

**David R. Whitman, Grand Mound, Iowa:** "We like the way our 2008 Deere 9760 combine performs. It's simple to operate. However, it has a Mexican-built engine with hydro-locking problems. The head gasket leaks due to poor machining of the block, which allows the piston cavities to fill with anti-freeze. Deere changed the specs on this engine so they say it's not their fault and won't help. The same combine with a Waterloo engine has a .5 percent failure rate, compared to a 40 percent failure rate for the Mexican-built engine."

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torn down and all of them had the same hydro-lock failure. The company's block person was no help at all. I told him I would be happy if I could buy the parts at cost to make my own repairs and his reply was, 'Why would Deere want to do that?' I also asked if the shop was going to let Deere know about the hydro-lock problems and he gave the same reply.

"This was not the service I expected from Deere, and I was very disappointed. We've been loyal Deere customers for more than 80 years, but from now on we'll look at all brands. Deere is becoming just like the car and truck companies. They're more worried about their stock holders than their customers."

**Buck Trimble, Mt. Sterling, Ky.:** "My 2018 Chevrolet Colorado 4-WD pickup looks and rides great. It's fuel efficient and has a back-up camera, which I really like."

"My Kubota 28 hp. zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 6-ft. deck does a great job. It has about 1,800 hrs. on it but is still going strong."

**Lone Oak Dairy Farms, Conklin, Mich.:** They're disappointed with their 2008 Chevrolet 2500 HD pickup. "The bed is so high off the ground that it's difficult to use the space properly. This pickup has less than 100,000 miles on it, but is already on its sixth set of tires. Also, when starting out, the driver has to get the engine up to 2,000 rpm's before the transmission will shift up to the next gear, which makes it hard to get moving."

**Dan Eagleton, Decatur, Neb.:** "I've been buying Harbor Freight tools for at least 40 years, and have noticed they now provide a better choice of power tools and shop equipment than in the past. The hand tools are also of better quality, and new stores are popping up everywhere. Harbor Freight tools have saved me a lot of money over the years. Check out their new tool cabinets on wheels - they're as good as you'll find anywhere."

**Larry Wood, Waldo, Ohio:** "I've put about 1,200 hrs. on my 1995 Deere 445 diesel-powered garden tractor. It has a lot of power and 4-wheel steering, which makes it easy to drive. However, after about 20 years the engine became very hard to start and lost full power. I took the tractor to our local Deere dealer and after about a week I got a call. They said the tractor needed a complete engine rebuild that would cost about \$3,500.

I said no way, and brought the tractor back home."

"I looked the tractor over and discovered the linkage rod on the fuel shutoff solenoid had come apart. Over time the rod had backed out about an inch and the engine was starving for fuel. I screwed the rod back in place and now the tractor starts and runs fine. It cost me \$150 for the dealer to tell me I needed an engine rebuild that wasn't needed."

**Ken Dittbrenner, Denton, Neb.:** "After my Husqvarna 2-cycle gas trimmer wore out, I bought a Ryobi Expand-It 40-volt cordless power head and string trimmer attachment. The fully charged lithium ion battery lasts a long time - almost as long as it takes to use up a tank of gas. By the time the battery runs low and needs to be recharged, I do too. So I take a break while it's charging."

**Steven Bright, New Castle, Penn.:** "My 2004 Deere GT245 garden tractor equipped with a 20 hp. engine and 54-in. deck is very reliable. I use it every week to mow our 5 acres of grass and brush on very rough terrain, and the chassis and deck have held up well. The engine has lost some power, but after almost 1,000 hrs. you expect that. I use Gator blades on the deck, which are a huge improvement over the factory blades ([www.oregonproducts.com](http://www.oregonproducts.com); ph 800 223-5168). Wet grass clippings don't clump up on them as much."

**R.C. Schlatter, South Hutchinson, Kan.:** His 2007 Ford Focus hatchback has about 240,000 miles on it but still doesn't use any oil. "I've never had a vehicle run so well for so long without requiring any major repairs," he says.

**Jeff Van Lanen, Little Suamico, Wis.:** Jeff's disappointed with his Cleary 60 by 80 pole shed. "The roof leaked from day one. I can see nails that missed the purlins and water also comes in through the ridge cap. I always know when it's raining outside because it also rains inside."

**Duane O. Hansen, Sheridan, Mich.:** "My 2019 Husqvarna YTH 1842 riding mower cuts fine, but when I first engage the blades it sounds like a 60-year-old threshing machine starting up, powered by an antique Huber tractor. I think dealers should be able to demonstrate their products before selling them so we don't get surprises like this after we buy."

**Sam Jamieson, Granger, Ind.:** Sam likes his 2019 WoodMaxx 8800 pto-operated wood chipper ([www.woodmaxx.com](http://www.woodmaxx.com); ph 866 943-7209). "I own a small Christmas tree operation and also live on a wooded lot. This wood chipper works great to handle any wind storm damage and to clean up tree limbs."

**Seth Harper, Bremen, Ind.:** Seth likes the Lenox Metal Max 4 1/2-in. diamond edge cutting wheel he uses on his angle grinder. He bought it at a NAPA Auto Parts store. "I've had good luck with Lenox metal cutting blades over the years. This one cuts clean and smooth, and it doesn't produce clouds of smoke and dust like fiber disc cutting wheels do."

**Ken Hoff, Sandusky, Mich.:** "I replaced the seats on my Kubota 4700 and 5700 M series tractors with Grammer seats sold by K&M Mfg. ([www.tractorseats.com](http://www.tractorseats.com); ph 800 328-1752). The original seats on these tractors are nice, but over time their suspension system wears out. All my tractors have open stations so the seats don't last as long as they would in a cab."

