop floor and a mechanism to disengage the rotor and pickup, which makes them easy to unplug. Customers used to ask me if I could bale hay for them that they couldn’t get through their own forage choppers. I tell them, ‘If you can put it in a windrow with a haybine, I can bale it.’”

Warren Baum, Leicester, N.Y.: “I like the 2016 **Huskee 22-ton** log splitter I bought at **Tractor Supply Company**. The first time I started it up I had to add two quarts of hydraulic oil, and since then it has worked flawlessly.”

Kenny Ringley, Monticello, Ky.: “My 1964 **Ford 4000** tractor has a lot of power for its size and a 5-speed transmission with just the right speed in every gear.”

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