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C.J. Nelson, Gillett, Wis.: "I still use my 1965 **Montgomery Ward** rear tine garden tiller to put in a garden each spring. I change the oil and put in a new spark plug every year."

Dale E. Biniacki, Monroe, Mich.: "The heavy-duty clutch I bought from **Detroit Clutch Masters** for my 1998 International semi tractor is my worst buy. The previous clutch had about 600,000 miles on it and still had some life in it. But since I had to replace the transmission, I decided to update the clutch, too."

"Six months after installation I found a big crack in the pressure plate. The company refused to honor the warranty, claiming driver abuse was the reason for failure. Yet the original clutch had 600,000 miles on it with no problems, even though I had been pulling Michigan double trailers with a gross weight of 160,000 lbs."

"I can work on this pickup without needing a degree in electronics."

Kevin Bresnahan, Pekin, Ill.: Kevin's impressed with his 1985 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton 4-WD pickup. "We gave this pickup a brake job and engine tune-up and changed all the fluids, then mounted a snowplow and rear hitch on it. It starts, runs and drives great considering it's more than 30 years old. I can work on this pickup without needing a degree in electronics. Any part I need can be found at an automotive store."

Georgeann Engle, Columbus, N.J.: "I like my **Speed Queen** commercial top load washing machine. It fills quickly, does a good job of cleaning clothes, and finishes the cycle quickly."

"My **Maytag** Centennial washing machine put dirt right back on the clothes and took a long time to fill and finish the cycle. Also, once the machine was going we couldn't refill it."

Davie O. Vesely, Niobrara, Neb.: "My best buy is the 1947 **Farmall M** tractor with wide front axle that I bought used in 1960 for \$1,200. I used this tractor with a Farmhand F-10 loader for 50 years, and now I'm using it with a feed wagon. It never fails to start, even in the coldest weather. The engine was overhauled once. Otherwise, this tractor has required only routine maintenance."

Steve Lahey, Nichols, Iowa: "I needed a trailer hitch wiring harness for our 2004 Grand Cherokee. The dealer wanted \$150 for it but **etrailer.com** was able to supply the harness for less than \$30. Their website has excellent how-to information and the company offers great customer service."

James Konechne, Kimball, S. Dak.: James is the owner of a **New Holland** 8080 windrower equipped with a 419 discbine head and windrow merger. "This machine cuts fast and does a good job, and the knives on it are easy to change. However, the windrow merger has had some problems. When it works, it works great. Merging two windrows saves wear and tear on our silage cutter. But everything has to be just right for it to work correctly. We finally discovered that one of the rollers on the machine was slightly bent, which prevented the drive belt from tracking true. Once we replaced the roller the machine worked much better."

"The windrower itself has had several hydraulic oil leaks. It seems like we've had to

replace almost every O-ring on the machine, but with any luck that won't be a problem any more."

Charles Miley, Delaware, Ohio: "My **Kubota** RTV 900 4-WD utility vehicle is an absolute workhorse. It'll go anywhere and nothing can stop it. It pushes snow amazingly well when equipped with a 6-ft. plow blade, and I've even used the machine to pull out stuck trucks. I use it almost every day during summer to haul rocks, trim trees, and check our property."

"The hydrostatic drive transmission has three ranges, so I feel comfortable letting our grandchildren drive this machine in low range because it'll stop as soon as they let off the gas pedal. I'd recommend this utility vehicle to anyone."

Jan Offerle, Tyler, Texas: Jan's had problems with his 2016 **Mahindra** 1533 4-WD loader tractor. "At first the tractor wouldn't start, and then a hydraulic line blew under the cowl causing hot fluid to spray all over my legs. The starting problem continued, so I bypassed a safety mechanism. However, once I got the tractor to the shop it started right up so they wouldn't do anything."

"Other problems developed. I had trouble shifting gears, and a light housing fell off. The throttle would drop down with every little bounce of the tractor, the pto quit working, and a relay went out. Also, the loader wasn't bolted on tight and could easily have fallen off the tractor."

"A tie rod fell off and the dealer tried to charge me more than \$300 for overnight delivery of a new tie rod, on a Friday. The tie rod didn't arrive until the following Monday afternoon, so they got to keep it."

David Hobza, Edmond, Okla.: "When I moved to Colorado and needed a tractor to maintain my five acres, I bought a 1982 **Kubota** L275 4-WD loader tractor equipped with a shuttle shift transmission. It was absolutely trouble-free. When I moved to Oklahoma, I gave the tractor to my grandson, and bought a 2016 **Kubota** L3200 4-WD loader tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission. It's a wonderful tractor. No problems. Kubota dealers are the best, and I know that any parts I might need will always be available."

Charlie F. Clink, Lafayette, N.J.: "My **Stihl** 270 chainsaw is lightweight, easy to start, and has plenty of power. I use it to cut 4 or 5 cords of wood a year. The only trouble I've ever had is with the chain hitting small stones wedged in the bark, caused by skidding logs out of the woods. This saw always starts right up. It's a great saw."

