

Gene Johnson, McDermott, Ohio: "I've always had good luck with Echo chainsaws, including my 2015 CS450 and 1992 CS4600 models. I replaced the bars and chains on the CS4600, as well as a starter rope, but this 28-year-old saw still runs as good as the CS450 that's only four years old."

W.D. Spears, Hotchkiss, Colo.: "My 2011 Ford F-150 XLT pickup never fails to start, even in the coldest weather. It doesn't use any oil and hasn't had any mechanical problems."

Robert Emerick, Harrisville, Mich.: "It has a lot of power and handles well," says Robert about the Deere 6120 tractor he bought used. "We use it for spraying crops, hauling wagons, pulling a 30-ft. roller, and numerous other jobs."

Ken Hertz, Brush Prairie, Wash.: "My Iron Bull 16-ft. dump trailer had a manufacturing defect. Neither the manufacturer nor the dealer would return my calls, so I told them that if they didn't fix the defect I would see them in court. After a bad repair job was made, I was told they were out of paint and they sent me on my way. When I got home, I ground out the weld and fixed it myself. Also, the trailer leaks hydraulic fluid all over when dumping."

Daniel C. Johnson, Russell, Penn.: He's unhappy with his Ashley wood furnace made by the United States Stove Co. "This furnace doesn't produce the heat it's rated at. Also, the secondary air tubes don't fit inside the firebox and were constantly falling out. The tubes hold up a fiber board, which is supposed to disperse the heat and smoke. However, the fiber board is so weak that I can stick a pencil through it."

Richard Schneider, Tonganoxie, Kan.: "I own a 2004 Dodge Dakota extended cab pickup equipped with a 4.7-liter standard transmission with about 132,000 miles on it. In 16 years I've made just 3 trips to the dealer for minor problems. Great truck."

Larry Walter, New London, Minn.: "Our Honda 4-wheelers have been reliable and are built to last. A local small engine shop put an oil filter in backward on one model. It caused the engine to knock, but a decade later the machine is still running."

Andy Mullett, Corydon, Iowa: "We've had some bad experiences with our 2017 DR 60-in. tow-behind finish mower. First

Box (www.agardenpatch.com; ph 800 519-1955). It comes with two compartments, one at the bottom for water and one above it for potting mix. A company-supplied nutrient patch with fertilizer goes on top of the potting mix, and then you plant your seeds. Finally you fill the bottom compartment with water, and then watch your plants grow. The box will automatically water the plants as needed."

John G. Whitsett, Oakland, Miss.: "I've been buying Kubota products since 1983 and have never had a problem with any of them. I own two RTV 1100 utility vehicles, a zero-turn 72-in. riding mower, a 95-hp. tractor, and a 60-hp. tractor."

"I've had problems with my Land Pride 12-ft. 'wingback' rotary cutter, including a broken driveshaft and a gearbox with screws that kept coming loose. The company wouldn't help."

Dennis Wenhe, Fennimore, Wis.: "My shoulders got so bad that I couldn't start my gas-powered chainsaw any more, so I bought a Stihl cordless chainsaw. The battery on it lasts a long time. The bar is a little short, but it cuts great."

Daryl Wiegand, Drakesville, Iowa: Daryl's the satisfied owner of a 2016 Case IH 1255 front fold 12-row, 30-in. planter equipped with on-row boxes. "We're well-pleased with the ease of operation. It produces a good crop stand with even emergence."

"Our 2018 EBY 30-ft. aluminum gooseneck flatbed trailer pulls nice and is well built (www.truckpaper.com; ph 800 334-7443). We had the company mount a winch on front of the trailer, which we really like."



Francis Przybylski, St. Catharine, Mo.: "I do my own maintenance on our cars and trucks, but at my age I can't bend and twist like I used to so I bought an Advantage automotive lift (www.advantagelifts.com; ph 763 300-5730). It's rated at 11,000 lbs. and can handle everything from my 1-ton dually pickup to our family car. It rides on caster wheels so I can move it out of the way to make room for a tractor in our bay. This company has great sales people who go out of their way to help you out. It's a great lift."

John Leytem, Dubuque, Iowa: "I bought my Deere 855 utility loader tractor in 1997 with 87 hrs. on it. I use this tractor with a 60-in. mower deck to cut 2 to 3 acres of grass, and with a front-mounted blade to plow snow off our 500-ft. driveway. I've had to replace only the front tires. Now the tractor has about 1,800 hrs. on it."

Ronald Hodsdon, Pownal, Maine: Ronald's "best buy" is the 1956 Deere 420 loader tractor he bought used in the mid 1970's. "I updated the tractor to a 12-volt system, and over the years I've replaced the rims on both rear wheels as well as a broken main shaft. I also rebuilt the steering box."

"This tractor has been worked hard and put away wet. I use it to do most of my haying work. It has worn out a set of ring chains, and I had to rebuild the loader bucket after both front corners on it broke. Otherwise, this tractor just keeps on going."



