

service, but has some design problems. "The 2-speed transmission won't shift up until the tractor's hydraulic oil warms up, which can require driving slowly for about a half mile. Also, the gauges are located behind the right side drive lever so you have to take your hand off to see them.

"I like my 2017 **New Holland T4100** tractor but give it a thumbs down for serviceability. The oil filter is an adventure to find and replace, and the air filter is jammed on top of the engine with little room to access it. I let the dealer change the fuel filters because they're so hard to access. Also, the transmission is geared so low that I use just the top 4 gears. However, this tractor is exceptionally fuel efficient."



**Timothy Steele, Front Royal, Va.:** "About 2 1/2 years ago I bought a used 1944 **Farmall A** tractor equipped with a Woods 72-in. belly-mounted mower from a Pennsylvania tractor collector for \$2,500.

"I use this tractor all summer long to mow our 3-acre yard. It runs great and the engine still doesn't leak any oil. I had been using a 48-in. riding mower but it took all day to mow the yard.



With the Farmall it takes only 1 1/2 to 2 hrs., and this tractor is a lot more fun to drive. The 16 hp. engine is geared like an alarm clock and has plenty of power.

"I had planned to buy a new Deere zero-turf riding mower, but my tax accountant said I'm not in the lawn mowing business. However, he said that if I bought an old farm tractor I could write that off."

Steele equipped the tractor with a beverage holder designed for a motorcycle. It swivels in all directions so drinks never spill.

**Dennis Schmenk, Ottawa, Ohio:** Dennis is the satisfied owner of a 2015 **Kubota Z726X** zero-turf riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. "It's built heavy and the Kawasaki engine has a lot of power. The blades are made of hardened steel and still have an edge on them, even after 2 years of hard use."

**LeRoy Brueggeman, Wray, Colo.:** "Over the years our 1968 **Ford F-100** pickup has worked hard with no breakdowns. In 1996 I passed it on to my oldest son, who used it for 15 more years before bringing it back home. It still has the original 360 cu. in. engine and now has about 350,000 miles on it."

**Nick Pedeliski, Belfield, N. Dak.:** "My **Case IH Maxxum 125 4-WD** and **Case IH Maxxum 140 4-WD** tractors both caught fire with less than 500 hrs. on them. I bought both tractors new. An electric harness caught fire on the 125 and I was able to save the tractor, but it took 4 mos. to fix. The 140 caught fire the first time it went to the field and burned to a crisp. The company won't stand behind either machine."

**Mike Schwandt, Wilmot, S. Dak.:** "After experiencing water in our basement almost every year for 30 years, 5 years ago we installed a **Waterguard** waterproofing

drainage system from **Blackburn Basement Systems** ([www.blackburnbasementrepair.com](http://www.blackburnbasementrepair.com); ph 800 392-3389). It's working exactly as advertised and has solved our water problems. This waterproofing system seemed expensive but turned out to be a best buy."

**Elaine Berry, West Mansfield, Ohio:** "I'm well-pleased with my **Stihl MSA 200C** cordless chainsaw. It runs very quiet and starts easy with the pull of a trigger. Also, it's a lot safer to hold as I walk because it's not running."

**Mike Bube, Nashville, Tenn.:** "The 5 hp. engine on my **Deere** walk-behind rotary garden tiller finally wore out. However, the tiller's heavy-built frame was still in working order, so I installed a **Predator 6 1/2 hp.** horizontal shaft gas engine from Harbor Freight. It was an exact fit and I was able to use the machine's original engine mounting holes.

"The Predator is very easy to start, and running it at half-throttle provides ample power. Also, it has a lower profile than the original engine. I paid about \$100 for it and was able to save the cost of a new tiller."

**Skip Davidhizar, Hollsopple, Penn.:** "My 2009 **Deere 2320** compact tractor equipped with a belly-mounted deck has been trouble-free, except for some rusted oil cooler lines near the front-mounted battery."

