

Earl Mitchell, Bellevue, Ohio: "It's a pleasure to operate and has greatly reduced my mowing time," says Earl about his 2019 **Deere Z540R** zero-turn riding mower. "I use this mower with a mulching kit that activates with the flick of a lever. This machine turned out to be a nice complement to my 2016 **Deere X590** garden tractor which I use with a mower deck, leaf bagger, and snowblower. The snowblower had a belt problem, but otherwise it's a really nice outfit."

"One of the best small pieces of equipment I own is the tank-type air compressor I bought new in 1957. It was made by **E.L. Smith and Sons**. It has performed flawlessly with occasional use, and I think the secret to its long life is that I let the air out of the tank after each use. The compressor is still in its original condition."

Jim Pettis, Plainview, Minn.: "I've used **Amsoil** lubrication products for 10 years with excellent results. Their 2-stroke engine oils are by far the best on the market and eliminated the problems I used to have with fuel quality. Amsoil small engine oil also works great."

"I've put about 126,000 miles on my 2012 4-WD **Ford Escape** equipped with a 3-liter engine. The 4-WD works great on ice and snow-covered roads, and the engine gets better than rated fuel economy with plenty of power. I think one of Ford's biggest mistakes was getting rid of their 3-liter engine. The vehicle's body shows some rust, but that's to be expected in Minnesota."

"The only vehicle I like better than the Ford Escape is my 1990 **Buick ATB LeSabre**, which is equipped with a bullet-proof 3.8-liter engine. I bought the car used at about 60,000 miles, and when I finally sold it at about 268,000 miles the engine and transmission had never been touched. The new owner ended up with almost 300,000 miles before the body gave out."

"My 2018 **Lincoln Electric TIG 200** Square Wave welder works great for both AC/DC stick and TIG welding, so I've been able to use it on several different projects. It has simple controls so anyone can make excellent welds. I have about 30 years of welding experience in industrial applications and have used welders that cost many times more than this one, but they didn't work any better. It makes excellent welds on aluminum."

"It was like getting a brand new tractor at a fraction of the cost."

Jerry Maurer, Springfield, Ohio: "My best buy 2004 **Power Trac 22** hp. tractor was previously featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 42, No. 2). It needed some repair work recently so I returned it to the company's headquarters in Tazwell, Va. They had the tractor for a week and took it completely apart. They welded all the stress cracks caused by metal fatigue, repacked all the hydraulic cylinders, pressure-checked the hydraulic pumps and rebuilt them as needed, checked the wheel hydraulic motors and rebuilt them as needed, replaced any bad hydraulic hoses, checked all the bolts and fittings, installed a new wiring harness and ignition switch, rebuilt the foot pedals, drained and added 10 gal. of hydraulic oil, and power washed and repainted the entire tractor. I think they would have replaced the

engine if necessary."

"It was like getting a brand new tractor at a fraction of the cost. This is a small family-owned company that builds tractors as well as mining equipment. Excellent customer service (www.power-trac.com; ph 800 843-9273)."

John Marquardt, Tigerton, Wis.: "My **Deere 3320** 35 hp. loader tractor runs great and has a lot of power for its size. I use it with a winch for skidding logs and pulpwood."

Edwin A. Mole, Evansville, Ind.: Edwin says his **Bush Hog 2561** zero-turn riding mower is well-engineered and works great. "I replaced a drive belt, but otherwise this machine has required very few repairs."

"My **Stihl MS261** chainsaw has never started right, and it burned up two fuel combustion chambers but I can't get help from the company. I've owned 4 other Stihl saws without any problems."

Frank Spithaler, Evans City, Penn.: Frank has put more than 300 hrs. on his 2012 **LS J2030H** backhoe loader equipped with a 30 hp. Mitsubishi engine. "I had owned a **Case IH 235** tractor equipped with a Mitsubishi engine, and it performed flawlessly. The only issue so far with this machine was a minor problem with the dash electronics, which was promptly resolved. I'm 80 years old and find the loader bucket is really handy around our farm. Works great to move logs."