Brad Allgyer, Xenia, Ill.: "We like to grow vegetables in our Garden Patch Grow

"Best Buy" Cordless Fence Stapler

Mike Olson, St. Charles, Minn.: "I've been fencing professionally for 30 years and have used a variety of staple drivers, including a pneumatic stapler. Recently I had a chance to try out the 20V, DCF5950 DeWalt cordless fencing stapler. It worked great!"

"At nearly 9 lbs. without a battery, the DeWalt is a little heavier than my pneumatic stapler. However, I don't have to worry about having a compressor close by or dealing with an air hose. The convenience beats the weight."

"With the pneumatic, we have to run our UTV with the compressor on it back and forth and up and down the line as we attach the stretched wires or netting at either end. Murphy's Law says the UTV will always be at the other end of the stretch of fence from where it is needed. With the DeWalt, I can carry the stapler with me."

"I really like the power and ease of operation with the DeWalt. It is fast and easy to load, and the 5 Ah battery packs a punch. It drives the standard 9-gauge staples fast and deep and handles 1 1/2, 1 3/4 and 2-in. length staples."

"The power setting switch and adjustable depth control make it easy to adapt the tool to the type of post and the fence material being installed."

"It is rated to drive nearly 600 staples on a single charge, but that depends on multiple variables, including wood density, staple length and mode setting. I was surprised how many staples we were able to drive on a single charge. On big jobs, it would make a nice complement to our pneumatic system."

"The mode switch gives the option of sequential use or rapid cycle. Sequential mode pulls less energy and drives more staples without replacing the battery. However, rapid cycle restores motor rotation speed quickly for consecutive stapling."

"The LED indicator provides a quick review of tool and battery status. Should the



Mike Olson says he likes the power and ease of operation provided by DeWalt's 20-volt fencing stapler.

tool stall when driving into harder posts, it is easy to reset. Just remove and reinsert the battery. Likewise, removing a jammed staple appears to be a simple process, although we didn't have a problem when trying out the stapler.

"Safety is important. The easy-to-access trigger lock-off button and the multi-angle contact trip reduce the potential for accidents. The low staple lockout is a nice safety feature for tool life. It prevents dry firing."

"Galvanized staples were available online, but impossible to find at nearby big box stores. Ordering ahead with local delivery is not a problem."

"With two 5.0 Ah batteries, the DeWalt is priced at around \$800 or about \$600 for the bare tool. A competitive cordless fencing stapler requiring fuel cell and battery is priced at around \$1,400."

Mike Bube, Nashville, Ind.: A 2017 Black & Decker cordless hedge trimmer equipped with a 22-in. cutting bar and 20-volt lithium ion battery rates as Mike's "best buy". "I use this trimmer like a handheld sicklebar mower to cut grass hay on a one-acre field. I can cut several hundred square feet of hay at a time on a single battery charge. It lets me make great hay in a relatively short time which I feed to my cow, rabbits and goats."

Kenneth Hevner, Okawville, Ill.: "My 2018 Stihl MSA 120E cordless chainsaw is lightweight, easy to use, and powerful. It can easily cut through an 8-in. dia. tree limb, and the battery lasts about 3 hrs. even with heavy, continuous cutting. No hand cranking to start, no oil and gas to mix, and no engine that can die and require more cranking. Instead, I just take the guard off the bar and start cutting."

Duane Riddle, Argoo, Ind.: "My Cobett earth-heated livestock waterer requires no outside heat, yet stays open all winter. It handles cold weather better than any other waterer I've tried and is energy-free (www.cobett.com; ph 888 699-4722)."

"My Bergman Agri-Speed automatic hitch is my all-time best buy (www.bergmannfg.com; ph 800 551-4554). It attaches to both the tractor drawbar and implement tongue so you can hook up to any wagon or trailer without getting out of the tractor cab. I've used this hitch for about 20 years, routinely pulling 40,000-lb. wagons. It performs flawlessly every time and has saved me countless hours of frustration hooking up loaded wagons. I



wish every product I've bought would work this well."

Randy Ratzloff, DeRidder, La.: "My 2019 Rubicon 500 4-wheeler has a lot of get-up-and-go. I bought it with about 30 miles on it, and have put on another 880 miles with no problems. I use it to work cows on our cattle operation."

Lawrence Krantz, Moran, Mich.: "I use my 2005 Kubota BX 1500 loader tractor to clean barns and plow snow. I love it."

Thomas Kio, Roulette, Penn.: He's happy with his 2018 Chrysler Pacifica Touring Plus minivan. "The Pacifica van has many improvements over the company's Town & Country models. It's more fuel efficient, is quieter, and is roomier with more storage area. It also has a very comfortable ride. My wife loves it."

"My 2000 Jeep Cherokee Sport has about 230,000 miles on it but still runs great and doesn't use any oil. I use it to plow snow and with a trailer to haul snowmobiles, and it also makes a great hunting vehicle. Too bad they quit making this model."