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clear leaves off 3 acres of wooded property. It has enough power to move large piles of wet leaves and came with a 4-year warranty.”

Joe Hinchman, Rochester, N.Y.: “My **Kioti CK20 HST** tractor is both a best and worst buy. The splined connector sleeve between the clutch shaft and hydro shaft lost a roll pin and wore out, stripping the splines on both shafts. The company doesn’t stock the parts and at first wouldn’t make new parts even though the tractor was tying up space in the dealer’s shop. Finally after 4 mos. of calls and emails from us, they decided to make the parts. Our dealer is great, but the company needs to do a better job of supporting their older equipment. Otherwise, this tractor is virtually bullet-proof.

“I also like my **Kioti CK2510 HST** cab tractor.”

Brian Leopold, Bergenfield, N.J.: Brian’s satisfied with his 2018 **Cub Cadet XTI ST54** riding mower. “We had a very wet summer but never had a problem cutting grass with this machine. It has a lot of power.”

Don Santer, Millbrook, Mich.: “My 2015 **Deere 225** zero-turn riding mower always starts right up and is just the right size for our 1 1/2-acre yard. I also use it to mow yards for 2 neighbors.”

Ronald H. Clenney, Chipley, Fla.: “My 2002 **Hyundai** Sonata and 2012 **Kia Sportage SUV**’s are outstanding vehicles. My 2015 **Ford F-150** pickup worked great. However, I needed more power to tow a fifth wheel camper so in 2017 I traded it for an **F-250** model equipped with a diesel engine. “My **Mahindra 4025** tractor runs great. Starts right up even after sitting in the barn for 2 or 3 mos.”

Eugene Sickler, Manning, N. Dak.: “My **Deere** Mo Co Speiser hydroswinging mower is my best buy. No problems.”



John P. Hartman, Bedford, Ind.: John likes the **GutterBrush** gutter guards he uses to keep leaves out of his home’s gutters (www.gutterbrush.com; ph 888 397-9433). **GutterBrush** is a large cylinder-shaped polypropylene brush with a steel center core that comes in 3-ft. sections. To install you just slide the sections end to end. On corners, the brush can be bent to fit.

The company says the brush’s raised/rounded profile prevents the buildup of leaves and debris while allowing water to flow through. They say most leaves will pass right over the guard. Small debris caught in the top of the brush either blows away or begins decomposing and eventually washes through.

“It’s easy to install,” says John. “The company says periodic gutter cleaning is required. I did clean one section of our gutter after 3 years, but have never touched the rest.”

Doug Elway, Tonasket, Wash.: “I bought a **Stihl 660** professional chainsaw right before the company’s computerized 661 model came out. The 660 is designed for heavy-duty use in extreme conditions, and I really like it. I’m a retired timber feller so I expect a lot from a saw.”

Howard Arbeiter, Huron, S. Dak.: Howard’s “best buy” is his 1958 **Farmall 450** diesel tractor equipped with **Sky** toilet

paper oil filters. “I’ve used this tractor hard for almost 40 years but have only had to replace one head gasket.

“My **IH 1440** combine works great and is comfortable to operate.”

Eugene Sellers, Trout Run, Penn.: “In 2010 I bought a 1996 **Dodge 4-WD** pickup equipped with a **Cummins** diesel engine and automatic transmission. This pickup had been seriously neglected, but I figured it had to be worth at least the asking price of \$1,000.

“I spent another \$3,000 for tires, batteries, fluids and so forth, and since then this pickup has been very reliable. It gets used just about every day and now has more than 265,000 miles on it.”

Bunkie Smith, Philadelphia, Miss.: Bunkie likes his **Streamlight MicroStream** mini LED flashlight (www.streamlight.com). It runs on one AAA battery and is just 3 1/2 in. long, making it small enough to fit in the palm of your hand. It comes with a removable pocket clip so you can put the light in your pocket or clip it to the brim of your hat.

He also likes his **GMC 2500 3/4-ton** diesel pickup equipped with an Allison transmission; **Kubota 8540** and **108X** tractors; **Krone 10 1/2-ft.** pull-type mower; and **Kubota X11200** utility vehicle.

“My dealer had to work on this baler every time I tried to use it.”

He’s had electrical and computer problems with his 2017 **New Holland 460** round baler. “My dealer had to work on this baler every time I tried to use it. He finally replaced it with a newer 2018 460 model. No problems.”

Alvin Vandenbrink, Fennville, Mich.: “In 2008 I bought a used 2002 **Grasshopper 618** riding mower equipped with a new engine and updated airflow system. It had about 300 hrs. on it, and I put on another 300 hrs. I replaced the belts, idler pulley, and other worn parts as well as blades, at a total cost of \$269. Now this mower looks and drives like new.”

David Kozlowski, Provost, Alberta: “I’ve started using my **Mahindra 1538** tractor to break up about 5 acres of land that hasn’t been farmed for more than 40 years. I plan to plant crops on it next spring. This tractor handles my tiller, rough mower, and front-end loader without any difficulty.

“One problem is that my dealer doesn’t even carry a full range of filters for the tractor, which means there’s always a delay when ordering parts. For example, I recently needed to replace an 850 by 2800 tire. The dealer went to his supplier, who said he had a tire in stock and that he’d send it within a week. Nothing happened so I got mad and went on the internet, and had the tire within 6 days.

