

and fun to drive. The body still looks good, and the interior shows no sign of wear. It has no problem pulling a full-size pickup box trailer. The light that illuminates the radio doesn't work, but I can live with that.

"I plan to install new struts this spring, along with new rear brake pads and some fancy tires and wheels. It won't be long before this vehicle reaches the 400,000 mile mark, but I have no plans to sell."

**Stephen Zonies, Waitsfield, Vt.:** He nominates the **Predator** gas-powered earth auger he bought at Harbor Freight as his "best buy". "I had dug two dozen post holes using a prybar and a post hole digger. The job took me about 3 hrs. of blood, sweat, and tears, after which my arms and back warned me never to do that again.

"With this auger it took only about 20 min. to dig all the holes about 2 ft. deep, although I often gave up after hitting hard packed soil at about 1-ft. deep. Our soil is mostly very dense clay below 6 in. of loam."

**Fred Yutzky, Vermontville, Mich.:** "Last April I ordered a rose bush, 3 raspberry bushes, and a cherry tree from **Farmer Seed and Nursery**. Two months later I received the rose bush, which I planted, but it didn't grow. I never received the raspberry bushes or the cherry tree. After making repeated calls to the company, I was promised the missing plants would be delivered, but they never arrived so I asked for a refund. The company refused."

**Kevin Wideman, Russellville, Mo.:** "I like my **Deere** 1025R subcompact loader tractor equipped with a drive-over mower and quick-tach bucket. It can cut brush in tight places and go under low trees where my larger tractor can't go. The quick-tach loader brackets let me quickly switch from the bucket to a multi-purpose attachment I built myself that I understand will soon be featured in an upcoming issue of FARM SHOW."

**Butch Beck, Hope, Ark.:** "Our 2019 **Polaris** 500 side-by-side utility vehicle is economical to operate and dependable. We previously owned a 2007 700 model and liked it, too. The 500 can carry two people as well as tools, and pull a light trailer. We use it to pull a 20-ft. long, 4-wheeled hay wagon loaded with 3 round bales. We also use it with a winch to stretch barbed wire and to build or repair fences."

## "The engine blew completely apart."

**Mike Grubb, Georgetown, Ind.:** "Over the last 50 years I've had good luck with **Deere** tractors, including 4430, 4020, and 2510 diesels, and a 3010 gas model. All were well-built, nimble, reliable, and powerful.

"Over the years I've had trouble with **Kohler** engines on 3 different zero-turn mowers. These were Command and Courage vertical shaft, twin cylinder engines with 24 and 26 hp. All of the engines developed a knock after about 300 hrs. of use, and one engine blew completely apart. I won't buy Kohler engines again until they prove themselves to be reliable."

**Roger Stephens, Roundup, Mont.:** Roger bought a **Wonder Wash** hand-cranked portable washing machine (available at amazon.com) to handle light loads of laundry. A hand crank forces water and detergent into the clothes.

"The machine will hold a small load



of items such as socks, gloves, and under garments. It can handle shirts, too, but is a little light for washing pants and larger items. It saves a lot of trips to the laundromat."

**Mike Myers, Fredonia, Kan.:** A **Deere** 930 zero-turn riding mower rates as his "best buy". "The company should come out to our farm and do a TV commercial on how we use this mower. We use it in some areas where only a brush cutter should go, and in other areas to leave the lawn looking like a golf course. We've bent blades on this mower, but have never broken a spindle or warped the deck."

**Evan Kyburz, Camden, Ind.:** "It's one of the best Christmas presents I've ever received," says Evan about his **EBCO** StorAway steel folding sawhorse (www.ebcoproducts.com; ph 314 436-0790). "This sawhorse is lightweight and hardly takes up any space when folded. Best of all, it's super-solid and doesn't wobble at all. I highly recommend this sawhorse to homeowners and professional contractors alike."

**Michael L. Votteler, Fenton, Iowa:** "My 2009 **Shindaiwa** T-42 weed trimmer has never failed (www.shindaiwa-usa.com). It has unlimited power and the trimmer line is easy to reload. I purchased a second model in 2018 because I have a lot of trimming to do. I can mount a rubber broom attachment on the 2009 model but use the 2018 model just for trimming."

**Peter Hellwig, Byhalia, Miss.:** "My 1972 **Deutz** 60 hp. tractor and 1988 **Deutz** 50 hp. model have never been in the shop. The 60 hp. model needed a rebuilt injector-pump, and a head gasket was replaced on the 50 hp. model. Otherwise, both tractors have required only routine maintenance."

**Rudy L. Valen, Camp Verde, Ariz.:** Rudy likes his **Sporty's Tool Shop** propane-powered torch (www.sportys.com; ph 800 776-7897). "This simple torch works with a Coleman propane bottle, eliminating the need to drag a large propane tank around. The torch weighs less than 4 lbs., including the bottle. A 4-pack of Coleman propane bottles sells for less than \$12 at Walmart."

**Charlie Campbell, Tyler, Texas:** Charlie likes his **Fenix** PD 35 tactical flashlight and **Fenix** HL 60R headlamp (www.fenix-store.com). "They're the brightest, toughest lights on the market. The headlamp has a built-in charger, and I use a separate charger for the flashlight battery. These lights aren't cheap, but they're worth every penny."

**Justin S. Greenlee, Blue Creek, Ohio:** "Our **Royal Berkey** water filtration system allows us to filter 3 gal. of spring water at a time so there's always plenty of clean water ready for use (www.berkeywaterfilter.com; ph 888 330-9593). It eliminates any worries about bacteria or parasites infecting our drinking water."