**Clint Converse, Pillager, Minn.:** "I'm still using the **DK-1 Death-Klutch** gopher trap that I bought in 1990 (P W Mfg. Co., Henryetta, Okla. ph 918 652-4981). I've tried other brands, but find this spring-loaded spike trap to be the best one for catching pocket gophers. I spray WD 40 on the trap at day's end to keep it in good shape."

**Dean Hertzler, Veteran, Wyo.:** "I buy bulk diesel fuel and treat it with **Hydrotex Arctic** diesel fuel treatment ([www.hydrotexlube.com](http://www.hydrotexlube.com); ph 800 527-9439). No worries about fuel gelling, even at 20 to 30 degrees below

## "No worries about fuel gelling, even at 20 to 30 degrees below zero."

zero. This product is expensive but can save a lot of downtime.

"With my **Deere A520R** round bale accumulator, I can place big round bales at both ends of the field or in one row in the field. It helps prevent damage to the next hay cutting and also greatly reduces the time I have to spend gathering bales."

**Bill Van De Bruinhorst, Clinton, Ontario:** "FARM SHOW is truly my best buy. Once I get my hands on it, I can't let go until I've read every page. It brings joy to my house and workplace. Even my employees will stop working just to get their hands on the magazine. Thank you for publishing such a wonderful paper."

"My 2016 **Simplicity** Regent riding mower was a nightmare from day one. Anything you can imagine went wrong with it. The grill fell off and I accidentally drove over it, causing the light bulbs to shatter on our lawn. The hood fell off, and because the sheet metal is thin I couldn't weld it. The hood ended up in my scrap pile. The mower deck fell off twice, and the left side of the front axle also broke off the frame twice. One of the tires developed a slow leak so I often had to put air in it, and a mower guard got torn off. The mower's Briggs & Stratton engine works well, but everything around it seems to fall off. The dealer did nothing to help."

**Mike Giliberto, Lebanon, Mo.:** Mike's impressed with **Predator** gas engines sold by Harbor Freight. "I use these engines

## Sprouted Barley Forage System

**Dave Cronauer, Laona, Wis.:** "We feed sprouted barley every day to our pasture-raised pigs. Our customers tell us they love the flavor, texture and quality of our pork. The fodder ensures it stays consistent 365 days a year.

"The **Farm Tek Fodder Pro 3.0** we bought used and **Robust** barley from **Schumitsch Seed**, Antigo, Wis. ([www.schumitschseed.com](http://www.schumitschseed.com)) are both best buys. The Fodder Pro 3.0 works well, and we have no complaints. It produces about 1,100 lbs. a day for our pigs, chickens and bison.

"There is a definite learning curve to producing fodder. Clean trays and clean seeds are musts. We don't use any medications in the water we spray on the trays, but we also don't reuse water. We wipe down the trays with a bleach solution and also put bleach in the soaking water. By day 6, all of the chorine has left the plant.

"We are careful to water for 2 min. every 3 hrs. If you water too often, you can get mold forming on the fodder roots.

"We experimented with different kinds of barley before finding **Robust**. It sprouts better, grows better and mats better than others.

"We had stopped butchering from the end of October to the end of May. That ensured the animals had been on grass for at least 30 days before being butchered. Now we can butcher year round and still have consistent meat."

on my tiller, lawn mower, and log splitter. They always start on the first or second pull, are easy on fuel, and don't use any oil. I recommend them over other higher priced brands."

**Richard Burch, Clyde, N.C.:** Richard's unhappy with his 2003 **Ford F-250** pickup equipped with a 6.0-liter engine. "I paid about \$44,000 for it, but took it back to the dealer at just 800 miles because it only averaged 8 mpg. The dealer said the fuel economy would improve, but even after making 2 more trips to the dealer it never got more than 12 mpg.

"After the warranty expired I spent about \$18,000 on repairs. Problems included replacing the fuel injectors 3 times, the fuel modular control twice, and the transmission twice. Also, every controller on the engine had to be changed at least once.

