

**Stephen Zonies, Fayston, Va.:** “We paid \$600 for a Sears Kenmore washer that never worked from day one. Customer service was the worst I’ve experienced in 65 years. I’m not an engineer but I know that clothes have to get wet to be washed. I drove around with it in the back of my pickup with a sign on it for a while, and then tossed it in my junk pile.”



**Robert McMahon, Knoxville, Tenn.:** “The Piranha Toothbar from BXPanded is a great loader add-on ([www.bxpanded.com](http://www.bxpanded.com); ph 865 671-0083). However, my bucket was too worn for the bolt-on style. They are a local company, and when I contacted them, they fabricated one I could weld to my bucket. Normally they make them 6 in. wide, but mine is 7 in.

“It works great and has made an unbelievable difference in the digging ability of my 4-WD, 60 hp. Kubota.

“The multi-depth tooth pattern with bevels and angles penetrates the ground so easily that I have to watch so I don’t dig deeper than I planned!

“I have fields and pastures with tree perimeter, and I have to regularly push back the overgrowth. With the Piranha Toothbar, I can grab trees and pull them up by the roots.”

**John Kruzicki, Rosholt, Wis.:** “I bought a synthetic fuel additive called **Mechanic In A Bottle**, which works great to keep small 2 and 4-cycle engines running ([www.b3Cfuel.com](http://www.b3Cfuel.com)). This product has proven itself to me several times. It’s important to follow the instructions.”

**Duane O. Hansen, Sheridan, Mich.:** “I’ve always used regular gas with alcohol in my 2002 Stihl 017 chainsaw, and as a result it still runs great. It always starts by the third pull and has a lot of power. I use WalMart 2-cycle oil in it.”

**J. David Sweeney, Colebrook, Ct.:** He’s impressed with his **Metabo** cordless grinders, which include a 4-in. angle grinder, a standard nose 110-volt grinder, and an electric-operated variable speed die grinder. “I operate a locksmith business and no matter how many challenges there are in my work, I can always use these grinders to make things fit.”

**Ronald R. Shippey, Canon City, Colo.:** “The 4 1/2-in. cut-off wheels I use on my **Harbor Freight** 4 1/2-in. grinder can cut through 1/2-in. thick steel and are less expensive to operate than a cutting torch. I also like the company’s step drill set, which can be used to enlarge holes in 1/2-in. thick steel.

“In 2017 I bought a used **Chevrolet** Silverado 2500 HD pickup with 3,950 miles on it. I put on another 4,450 miles but got only 9.2 mpg, so last November I sold it. This pickup had other problems. I couldn’t use the radio because of the confusing data display. An alarm kept coming on as I was driving indicating that I was exceeding the speed limit, even though I was going 10 mph below the posted limit.”

**Leighton Carow, Edgeley, N. Dak.:** “My **REM** GrainVac works fast and can fill a semi truck in 10 min. or less ([www.grainvac.com](http://www.grainvac.com)). It also runs quiet.

“My **Brandt** grain vac cracks soybeans and wheat, leaving the ground covered with cracked grain. Also, it runs so loud that I have to wear earmuffs to protect my ears.”

**Robert Jones, Eagan, Minn.:** Robert’s 2003 **Ford** Expedition has been trouble-free. “I installed new brakes at about 170,000 miles. This vehicle now has about 176,000 miles but still runs like a watch.”

**Chris Joy, North River, N.Y.:** “I bought a new **Troy-Bilt** Pony 5 hp. garden rototiller and expected the same quality and workmanship that was built into my previous Troy-Bilt 8 hp. rototiller. However, the new model was put together so poorly that many of the working and safety features on it didn’t work at all. The machine wouldn’t even turn the dirt over unless it was at the highest setting for depth. I paid more than \$1,500 for this machine but have used it only 3 times. It’s for sale at \$400.”