**Daniel Bjorkman, Pembine, Wis.:** "I like my Timberline chainsaw chain sharpener ([www.timberlinesharpener.com](http://www.timberlinesharpener.com); 208 405-2020). It mounts right on the bar so I don't even have to remove the chain. It cuts every tooth the same and does a really nice job."

**Cleanout Bit Works In Wet Clay**

**Dale McLaen, Rutland, N. Dak.:** "My home-built posthole cleanout auger, which was featured in FARM SHOW (Vol. 43, No. 3), really came to my rescue this fall. Because of all the rain and snow we've had, the ground is saturated. It's so wet that groundwater was oozing into holes I was boring. I needed to bore 4, 24-in. dia. holes about 40 in. deep. Then I planned to pour cement pads at the bottom to support 16-in. dia. columns for a building project."

"I was able to bore the holes without a problem using a standard Bobcat brand auger bit. However, the bottom of each hole was left with about 6 in. of pure, gooey, loose clay. It wasn't suitable for pouring cement."

"I got out my cleanout bit and made 3 passes with the tool in less than 2 min. per hole. I really wasn't sure how it would work in heavy clay, but it took longer to move the Bobcat from hole to hole than it did to clean them out. As the neighbor helping me said, 'We would have spent half the morning cleaning that sticky, yellow clay out if we didn't have this tool.' He also added that I would have been the one on my knees, while he leaned against the trailer and watched me work."



McLaen used his home-built post hole clean-out bit this fall to pull gooey, loose clay out of 24-in. dia., 40-in. deep augered holes. It worked like a charm.



He has a problem with the 2017 Maytag washing machine he bought at Home Depot. "During the spin cycle the clothes get twisted up so you can't get the moisture out."

**David Gunderson, Stillwater, Minn.:** "I use my 2002 Deere lawn tractor to mow our 2-acre lawn, mulch leaves, and blow snow. It still has the original battery, which I think is outstanding."

**Douglas Camp, Rock Creek, Ohio:** "I like my 2009 6-ft. Bush Hog flail mower with the 'rockhopper' feature. This clutch system works great when you hit an obstacle. No problems."

He's disappointed with the Carlisle lugged tires on his small tractor. "They're tubeless tires with thin sidewalls. The problem is that over the winter the tire pressure dropped and the tires went flat because the sidewalls cracked and leak air. I guess it's time to switch to tube tires."

**Larry Skoglund, Miltona, Minn.:** Larry's impressed with the Drop 'N Locks frame-mounted gooseneck hitch he uses on his Ford F250 pickup ([www.gooseneckhitch.com](http://www.gooseneckhitch.com); ph 866 368-4826). The hitch bolts on under the bed using existing holes in the pickup's frame. There are no under-truck levers to pull or bind up. The operator lifts a steel wedge to release the ball and then pulls the ball out of the socket, rotates the ball, and replaces the wedge. When the hitch is folded under, the pickup bed is clear with no obstruction.

"It works great and has no moving parts to wear out. It's made by a small Kansas company that offers super friendly service," says Skoglund.

**Ellis Schrunck, Bartlett, Neb.:** "My best buy is my Big John 25-gal. boomless ATV sprayer ([www.bigjohnmfg.com](http://www.bigjohnmfg.com); ph 800 658-4471). "It has electronic controls and can cover lots of ground fast."

"The 1975 Ford Ranger pickup my wife inherited just keeps on going, with good fuel economy and very few repairs. It's old so it looks pretty rough, but it does what we want."

**Jim Chuey, North Lima, Ohio:** "My 2018 Central Boiler Titanium Series furnace was my worst buy. I paid about \$12,000 for it. I had the furnace installed in early winter but was able to use it for only about 3 weeks. I

asked the dealer to return my old furnace and described the problems I was having with this one. He told me the wood I was burning was too wet. So I bought kiln-dried wood but still had to babysit the furnace every 2 hrs. or so through the coldest 2-week stretch of winter."

"I finally bought a Mountain Mann outdoor furnace for about half the price ([www.earthoutdoorfurnaces.com](http://www.earthoutdoorfurnaces.com); ph 417 926-4136). I've been told to place the Central Boiler furnace out by the road and sell it, but I can't do to someone else what was done to me."

**Harve Moses, Toledo, Ill.:** Harve's had good luck with Blue Devil Hydraulic Stop Leak which he bought at a NAPA Auto Parts store. The company says it's designed for use in all hydraulic systems and creates a permanent seal to restore dried, cracked, and shrunk rubber seals.

"The power steering gearbox in my 2000 GM C6500 pickup was leaking about a half gallon of oil per week. I had read about this product in FARM SHOW so I thought I'd give it a try," says Harve. "The oil stopped leaking right away, and I haven't had to add any in 6 mos."

**Len Mallas, Fond du Lac, Wis.:** "Len's impressed with his 2017 Harbor Freight 4-gal. backpack sprayer. "It's well-built and works flawlessly. Sells for 50 to 75 percent less than comparable name brand sprayers."

**Mark Gillen, Sterling, Mich.:** Mark nominates his 2016 Land Pride 6-ft. rototiller as a "worst buy". "We grow vegetables in 40-in. beds and I bought this machine to till them. I removed enough outside tines to leave a 40-in. tilling width. However, even with the machine's depth shoes set as deep as possible I could only get the tines to penetrate 2 to 3 in. There was about 1 1/2 in. of clearance between the tines and the rototiller housing, so I installed longer tines. That gained about an inch of penetration depth, which at least allows me to break open a sod field. However, I still can't use the rototiller for finish tilling. I have to use our Mitsubishi 40-in. tiller to do that. Now I'd like to buy another Mitsubishi tiller, so if anyone knows where I can get one please contact me."