"My wife and I operated a crane rental service for almost 20 years and this pickup was the biggest piece of junk we ever bought. I put about 110,000 miles on it before selling it back to the dealer for \$10,000. My total cost to drive 110,000 miles was about \$50,000. That's expensive driving."

**James W. Bushby, Hawarden, Iowa:** "For years I've used **Sta-Bil Fuel Stabilizer** in my lawn mowers, weed trimmers, tiller and snowblower. I leave it in my 2 and 4-cycle engines all year long. Works great."

**Jerome Webb, Harrold, S. Dak.:** "Jerome likes a concentrated cleaner/degreaser stain remover called **Krud Kutter** sold by WalMart, Home Depot and other stores. "I had some older commercial linoleum that was still in good condition but becoming difficult to clean. I tried many other cleaners, but this one worked the best by far. It also works great to clean bugs off the front of trucks. It costs about half as much as most automotive bug and tar removers.

"**Tomcat Super Hold** glue traps are the best mouse and rat traps I've used and are reasonably priced ([www.tomcatbrand.com](http://www.tomcatbrand.com)).

"I get tired of fixing flat tires on my utility vehicle that are caused by sunflower and GMO crop residue. If someone ever produced a durable, airless flotation ride UTV tire that



**Growing sprouted barley forage year-round lets Cronauer produce consistently excellent quality pork, poultry and bison.**

The chlorophyll cells in fresh grass and fodder are almost the same as red blood cells in the meat and convert easily. As a result, grass/fodder fed pork is darker and has a richer, sweeter taste. It is also healthier meat with higher Omega-3 fatty acids and conjugated linoleic acids, which are heart healthy.

"We continue to feed fodder through the summer as well, though we do add about 10 percent peas to the barley seed. They are sweet and offset the bitter barley taste.

"We feed fodder to all our pigs, not just those that are going for meat. We hand feed it, throwing it in according to how many pigs are in the pasture."

holds air and tire sealant for \$350, they would own the market."

**Don Monsen, Cottonwood, Minn.:** "I like my 2015 **LaCrosse Technology** wireless weather station ([www.lacrossetechnology.com](http://www.lacrossetechnology.com); ph 608 782-1610). It measures the temperature accurately, and the battery in the outdoor sensor will last at least 3 years. This company makes reliable products."

**Gloria Grim, Fremont, Ind.:** "It's the best pain fighter I've ever used," says Gloria about **Steuart's Pain Formula** for relieving joint and muscle pain ([www.steuartlaboratories.com](http://www.steuartlaboratories.com); ph 877 210-9664).

**Albert Jelinek, Carthage, Mo.:** Albert's the satisfied owner of an **AgraCat 2910** tractor and a **FarmPro 2450** model ([www.circletractorparts.com](http://www.circletractorparts.com); ph 855 330-5272). "Both tractors are built in China and can do the same work as a top name brand tractor for half the price. The only downside is that I have to order parts online, but they are reasonably priced."

**Douglas L. Pearson, Glenburn, N. Dak.:** "My 2016 **Kia Sorento** has cruise control problems that seemingly can't be fixed."

**Dave Edens, Babcock, Wis.:** A 1998 **Deere 2-WD Gator** rates as Dave's "best buy". "We use this utility vehicle on our small produce farm to carry tools, fertilizer, seed, and to help during harvest. It's equipped with a full **Curtis** cab ([www.curtisindustries.net](http://www.curtisindustries.net); ph 508 853-2200) as well as a windshield wiper and heater, and I also added a roof-mounted tractor radio. The 10 hp. Kawasaki engine has a lot of power and is fuel efficient."

A problem developed after he installed his **ShelterLogic 10** by 20-ft. canopy building. "The canopy came packaged in a box, and was folded so tightly that after about one year many pin holes developed at the folds.

"The draft pins on my **KingKutter 3-pt.** mounted disk are mounted so close to the frame that I can't use a quick hitch to hook up the disk."