Dan Flood, Toledo, Ill.: Dan's the satisfied owner of a 2004 72-in. **Dixie** Chopper zero-turn riding mower equipped with a Generac engine. "I bought this mower used from a Deere dealer for only about half the cost of a comparable Deere model. It has 345 hrs. on it. I had problems with grass clippings plugging the radiator cooling fins and overheating the engine, and had to remove the entire shroud to completely clean the clippings out. On the positive side, the mower works as fast as advertised."

"I've had good luck with **Justice Brothers** engine oil treatment (www.justicebrothers.com). I had an old auger operated by an 11 hp. engine that burned a lot of oil loading and unloading semis, and also smoked a lot. After adding this oil treatment the engine didn't smoke any more, and burned only about a third as much oil. The engine was probably on its last legs anyway, but because of the oil treatment I was able to keep the auger going for another 3 years or so until I parked it for good."

"I had problems with the 2016 **Frigidaire** refrigerator we keep in our garage. The repairman who came out says this model has factory defects that prevent it from working properly in cold weather, even though the refrigerator is advertised as being 'garage ready'. I tried to return it under warranty but was told it was working properly. I got no satisfaction."

John G. Haldemann, Chinook, Mont.: John is the satisfied owner of 3 **Polaris** recreational vehicles - a 2017 Sportsman single seat ATV; a 2014 Ace 4-WD single seat UTV; and a 2014 Ranger 4-WD side-by-side UTV with cab. All 3 models came with the same Mod 570 cc engine and accessories.

"I'm 89 years old so the Ace UTV is special for me because of its foot accelerator and steering wheel, mini cab, and rollbar. The Sportsman ATV has a lot of power for its size and holds well on hills, and I like the Ranger side-by-side UTV for its versatility."

Cecil Phelps, Ocean Isle Beach, N.C.: Cecil owns a 1954 **Ford Golden Jubilee** (also known as the Ford NAA). "This tractor may be old but it has performed great over the years in all respects. I changed the electrical system from 6 to 12 volts which makes the

"Best Buy" MacDon Draper Head

By **Lorn Manthey, Contributing Editor**

"The used MacDon FD75 draper head we bought this year does a fantastic job harvesting beans and works smoother and more efficiently with much less field loss than the Deere 30-ft. auger platform we had before."

"The 4-year-old, 35-ft. MacDon runs on our Deere 9770 combine, using all the standard reel, belt speed and header adjustment controls. We installed a header height control kit from Headsight on the draper, which adds sensors to both ends of the platform. It integrates into the Deere Contourmaster controls to automatically sense field terrain and raise the cutterbar up and down or tilt it as needed. The header can also tilt the sicklebar up and down to cleanly cut lodged beans without having to travel in one direction. The reel adjusts up and down, fore and aft, on-the-go to draw beans onto the drapers."

"We cut beans just under 12 percent moisture during the 2019 harvest and saw very little head loss, about 1/4 bu. per acre. With Deere's header we'd see losses of 2 bu. or more per acre in those conditions. More proof that the machine does a better job is looking at the top of the feederhouse. With the MacDon there was maybe a couple handfuls at the end of a day compared to a couple ice cream pails with the auger head. With the MacDon we can also travel faster than with the auger head, usually 4.2 to 4.7 miles per hour, and the inflow to the machine is always smooth. Reel and belt speed are adjustable

tractor easier to start."

Glenn Allen, Mt. Vernon, Ohio: Glenn likes his **Milwaukee M18** cordless 1/2-in. impact wrench. "It has plenty of power enough to twist off 9/16-in. bolts - and the batteries last a long time. My M18 cordless drills work just as good."