“Two weeks later the dealer called me wanting to know if I still needed the tire. I didn’t lose my temper, since he wasn’t the source of the problem - the supplier was. But from now on I’ll source my parts elsewhere.”

James Rissler, Hopkinsville, Ky.: James likes his **EGO** cordless 56-volt string trimmer (www.egopowerplus.com; ph 855 346-5656). “The company offers several different tools, and the batteries on all of them are interchangeable. The batteries come with a 3-year warranty while the trimmer has a 5-year warranty. My trimmer was a year old when a minor problem developed with a switch. I told the company and they sent an entire new trimmer. I was very impressed. A single battery charge lasts about a half hour.

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: “**Your First Tractor**” is a great book for anyone buying a used tractor. My only regret is not reading it before I bought my **Ford 3930**.

“Gary Brown is the lead author, but he credits his brother Rudy and son Clay. Together they have 100 plus years of experience buying, selling and fixing tractors from their shop in Georgia. He covers everything from scams to a common sense set of suggestions on what size and type of tractor to consider and why. The chapter on how to inspect a used tractor alone was worth the \$19.95 price on Amazon or direct from Gary.

“Brown covers the usual fluids, tires and brakes, but he goes into much greater detail, such as looking for signs of block sealer in the radiator neck.

“Having already spent my money, I did a retro check of my tractor based on his suggestions. I lucked out, but I still wish I had gone through the list first.

“Other sections in the book expand on common features and how to maintain them.

“Brown maintains a conversational tone with lots of humor mixed in. A good example is the first sentence in the chapter entitled Maintenance and Service: “I know this section is a waste of time.”

“Having read the chapter, I still don’t always check lubricant and coolant levels before starting my 3930. However, I do check more often than I did in the past.

“The second half of the book is a review of major and minor tractor brands with

The trimmer has enough power to cut thick knee-high grass.”

Brian Oelhafen, Allenton, Wis.: “After having success with a 2004 **BRP Can-Am Outlander 400 4-wheeler** since new, I recently bought a 2017 **Outlander 650** (www.can-am.brp.com). It’s powered by a 2-cyl. Rotax engine that has a lot of torque and just sips fuel. About 2,000 miles later the 650 is still going strong with no problems. The 400 has about 8,000 miles on it but still just won’t quit.”

Marshall Clark, Scio, Ohio: “The brakes on my 2014 **Deere 5085E** compact tractor work great as long as I pump them once. However, sometimes that’s a problem, such as when driving on a steep grade or doing precise loader work. We bled the brakes but it didn’t help. The company says they’ve discovered a way to fix the problem, but that I would have to pay for it. The tractor’s warranty has expired but the brakes have been a problem since new. They’ve tried to fix the problem at least twice under warranty, but to no avail.”



Gerald Wright, Pendleton, Ky.: I was never able to use my 18-volt cordless **DeWalt** skil saw because the batteries lost their charge too soon. Then the company came out with an 18-volt to 20-volt adapter and I bought it. It allows me to use 20-volt MAX lithium ion batteries in most of my 18-volt tools. I really like it.”



“Your First Tractor” is packed with savvy tips about what to look for when buying a used tractor.

critiques of problem models or series.

“One of the most informative aspects of these chapters is how he lifts the curtain on where U.S. tractors are actually made and by whom, regardless of the color.

“Overall, this is an excellent book, whether you’re a first time buyer or simply looking for a fun read.

“Brown has written a couple other books of short stories and inspiration that have caught on with thousands of readers.”

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Gary Brown, 2831 Hwy. 41 N., Ft. Valley, Ga. 31030 (ph 478 954-1283); or go to Amazon.com to find all of Brown’s books.

Bob Nelson, Kamiah, Idaho: “I’ve spent more than 50 years operating farm equipment, and **Deere 15-40** motor oil is one of the best oils I’ve ever used. I use it in my 2006 Chevrolet diesel pickup. With other oils I could go about 6,500 miles between oil changes, but with **Deere 15-40** I can go about 8,500 miles. I use **Deere 10-30** oil in all my small engines. I’ve never had a motor problem with **Deere** products of any kind.”

Tim Steele, Front Royal, Va.: Tim’s impressed with a lighted hat called the **Panther Vision POWERCAP** (www.panthervision.com; ph 847 783-5900). “At almost 61 years old my vision isn’t what it



used to be. I frequently find myself working under a vehicle’s dash or down in a dark hole with a flashlight wedged in my teeth, trying to see what I’m working on. The **POWERCAP** comes with 4 LED lights built into the bill, and they make a world of difference. The hat has a simple on-off button and operates on replaceable batteries. The company offers more than 60 hat styles and colors to choose from.”

Douglas Creswell, Mount Airy, Md.: Douglas is pleased with his **Greenworks** 40-volt cordless chainsaw equipped with a 12-in. bar. “I just grab this saw and go. There’s none of the mess that comes with a 2-cycle gas engine. The lithium ion battery has plenty of power, and I wear out before it does. This saw can cut tree trunks up to 10 in. in dia. with no problem.”