**Louis F. Lete, Danville, Ill.:** "I bought a used 2008 **Honda** CB 250 Nighthawk motorcycle with about 3,000 miles on it. It's fun to ride and incredibly fuel efficient. It's very well engineered."

## New Zealand Tillage Machine Performs Well In Wisconsin

As a conservation-minded Wisconsin farmer, Lewis Krueger is always looking for a better way to reduce topsoil loss on his 700-acre farm in Calumet County. Krueger says soil erosion everywhere is the "secret thief robbing farmers blind".

In 2018 Krueger, who is also CEO of a manufacturing company, visited a farm in Washington to learn more about the "cross slot" no-tillage planter that was brought to the U.S. from New Zealand by Gavin Porter. Krueger says it's the only no-till planter in the world classified as ultra-low disturbance.

"You can plant across a sod field and hardly see that you've been there," Krueger says. "There's no loose ground anywhere." Seeing those benefits, Krueger bought the intellectual property rights to the Cross Slot No-Till System and hired Porter as Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

Krueger and Appleton Machine began manufacturing and promoting the cross slot system in early 2019. With farmers in the Upper Midwest battling a very wet growing season, Krueger says sales were slow. However, he hopes that design modifications and a better growing season in 2020 will boost sales. He says the system is ideal for farmers with 100 to 2,000 acres of tillable land.

**Eldon Reese, Jonesburg, Mo.:** "I bought my **Kubota** L3750 compact diesel tractor used at a yard sale for \$1,700. This little tractor has a lot of power, uses very little fuel, and has a 2-speed live pto that works great for garden tilling and bush hogging. It also has a differential lock and power steering, and can go slow in the lower gears.

"My **Whirlpool** Cabrio washing machine may save water, but it doesn't clean dirty farm clothes. All it does is sprinkle water on them and spin around."

**George Vonderheide, La Farge, Wis.:** "My 2004 **Polaris** 6-wheeled ATV can go anywhere. It still has the original drive belt. No problems."

**Robert Archer, Sexsmith, Alberta:** "In 1999 we had metal shingles installed on our house by **Interlock Roofing**. These shingles are a best buy as far as material and looks, but a worst buy regarding service under their lifetime warranty. The roof began leaking in 2012, and it took 7 years of complaints to get it repaired. The company couldn't match the original color of the shingles, and they still haven't repaired the interior damage done to our house by leaking water."

**John Osborn, Huntsville, Ala.:** "When I restored my **Deere** A tractor I also installed new rings and a new radiator, and performed a valve job. This is the third **Deere** A I've owned. I plan to give this tractor to one of my sons someday. Our grandkids love driving **Deere** tractors."

**Kenneth Parsons, Brodhead, Ky.:** "My 1978 **Massey Ferguson** 255 tractor has a lot of hours on it but still runs fine. The head, oil pan, injection pump, and injector have never been removed."

**Gary Lobb, Makinen, Minn.:** "The replacement gear reduction starters for **International Harvester** 1066 tractors sold by several companies are said to be superior to the tractors' original Delco starters. However, they didn't work well for me. I sent 3 starters back to a couple of different places but nothing was resolved. We finally repaired our old Delco starter and reinstalled it on the tractor. That's what we should have done in

"Initially we built four 40-ft. machines with 48 openers, so we have three 40-footers for sale," says Krueger. "We're in the process of building a smaller unit with 10 rows that's 8 1/2 ft. wide. That frame can be enlarged up to 20 feet with 24 openers. Each opener requires about 10 hp., so the smaller machine can be pulled by a 100-hp. tractor."

Krueger says farmers are finding that they're able to plant earlier with cross slot tillage than if they're conventionally tilling the ground.

The cross slot no-tillage planter was invented at Massey University in New Zealand more than 30 years ago. Porter says farmers there used it to adapt to variable terrain and soil composition while appreciating the machine's ability to adjust depth and pressure on the go. They also enjoyed improved yields with reduced soil erosion.

Krueger says the 40-ft. unit is priced about \$295,000 and a 10-row unit at about \$94,700. A mid-sized model with 24 openers sells for about \$155,000.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Lewis Krueger, Appleton Marine, 3030 E. Pershing St., Appleton, Wisc. 54911 (ph 920 738-5432).

the first place."

**Dave Sheriff, Shiloh, Ohio:** "My **Bad Boy** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck has about 130 hrs. on it while requiring only routine maintenance."

**Richard Hamerski, Ferndale, Wash.:** Richard is impressed with his **EasyOn** magnetic, wireless tail lights (www.easyontailights.com; ph 866 889-8386). The magnetically-backed lights are powered by long-lasting D-cell batteries and controlled by a remote that uses two AA batteries.

"I own 2 trucks and 3 trailers, and whenever I needed to use any of them it took a lot of time to get the lights working," says Hamerski. "With these magnetic lights I can just slap them on and go. They're built with quality, and well worth the money for the time they save."



**Dennis M. Henderson, East Northport, N.Y.:** He likes his **Leatherman** Crunch vise grip multi-tool knife (www.leatherman.com; ph 503 253-7826). It has 15 different locking tools built into the handle including the adjustable locking pliers, serrated knife, 1/4-in. hex bit driver, wire cutters (regular and hard wire), wire stripper, pine vise, wood/metal file, flat screwdriver, Philips screwdriver, and bottle opener. The tool comes with a lifetime warranty."

**Thomas H. Black, Russiaville, Ind.:** He likes his **Deere** tractors but is disappointed with the cost of parts for them. "I was spraying weeds in tall grass with my **Deere** 2503 when grass got caught in the tractor's rear axle and ruined the seal. It cost about \$2,400 to replace it.

"Last year the plastic hood and cowling on my 2000 **Deere** 4600 tractor came apart and fell off. The company wanted more than \$1,200 to replace them."