Vance Talley, San Angelo, Texas: "The 1972 **Ford** F-100 pickup I bought used in 2000 is my best buy. Almost everything on it has been rebuilt or replaced, but it has never let me down or left me stranded. It's a real workhorse. Parts for it cost about half as much as the ones for newer vehicles. Judging by the wear on this pickup I think it has about 400,000 miles on it. It still has the original paint."

James Brashears, Olathe, Kansas: "I love my **New Holland** BR7070 round baler. This is the fifth **New Holland** baler I've owned, starting with a model 68 small square baler."

"I do wish the company built tractors as well as they build balers. I've had two **New Holland** tractors in the last five years – a T5050 and my current T4.100. Both have been in the shop or been worked on so many times that I've lost count. The T5050 had a lot of electrical problems and, at only about 800 hrs., I traded it for the T4.100."

"The T4.100 has about 900 hrs. on it

"The Swiss Army Knife Of Moving Stuff"

Tim and Lori Willet's innovative 2-wheeler can handle bales, bags, rocks, logs, and even dirt or gravel. It all depends on what attachments you use.

As **FARM SHOW** Contributing Editor Jim Ruen found out after buying one, the basic design is simple and switching attachments easy. They lock in place with a knurled knob and/or locking pin.

"They call it a **GATr** (Green Adaptive Transporter). It's rugged and well-built, but so well-balanced, with patented reverse-grip handles, that you can move very heavy, awkward loads," says Jim. "Whether lifting a large rock, a load of firewood, or a 16-ft. log, the load balances over the 2 flat-free tires. And the curved handles make it much easier to control when loading up or dumping whatever you're carrying."

The **Rock N Logger** is designed to pick up rocks, logs, and other awkward loads, which it grabs kind of like a grapple fork. Jim also bought a 6 cu. ft. wheelbarrow tub attachment that pops on and off as needed.

A 4-wheel conversion kit is available that turns the **GATr** into a 4-wheel cart with an expanded metal deck and wood sides. It can be pushed or pulled by a garden tractor or ATV. You can also add a push blade to the 4-wheel **GATr** for moving snow and other light materials.

The Willets have the **GATr** manufactured in Wisconsin and they sell direct. A **GATr** with the yard dolly, 6 cu. ft. tub, and **Rock N Logger** sells for \$549 (www.gatrproducts.com; ph 920-770-0001).



Innovative 2-wheeler is balanced so that picking up awkward loads is easy.



Hook attachment helps pick up large rocks and other odd-shaped loads.



Wheelbarrow tub goes on and off as needed.

and has had electrical issues with the speedometer, which were finally fixed. There have also been problems with the DEF gauge and the gear shifter. The alternator fell off but was replaced under warranty. After the tractor's 2-year warranty expired I paid another \$900 for an extended power train warranty. Unfortunately, it didn't cover the gear shifter linkage.

"I think **New Holland** should stick to building the best balers in the U.S. and forget about building tractors. I'll never buy another **New Holland** tractor, even though the company now offers a 5-year warranty."

Ron Bushman, Lemont, Ill.: "Back in 1979 I bought a used 1965 **Massey Ferguson** Super Deluxe TO-35 tractor for \$500. The tractor had been rusting away in a field for eight years. I gave the engine a tune-up, added a front-end loader, and gave it a new paint job. This tractor still starts right up and has never had a breakdown. It's my all-time best buy."

Lyle Gearhart, Carney, Mich.: "I bought 4 **CasMac** live mousetraps after reading about them in **FARM SHOW**. I caught zero mice the first 6 months using them the way the manufacturer instructs. Then I started taking a finger full of peanut butter and smearing it inside the hole at the top of the trap. After that I started catching mice. Not a great system but it works."

"I have had my **Polaris** 400 side-by-side ATV for 4 years. I use it to plow snow and for many other chores. My wife loves it, too."

Rick & Laura Adema, Barnard, S.Dak.: "We bought two **CasMac** live mousetraps, hoping they would work even half as well as the article about them said. We baited them exactly as instructed and have only caught two small voles. That's it. Snap traps and sticky traps catch many more mice than these traps. When it comes to these traps, we were the ones who took the bait."

Roman Bontrager, Myerstown, Penn.: "I really enjoy using my dual gun mig welder. It's a **Miller** 252 with a mig gun for large wire spools and a hand spool gun. You can be set up for mild steel on your main gun, but also set up for aluminum with the spool gun and gas hookup. You can switch to aluminum or stainless steel in an instant. It has a place to hold 2 gas bottles and is excellent for a small fabricating shop where you need to be flexible."

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "When we built a house on our farm this past year, we wanted to use some of the old beams and planks from a couple of 100-year-old buildings that were taken down. It didn't seem right to use modern hardware, so we turned to a local blacksmith, Doug Bilyeu, City Forge, La Crosse, Wis. (ph 608 769-1763).



"Bilyeu fashioned forged iron straps and braces to attach and hold some of the posts and boards in place."

"To attach them, we selected lag screws from **Old West Iron** (www.oldwestiron.com);