"My **Toro 5000** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a Kohler EFI engine does a good job of mowing, but the engine doesn't want to start in colder weather. It turns over for a while, then fires and dies repeatedly before it eventually will run. The dealer replaced the fuel pump and reset the engine control module, then said the engine was ready to go. I got the machine home and let it set for a couple of weeks, but when I tried to start it the same problem happened again."

E.T. Greene, Harriman, Tenn.: "I've got about 100,000 miles on my 2001 **Dodge 2500** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine, and my only expenses have been for oil changes and fuel filters. It still has the original brake pads."

"My **Can-Am Spyder Outlander** motorcycle is extremely difficult to work on, and required special tools that the company doesn't even sell. Can-Am dealers charge \$250 to install a new battery, and I paid \$872 just for an electrical switch, including installation. The motorcycle kept going into limp mode, indicating low oil pressure, so the dealer replaced a sensor and the oil pump but it didn't help. He finally disassembled the engine and then claimed it was 'worn out', even though it had fewer than 5,000 miles on it. I changed the oil every 1,000 miles."

Dave Meiners, Edgerton, Minn.: He bought a used 2005 **Deere 4320** tractor equipped with a Bush Hog loader, with 185 hrs. on it. It now has about 600 hrs. "The tractor itself works great, but the loader had problems. I had to rebuild the hydraulic cylinders twice, and it looks like I'll have to again. The Bush Hog dealer has no answers. A new cylinder from Bush Hog costs several



Lorn Manthey gives his MacDon FD75 35-ft. draper head a "thumbs up" after using it for the first time this fall.

so stalks are always feeding evenly."

"Attaching and detaching the head on the Duo-Lift head cart is very easy. Two shelf brackets hold the base of the header and the bottom of the cutter bars rests on the cross beam of the cart. The adaptor on the platform for our combine adjusts perfectly to the angle of the feederhouse lift brackets. The single-point hookup brings all the header electric and hydraulic controls into the combine when it's locked onto the machine."

"We chose the MacDon platform over the Deere after visiting with owners of both models who used them on Deere combines, including one farmer who recently traded his Deere for a MacDon. In his experience the MacDon was easier to operate, more flexible to varying field conditions and did a better job feeding evenly. After using ours for one season, we definitely agree with that assessment."

hundred dollars, and I'm not sure I want to take another chance on buying one."

Rod Thayer, Somerset, Ky.: "My **Pneudart** gun works great to treat livestock remotely with drugs or medications (www.pneudart.com; ph 866 299-3278).

"The 1989 **JCB 160** skid loader I bought used in 2003 stands up to hard use and always starts right up. I've replaced just the water pump and gone through 4 sets of tires."

"I can't find parts for my 2014 **Howse 10-ft.** rotary mower or my 2013 **Tonutti** disc mower."

Alfred J. Wolter, Breckenridge, Minn.: "My **Stihl 311** chainsaw has a lot of power and is easy to handle."

Jerry Voss, Clarksville, Iowa: Jerry bought a used 1941 **Farmall M** tractor in 1960 when he started farming, and is still using it. The engine was overhauled for the second time in 2014. "This was the only tractor I owned for many years, and I used it with a cultivator, corn picker, mower, and front-end loader. It's still the first tractor out of our shed and is always ready to go."

Howard Ashlock, Center Point, Iowa: "After trying a variety of different traps to catch moles, I've gone back to using an old spear-type **Victor** mole trap which I modified a bit (www.victorpest.com; ph 855 584-2867). Keeping moles down requires constant patrolling, but it can be done. I'm not able to set the new spear-type mole traps because they're very awkward and user 'unfriendly'. My Victor trap still works good and was made right here in the U.S."

Floyd E. Oswald, Muscotah, Kan.: "I bought my 2015 **Stihl MS230C** chainsaw just before my 80th birthday and really like it. This saw has gone through several bars and numerous carbide-tipped chains. It's easy to start and very dependable. Works great."

Dave Paul, Meredosia, Ill.: "The starter I bought at **NAPA Auto Parts** for my 2002 Dodge diesel pickup came with a lifetime

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