**Luke Doyle, Oroville, Wash.:** “I like my 2007 **Chevrolet** Colorado 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission. I drive and work it hard and change the oil every 5,000 miles, and the spark plugs at 75,000 miles. No repairs have been needed, not even for new brake shoes, and it still has the original battery. This pickup now has about 128,000 miles but still runs like a champ.”

On the negative side, he lists his 2009 **Polaris** Sportsman 500 4-wheeler. “At about 1,200 miles I started having problems keeping the machine running. The carburetor was rebuilt and the wiring harness replaced, but it didn’t help. I spent about \$1,800 on repairs before I finally sold it and bought a **Honda** 420 FourTrax Forman. It works great.”

**James Boltjes, Brewster, Minn.:** “I’m impressed with the quality of my 2018 **Sun Joe** 8-amp electric pole saw equipped with a 10-in. head ([www.snowjoe.com](http://www.snowjoe.com)). This tool makes cleaning the branches off a dropped tree an easy job, without a lot of bending over. By unscrewing a knob I can adjust the angle of the head, which makes it easier to cut off branches that are at difficult angles. This electric pole saw cuts as well as my gas-powered chainsaw.”

**Jerry Kaylor, Irons, Mich.:** “My 2012 **Bobcat** CT225 loader tractor has about 560 hrs. on it and is a real workhorse. The loader works great.”

**Larry Bond, Sycamore, Ill.:** “I haven’t spent more than \$200 for repairs on my 1994 **Deere** 445 riding mower. It’s equipped with a V-twin 2-cyl., fuel-injected engine that always starts. I recently bought a larger Deere riding mower to mow my big 4-acre yard, and keep the 445 as my back-up mower.”

**Jay E. King, Union Star, Ky.:** “I’ve had problems with my **Case IH** Farmall 100C 4-WD loader tractor. The rear left wheel fell off twice, the pto switch went bad, and the alternator failed. A front axle bearing went out soon after I bought the tractor, and the loader’s subframe design is very poor. Fortunately our dealer kept us going, and one time even provided another tractor that we put 150 hrs. on at no charge. Most of the problems happened within the first 500 hrs.”

**Greg Kropf, Westphalia, Kansas:** “In 2015 I bought a **Masterforce** 20-volt, lithium ion cordless 1/2-in. drill at Menards. Someone in FARM SHOW had recommended it. After 2 years of moderate to heavy use this tool is still holding up well. Battery life is better than I expected.

“The same year I bought a **ShelterLogic** Round Top hoop building at Menards. I really like the design, but unless you live where there’s no wind this building won’t last long. Even though my building was

## “Best Buy” 3M Headphones

**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** “My 3M WorkTunes Connect Headphones are the best I’ve ever worn. They do a great job reducing noise and protecting what hearing I have left. Perhaps if these were available 30 or 40 years ago, my hearing would be better.

“They also let me stream audio from my cell phone or other Bluetooth enabled device through decent quality speakers.

“A single control button on one of the cushioned ear cups controls all headphone functions. Depending on how long the control button is pressed and how many times, audio turns on or off. It also lets me pause, play, advance or go to a previous track. A voice alerts me to headphone (on or off) and battery status.

“Best of all, I can take a call without dropping tools or digging through my pockets for my cell phone. When a call comes in, sound is muted, and I hear a beep in the headphones. Once again, the button on the ear cup gives me control. I can take the call or reject it, and when finished, disconnect. The integrated microphone puts my voice through loud and clear.

“3M recommends you stay within arms length of the Bluetooth device, which isn’t a problem as I keep my phone in my pocket.

“The headphones have a built-in



**Ruen likes being able to take phone calls without removing the sound-deadening headphones.**

rechargeable battery that keeps sound flowing for most of a day. They shut down automatically 5 min. after the Bluetooth source stops or the headphones are muted.

“The design’s low profile head band lets me wear a hard hat, cap or sun protection. That’s not something I’ve been able to do with most hearing protectors.

“3M offers 2 additional WorkTunes Connect models. One has all the features of mine as well as a built-in AM/FM receiver. The second has the AM/FM receiver, but not the bluetooth access.”



properly anchored, it still swayed in just the slightest breeze. The canvas started wearing at the corners and then began to rip. Lesson learned.”

