



Jed Van Der Zwaag, Hospers, Iowa: "I'm impressed with my 2017 DeWalt Flexvolt 60-volt cordless air compressor. I already owned many of the company's Flexvolt-capable tools when I bought it and like all of them. This compressor is as portable as my 10-gal. air tank and replenishes itself to boot. I've used it to air up a flat rear tractor twice on a single charge, and still had battery life left.

"I operate an auto recycling business and use this compressor all the time to air up tires. It's a great time saver because I can just set the tire pressure I want and walk away. It has more than paid for itself in time savings alone."

Fred Welton, Grove City, Penn.: "Best lawn tractor I've ever owned," says Fred about his 2005 Sears Craftsman GT5000 equipped with a 22 hp., 2-cyl. Briggs & Stratton engine. "We use it hard to mow light brush and tall grass, and to haul hay on a trailer. We have chains on the tires and a brush bar on front. The battery, blades, and drive belt have been replaced once."

Lyle Hannah, Truro, Iowa: Lyle likes his 2013 Country Clipper zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 52-in. deck and Kawasaki 24 hp. engine. "I haven't had to replace any belts, pulleys, clutches or anything else. I just add gas and change the oil and filters. I use this mower to cut about 1 1/2 acres of grass and it now has about 300 hrs. on it. I really like the joystick steering control on it."

Donald Kipmuth, Cedar, Minn.: "This chainsaw is lightweight but packs a lot of power and is easy on fuel," says Donald about his Echo CS-490.

"My Echo string trimmer is well balanced and will go for a long time on a tank of gas. It's easy to rewind new string on the cutterhead."

"It was in the shop more than my garage."

A 2003 Ford F-350 Super Duty pickup equipped with a 6-liter diesel engine rates as his "worst buy". "It was in the shop more than my garage. Within the first 1,000 miles there were problems with the fuel pressure regulator, fuel injector, and fuel injector control module. As the result of a class action lawsuit I received \$350. It was Ford's worst nightmare since the Edsel. I wouldn't drive another Ford if they gave me one."

Edward Weber, Cincinnati, Ohio: "My 2004 New Holland TC-40 4-WD tractor has 1,930 hrs. on it with only a few minor electrical problems. I use it for mowing and garden work during the summer and hauling firewood in winter."

Wayne Reep, Lincolnton, N.C.: Wayne's the satisfied owner of a 1995 Dodge 3500 pickup equipped with a Cummins 12V diesel engine. "It has about 155,000 miles on it with no problems and gets 25 mpg on the highway. I use Hotshot diesel fuel additive in it (www.hotshotsecret.com).

"I bought a used 1995 Toyota pickup with about 243,000 miles and now it has about 277,500 miles. Great pickup. I recently installed a new starter."

Ronald Harris, Rome, N.Y.: "No problems with my 2012 Kubota L3200 backhoe and loader tractor. It has good hydraulics."

Tony Conard, Gordon, Ala.: "A couple years ago I bought a used 2013 Ford F-150 crew cab pickup equipped with a 3.5-liter Ecoboost engine with about 39,000 miles. It now has about 75,000 miles. This pickup has a lot of power and averages 23 mpg on the highway. Rides and handles great.

"My 2014 Kubota RTV 400 4-WD utility vehicle equipped with a winch is a real workhorse. I use it every day. It's easy on fuel."

Haven Knight, Carrollton, Miss.: Haven's had problems with his new Mahindra 1526 4-WD shuttle tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "A boot that leads from the front driveshaft to the 4-WD axle wasn't attached properly and twisted loose. Also, the hood doesn't close correctly. I've owned the tractor for just 3 mos. and have told the dealer about these problems several times, but no repairs have been made."

Darwin Schrader, San Antonio, Texas: "My Dremel chainsaw sharpening attachment works fast and is highly effective (www.dremel.com). I like it because I can sharpen individual teeth. The chain lasts much longer this way than grinding every tooth.

"My Sears Craftsman 19.2-volt cordless chainsaw can cut a 5-in. dia. mesquite tree in less than 5 sec. However, it doesn't oil the chain as much as it should. I carry oil and a short 1-in. wide brush in a jar and swab the chain with oil frequently so it'll last longer."

Norm Bennett, Newport, Vt.: "I bought a Troy-Bilt 4-cycle weed trimmer after I got frustrated using other 2-cycle trimmers. I only use non ethanol, high-test gas and it always starts after only one or two pulls. It doesn't vibrate much making it easy to use, and rewinding new string is easy, too."

Dale Osborn, Dickson, Tenn.: "My subscription to FARM SHOW is my best buy. With all the great ideas and money-saving tips, it pays for itself.

"I've used Stihl chainsaws for 42 years to cut all my firewood."

John J. Patterson, East Peoria, Ill.: "It's one of the best pickups I've ever owned," says John about his 2006 Ford F-350 Super Duty model.

"My 2004 Deere Gator just keeps on going with no problems.

"My 2000 Husqvarna weed trimmer is still going strong."

