

at economical prices and I think he's succeeding. Many manufacturing companies now shop at their stores. I do think it's a good idea to buy extended warranties for electrical or 'heavy use' items that cost more."

Glenn Fisher, Homer, Georgia: "The **Branson 2810 4-WD, 30 hp.** loader/backhoe tractor I bought used 5 years ago works great and is very handy. I use the loader bucket with forks to haul pallets and the 3-pt. backhoe to transplant trees. The tractor has a 2-speed pto and a shuttleshift transmission.

"I also like my two **Farmall Super A** tractors, which I'm now restoring along with several implements that were made for them."

Ted Lacey, Trent, S. Dak.: "As a cow-calf operator I'm impressed with **ULD BP-100** contact insecticide made by **BASF**. I use it with an oiler to control faceflies, hornflies, blowflies, and lice on my cattle. It's an organic compound made by crushing the oil out of chrysanthemum plants. It can also be used on horses, sheep and other livestock.



"I started using this product about 1 1/2 years ago when a lice outbreak developed in my cattle herd. I mix one gal. of insecticide with 5 gal. of oil. To force cattle to use the oiler I put up an electric fence outside our feedlot to make a narrow alley. I then poured a 10-ft. long, 2-ft. wide cement walkway down the middle of the alley. Cattle prefer to walk on the walkway instead of the surrounding snow or mud so it gets them to go under the oiler. The insecticide killed the lice after just two days.

"Using chrysanthemum plants to control insects isn't a new idea, because in 100 B.C. the Chinese were already using them to control bugs on vegetation. They would dry the plant and crush it into a powder, then sprinkle it on other plants.

"ULD BP-100 insecticide can be found at many veterinarian supply stores. I paid \$68 per gal."

Bill Fricks, Muldrow, Okla.: "I like my **Deere 625i Gator**, which I use every day. However, at first I had trouble with the engine. The dealer kept changing spark plugs trying to solve the problem. Then after the warranty expired 3 years ago, I started using a hotter spark plug and now my Gator runs great. However, now there are holes in the exhaust pipe and a new exhaust would cost more than \$500, not including labor. The company did send me a card that's good for up to a \$100 discount on a single replacement part."

Jody Boyles, Hamilton, Mich.: "I like my 2000 and 2001 **Cub Cadet M48** commercial zero-turn riding mowers, which I use in my mowing business. I've replaced the belts and blades and done some minor work on the decks.

"I bought my **Graco TrueCoat 360** airless paint sprayer on sale at Menards, but all it did was splatter paint or cause it to run. I couldn't keep the sprayer's pump primed. I tried using it again a couple of times but got the same results, so I threw it away."

Dave Zenner, Sturtevant, Wis.: "I'm well satisfied with my 2009 **Deere 6430** tractor, which I bought used in 2015. It has excellent

power, a nice cab, and the infinitely variable transmission is outstanding for tillage, baling and spraying.

"I'm also impressed with my 2017 **Ford F-150** pickup equipped with a 2.7-liter EcoBoost engine. It has a lot of power and is fuel efficient."



Lee Wadekamper, Lee Wads Repair, Faribault, Minn.: Lee's impressed with his **Phoenix Systems** brake bleeder (www.brakebleeder.com; ph 888 749-7977). "It's designed to inject brake fluid from wheel cylinders, calipers, and slave cylinders back up to the master cylinder, making bleeding the brakes a one-man operation. It saves a lot of time and frustration for do-it-yourselfers."

Larry J. Boeckenstedt, New Vienna, Iowa: "My 2011 **Case IH Farmall 80** front wheel assist tractor is comfortable to drive. It can go anywhere and has a 3-pt. quick hitch

"The throttle lever broke within the first two weeks."

that makes it easy to change implements. It's also very fuel efficient.

"My 2016 **Polaris 570 SP 4-wheeler** failed to start multiple times. After the 6-month warranty expired I was told it needs a bigger battery, which I had to pay for at my own expense. The throttle lever broke within the first two weeks. Also, there's a safety issue with either the clutch or engine brake control, with extreme holdback when decelerating from 10 mph down to zero. On slick conditions it can cause the ATV to slide out of control."

Michael Gibbs, Albertville, Ala.: A used 1946 **Deere LA** garden tractor rates as Michael's "best buy". "I bought this tractor from someone who had mounted a 4-speed Chevrolet truck transmission in front of the factory transmission. As a result, I was able to use only three super slow gears because all the other gears made the in-line transmission jump up and down.

"I removed the truck transmission and installed the correct driveshaft, and since then this has been the best garden tractor I've ever owned. It uses only about a half gallon of gas per hour when plowing, and even less when cultivating. And it doesn't cost much to change the oil on a tractor this small."

David A. Taylor, Texico, Ill.: "I like my **Kubota 3240** and **327** tractors, **Honda CRF 230** and **Husky 310 TXC** motorcycles, 2010 **Ford Escape**, 1999 **Subaru Forrester**, and **Stihl** chainsaws. All of them run well, work hard, and are dependable.