**Max Gilbertson, Mammoth Lakes, Calif.:** “My 2017 **Harbor Freight** Predator 4000 portable generator always starts on the first or second pull. It’s rated for a continuous 3,200 watts, which it delivers.”

**John Kocur, Carlisle, Iowa:** John likes the **Ridgid** cordless drill/driver he received as a Christmas present a couple years ago. “I didn’t think it would hold up as well as a Milwaukee or other brand, but despite being used hard it keeps on going.”

**Marvin Hershberger, Clare, Mich.:** “It has a lot of power and has been trouble-free,” says Marvin about his **Deere** PowerTech 4045 industrial diesel engine. “It’s easy on fuel and always starts in temperatures down to zero, even though it doesn’t have a block heater or glow plugs.

“The thermostat on the engine got stuck which caused it to overheat so we replaced it, but a few months later it got stuck again. A friend told us to take out the thermostat and instead use 2 washers with holes about the size of my small finger, which is enough to slow down the coolant flow but doesn’t stop it. This idea works great except in winter, when diesel fuel runs cool. To warm up the fuel we just place a piece of cardboard over the radiator.”

**Bruce Noel, Leslie, Mich.:** “When used properly, **Liberty** herbicide does a good job of controlling Glyphosate-resistant weeds. It works well as part of a ‘systems approach’ to weed control.”

**Keith Nolt, N.Y.:** “My dad owns **New Holland** L175 skid loaders and both are best buys. We bought the newest one used with about 2,000 hrs. and it now has 4,000 hrs. The other one has about 9,000 hrs. and has required only a hydraulic oil change. The machine’s hydrostatic drives are rated for

4,000 hrs. but have lasted about 6,000 hrs.”

**Marshall Crossett, Washington, Iowa:** “I’m still using the same **Toro** Pro-Line 616 zero-turn, hydrostatic-drive riding mower that I bought used in 1995. It had about 750 hrs. on it then and now has about 5,000 hrs., while requiring only routine maintenance. It’s the best zero-turn mower I’ve ever owned.”

**Robert Lake, Lexington, Texas:** “My 2008 **LongTrac** 520 tractor has had numerous breakdowns, and I’ve spent a lot of time and money looking for parts. It has less than 2,000 hrs. on it.”

**Allen Schlabach, Fredericksburg, Ohio:** “I give my 2004 **Stihl** Farm Boss 029 chainsaw 2 thumbs up. When the saw was still less than a year old I accidentally used unmixed gas, which brought the saw’s motor to a screeching halt. The dealer totally disassembled the saw, then told me that all the new parts it needed would cost almost as much as a new saw. Instead, I used a chainsaw file to file molten aluminum off the motor’s piston and cylinder wall and then reassembled the saw. Today this saw is still running, maybe not with full power but enough for what I need. It took a licking but it’s still kicking.”

**Bill Cochran, Aberdeen, Md.:** “I get up to 39 mpg with my 2018 **Chevrolet** Trax. It’s a great little SUV.”

**Stephen Kozerowitz, De Soto, Wis.:** “I needed an easy-to-use chainsaw to trim trees along my field borders, so I bought a 2018 **Greenworks** Pro 80-volt cordless chainsaw equipped with an 18-in. bar ([www.greenworkstools.com](http://www.greenworkstools.com)). Gas-powered chainsaws work well for concentrated periods of work, but not so well when you have to start and stop the saw a lot. The battery on this saw charges fast and will stay charged for about 150 cuts. I like not having to mix gas and oil or worry that it’ll go stale over time. Also, this saw has amazing power.”

**Jack Mayer, Chilton, Wis.:** “My 1979 **Deere** 2840 tractor always starts right up and has a lot of power. However, it has a hard brake pedal caused by a lack of vacuum pressure, which I understand is a common complaint with this tractor.

“When I bought my used 1991 **Deere** 2955

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