David Barker, Humboldt, Tenn.: David recently bought a 2018 Kubota Grand L 4060 tractor. "I used the Best and Worst Buys section in FARM SHOW to help determine which tractor I should buy. It runs great and has a nice cab."

Stanly Thomas, Ashville, Ohio: "My Shark Navigator bagless vacuum works better than any vacuum I've owned in the past. It picks up dog hair and debris that I can't even see. I like the swivel head on it and not having to deal with paper bags."

Rembert Cragg, Alto, Ga.: "The 1993 Dodge 2500 pickup equipped with a diesel engine that I bought used was the most trouble-free vehicle I've ever owned. It consistently averaged 22 mpg.

"Best Buy" Fireplace

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "Our fireplace is nice to look at and a super efficient heater. With 60 acres of woods, we knew we wanted to use wood for supplemental heat when we built our house. We also wanted a fireplace that could be viewed through glass doors or with the doors open.

"Our Opal 2 Catalytic fireplace from RSF Fireplaces gave us all of the above (www.rs-fireplaces.com). Built in Quebec by people who understand cold weather and heating with wood, it is super efficient. It pumps out the heat and provides beautiful views with its near full width glass doors. The catalytic converter burns up particles in the smoke and creosote-forming wood gas. That's good for the chimney and for efficiency.

"We added the optional internal blower and central heat blower kit. The internal blower pushes air through the firebox jacket and into the room.

"We also added a central heat blower kit to push heat from the firebox jacket into the whole house ductwork. Last year we hardly used it.

"The internal blower pushes heat into the main room. Natural convection moved it up the stairs to the upper level. Meanwhile the main level stayed toasty warm.

"Because my wife and I like cooler temperatures for sleeping, we let the fire



For nice looks and super efficiency, the Opal 2 Catalytic fireplace from RSF Fireplaces can't be beat, says Ruen.

die out in the evening. The propane-fueled furnace often kicks in before I get up and start the day's fire, generally from the previous night's coals.

"Once the fireplace starts putting out heat, the furnace shuts down. Last winter we had days when it was below zero where the furnace burned just 1/2 gal. of propane all day.

"We used about 1,000 gal. of propane in an average winter at our previous 20-year old home. Last winter we burned less than 300 gal. in our new place, and that included days and nights when we were gone and propane was the only fuel used."

"My 1972 Oliver 1250 tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine has required only routine maintenance and will operate for 8 hrs. on just 3 gal. of fuel."



Kerwin Pierce, Pocatello, Idaho: "We bought a new LG front-loading washing machine recently (model WMS000HVA) for \$1,400. The first time we used it, there was a large puddle of water on the floor underneath the washer. I checked everything and could not identify the source of the leak. It leaked again on the second load so Lowe's brought out a new machine. It did the same thing. I figured out that the water is coming out a vent in the back of the machine. The only way to avoid the problem is to never wash more than a half load of laundry. Since LG won't offer any assistance to fix this design flaw, I rigged up a pvc extension that runs from the vent at the back of the machine to the sink in the laundry room. The discharge of soapy water now goes down the drain instead of onto the floor."



Tony Groble, Grant, Minn.: "If you've got house cats, there's never been a better

litter box than the Litter-Robot (www.litter-robot.com; ph 877 250-7729). It's expensive, at about \$450 retail, but we found a used one on Craigslist for half price. It automatically cleans itself, sifting the litter after every use and depositing the waste into an easily accessible drawer. Uses less litter and reduces spilling. Best of all, there's almost no smell anymore. Engineering at its best. Definitely a best buy."

Jim Horn, Thor, Iowa: Jim likes his 2016 MTD weed trimmer. "It always starts right up, and it has a 4-cycle engine so I don't have to mix gas and oil."

Erich G. Milchner, Oconto Falls, Wis.: "My 2018 Tesla Model S electric car is fun to drive and inexpensive to operate. It also has a lot of power. Wow!"

Fred H. Shroyer, South Vienna, Ohio: "I bought a Pittsburgh 300-lb. ATV/lawn mower lift at Harbor Freight for \$70. It's easy to assemble and operate. Adjusts to different wheelbases. Makes cleaning decks and changing blades much easier.

"I bought a Harbor Freight battery-operated liquid transfer pump for \$8.99. Works great for transferring gas from cans to mowers, and it's a lot easier than pouring out of a 5-gal. can. It can handle gas, diesel fuel, water, oil and non-corrosive liquids."

Gerald Rippes, San Antonio, Texas: "I use JB Weld to seal holes in fuel tanks and cracks in oil pans, and it's the ultimate thread locker for anything that I don't plan on removing. JB Waterweld can even be used to seal holes in battery cases."

John Heckman, Shell Rock, Iowa: John's impressed with his Kubota ZD1211 zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck, suspension seat, and hydraulic lift. "It's a comfortable, powerful machine that makes mowing faster and less strenuous. It's very agile and does a good job."

Landis E. Martin, Waynesboro, Penn.: "I like my 2017 RCI 186M window merger (www.rciengineering.com; ph 888 472-4552). This is an improved version of the

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