"The second week after I bought my **Deere LA 175** garden tractor, a tie rod arm broke. The dealer said I caused it, but you could see half the break had rust on it so the part was defective. We've had lots of other problems

"Best Buy" Brush Crusher

Svend Jakobsen, Rock Island, Ill.: "I bought a **Brush Crusher** from **Westendorf** about a year and a half ago. I've already cleared 45 acres of brush and trees. It required no extra hydraulics on my tractor.

"I go in and cut down a bunch of trees and then use the **Brush Crusher** to lift trees a foot in diameter and carry them out for debranching. Once I remove the logs, I scoop up the branches and put them in a pile.

"Before I bought it, all I had to work with was an old tractor and a loader. I looked at adding a grapple to the loader, but it would have required adding auxiliary hydraulics. Just the kit for my tractor would have been \$2,000 to \$3,000 with installation extra.

"The **Brush Crusher** uses loader hydraulics. I just mounted it in place of the bucket. It uses the loader tilt and lift cylinders to gather the brush with the lower arms and crush it with the upper arms.

"I am really impressed with it. The only thing I didn't like were the teeth on the bottom arms. They were great for grabbing on, but they didn't let go. I ground them off, and it worked much better.

"I called the company and told them about the problem and my solution. They said thanks and please send photos. I see



Brush Crusher works great to lift logs and to scoop up branches.

they no longer have the teeth on the arms. It is nice to work with a company that listens to a customer's suggestions."

Editor's Note: **FARM SHOW** contacted **Matt Westendorf** and asked him about the teeth. He says he ran into the same problem as **Svend Jakobsen**. So the teeth are gone on all new **Brush Crushers**. "I listen to each and every customer," he says. "If they have issues, I need to resolve them. If we do that, we get to keep coming to work."

with this tractor."

Joseph E. Bruggeman, Taberg, N.Y.: "I used my 2016 **Husqvarna 562XP** chainsaw equipped with a 24-in. bar to fell several large white pine trees and it cut through them like butter. This saw will also cut through ash and hard maple with no problems. I bought a 20-in. bar for it, too, but haven't used it yet."

On the negative side, "My **DeWalt** cordless sawzall and 5 1/2-in. circular saw go through batteries faster than I can charge them. Also, once the batteries have been charged 4 or 5 times they won't take another charge. I sent three batteries to **Voltman Batteries**, a company that claims to rebuild battery packs 'better than new', but that didn't help."

Harold Quint, Kirksville, Mo.: "I own a parking lot striping business and use my 2014 **Stihl KM130R** Power Broom to remove rocks and debris. It starts and runs easy and saves a lot of shoveling. The Power Broom is just one of several interchangeable attachments I use with the company's **KombiSystem** multi-task tool system.

"My two **Stihl** leaf blowers are so powerful they'll move 1-in. rocks.

"After just eleven months, the in-tank fuel pump on my 1998 **Chevrolet S-10** pickup quit working. The pump was still under warranty, but I had to pay for the labor which was quite costly.

"One reason I love my 1972 **Chevrolet K20 4-WD** pickup is that the doors have wing vent windows in them. The company should never have gotten rid of them."

Delmar R. Cornett, Independence, Va.: "I like my **LockNLube** grease gun coupler (www.locknlube.com; ph 603 795-2298). It fits onto most standard grease guns and comes with a sliding sleeve that's activated by a thumb lever. Four spring-steel jaws lock onto the grease zerk, creating a leak-proof seal. Activating the trigger releases the coupler from the zerk.

"My 1994 **EZGo** golf cart still runs great. It's powered by a **Subaru 2-cyl.** gas engine and equipped with a dump bed and a heavy-duty receiver hitch. I use this machine every day on our farm. It's easy to get in and out of."

Roy David Fricker: Roy is pleased with his 2010 **New Holland 1510 4-WD** diesel tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "It's amazing how much I use this tractor. It's easy on fuel.

"My 2008 **HTP America** MIG wire welder performs great (www.usaweld.com; ph 800 872-9353). I use it with flux cored wire, but you can also use it with gas and solid wire. The company sells welding wire and a wide variety of parts for their MIG welders, as well as for other brands. Great company and great people."

Gordon Vallier, Peetz, Colo.: A **McTavish** 10-ft. work bench rates as Gordon's "best buy" (www.mctavishsteelworks.com; ph 204 746-6591). "This work bench has plenty of storage space, and is built so strong I think it could be used as a bomb shelter.

"Our **Landpride RCR1272** rotary mower is well-built and does a good job. However, the design of the shield for the pto shaft makes it impossible to grease the U-joint where the shaft enters the gearbox. As a result, the shield is now gathering dust in my shop."

Gary L. Ahlbrecht, Brownton, Minn.: "I find that **FlexSeal** aerosol spray works good on flat surfaces but not as good on vertical surfaces. The company says vertical surfaces may require several applications.

"I used this product on some downspouts and eaves on our house. It reduced the water leakage some but never resulted in a 100 percent seal. I applied several coats, but the material seemed to run off as fast as I applied it. The area where I used it is right above our front step so the leaking water is very noticeable, especially when it hits my head.

"I recently bought a can of **FlexSeal** Liquid, which you can brush or roll on. I'm going to see if that works better."

John Englund, Chester, Mont.: "I've used my **Stihl BR600** gas-powered, backpack leaf blower for many years without any big problems. I even use it to remove light snow and to clear off the garage floor. I highly recommend it."

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