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is not the fastest mower I've ever used, but it climbs great and does an excellent job."

**Larry T. Allen, Lumberton, N.C.:** Larry's happy with his 1990 **Deere LX176** riding mower. "It doesn't have an hour meter but I know it has thousands of hours on it yet still runs great. I installed a mulch kit soon after I bought it. The valves had to be adjusted last April, but otherwise this mower has required only normal replacement of belts, blades and deck bearings. No engine or hydro repairs."

**Craig Osmanberg, Longview, Wash.:** Craig's the satisfied owner of a 2018 **Stihl MS 461** chainsaw. "I've used Stihl saws professionally for more than 20 years and in my opinion they're the best you can buy at any price. I had been using a Stihl 066 that was the best professional saw I ever owned. The MS 461 is a medium-size saw with the same high quality, power, and light weight."

**Lynden Jenkins, Freedom, Wyo.:** He's impressed with his 2012 **Chevrolet 1-ton** pickup equipped with an automatic transmission and towing package. "I drive this pickup over the road a lot, hauling one car at a time on a bumper-pulled trailer. It handles great and has plenty of power. I can just set the cruise control and go, and at the end of the day I can get out and still walk. My body took less of a beating than with any other pickup I've owned. This pickup handles great."

**Walter D. Graham, Pella, Iowa:** "I bought a used 1967 **Farmall 1206 190 hp.** tractor in very good condition and installed dual wheels on it. This tractor has no problem pulling my 5-16 International land hitch plow, and even in tough ground I can plow in low fourth gear at 5 mph. I can pull a 24-ft. field cultivator in high first gear at 6 1/2 mph. I'm 72 years old and have owned Farmall 1206's for many years, but this one is my best ever. I love how these tractors perform."

**Martin Strook, Waupun, Wis.:** Martin says his 2003 **Chevrolet Silverado 1500** pickup has 302,275 miles on it but is still going strong. "I had to replace the fuel pump but the engine, transmission, and differential have never been touched. I'm not afraid to drive this pickup anywhere."

**Tommy Lansberry, Rileyville, Va.:** "I use my 2017 **New Holland T4-100** tractor to bale hay and move snow. Works great."

**David Reits, Niles, Mich.:** David's had problems with the diesel engine fluid (DEF) system on his 2018 **New Holland TS6.110** tractor. "The DEF system shuts down the engine, sometimes with no warning. The system went down 4 times in just one year."

**Marcus Klama, Ruth, Mich.:** "I recently bought an early 1990's **Ford 1720** compact tractor equipped with a Frey front-end loader. I use it with a snowblower and a 6-ft. finish mower. It starts right up in the coldest weather and has required only routine maintenance."

**Clinton Keeney, Creighton, Mo.:** "The saw attachment I bought for my **Stihl 90** weedeater actually cuts better than the chainsaw itself (www.stihlusa.com). It lets me cut up tree limbs and small trees without having to bend over. Also, I can cut saplings on the other side of a fence without having to go around or over the fence."

**Sam Schwer, Fennimore, Wis.:** Sam's disappointed with **Patriot Flex**, a roll-on pain relief gel to relieve muscle pain. "It's very expensive and is sold only in volume.

The label doesn't list the ingredients by percentage, such as for Menthol or Methyl Salicylate. You can buy generic products that list Menthol at 10 percent and Methyl Salicylate at 30 percent for half the cost, and they work just as good."

**Nathan W. McNeal, Kimbolton, Ohio:** "We like all our **Honda** products, which include two 4-wheelers, a lawn mower, garden tiller, log splitter and pressure washer. Honda engines are dependable and always start right up."

**Charles Jennings, Seligman, Mo.:** "My 2018 **Kawasaki Mule 4-WD** utility vehicle equipped with a cab, heater and windshield wiper is handy for hauling wood and tools."

**Coy G. Cleveland, Paradise, Texas:** "The **Ford 9N** tractor my dad bought in 1941 is my best buy. We used it almost every day until 1957 for field work and to make trips to the store, or wherever it was needed. We put about 1,000 hrs. per year on it. Despite all the hours, this little tractor has needed only two engine overhauls and repairs for a broken axle. My dad kept the tractor inside a shed and changed the oil regularly, which he credits for the tractor's long life."

**David L. Crisp, Dell Rapids, S. Dak.:** "I bought a used 2012 **Chevrolet Silverado 1/2-ton 4-WD** pickup with about 68,000 miles and just finished a 3,200-mile round trip to Brownsville, Texas with no problems. I've owned a 2008 **GM** pickup for more than 8 years. It needed a lifter replaced at about 202,000 miles but has otherwise been a good pickup."

**Michael Budd, Columbus, Ohio:** "My 2016 **Exmark** walk-behind commercial lawn mower has been trouble-free."

**John Benoit, Bourbonnais, Ill.:** "My 1978 **Troy Bilt** rototiller still has the original tires and starts right up on the first pull."

**Barbara White, Susanville, Calif.:** "Our 2015 **Deere 4005 41 hp.** loader tractor runs great and is perfect for our family farm. We use the loader bucket almost like a wheelbarrow to move soil, small square bales, and so forth. We also use it with a post hole auger to install fence posts and to plant trees, and with a grader box to level our yard and driveway. We love this tractor."

**James R. Spalding, Finley, Ky.:** "The 2003 **Chevrolet 2500** extended cab pickup I bought used several years ago has about 176,000 miles on it, but the 6-liter gas engine still doesn't use any oil. This pickup will pull most any load we hook up behind it."

**David R. Osbeck, Arlington, S. Dak.:** "I bought a **Deere Z645** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck but, unfortunately, my wife drove off with it so I went back and bought another one. These mowers have more than enough power to cut tall grass. Good dealer support and a helpful parts department."

On the minus side, he lists his 1997 **Ford 1/2-ton 2-WD** pickup. "The front end needed new ball joints at about 80,000 miles; the transmission had to be replaced; the rear end had to be rebuilt; and the gas tank straps broke so now we have to replace the tank. Also, the bed is rusting away even though we've always kept this pickup in a shed."

**Robert Jackley, Soldier Grove, Wis.:** I bought **Bolton** hearing aids in 2016, and by March last year they had been repaired 3 or 4 times but still didn't work right. So I bought \$200 hearing aids from **Advanced Affordable Hearing** (www.advancedhearing.com; ph 888 570-2740). No problems so far."

**Richard L. Schaefer, Dunnellon, Fla.:** "I bought a 2018 **HydroFlow USA** 'Eco Friendly Alternative To Salt Water Softeners'. I chatted with a rep at the company to verify



**Manthey can haul up to 1,200 lbs. and tow 2,000 lbs. with his "best buy" Mahindra. It can also handle several grandchildren at a time.**

## Mahindra UTV "Excels"

**Lorn Manthey, Northfield, Minn.:** "The fuel-injected Kohler on my 2016 **Mahindra XTV750 UTV** starts well and zips the machine around at up to 35 mph, which is great for going from field-to-field picking rocks. I can belt a couple grandkids into the bench seat and the three of us can put rocks in the cargo box, then quickly dump it with the electric power cargo lift. We've had the box almost level full because the machine is built to haul up to 1,200 lbs. It can also tow up to 2,000 lbs. using the 2-in. rear receiver hitch. I can put a hitch on the front and use the machine to push a trailer or empty wagons into a shed."

Manthey says he also likes the CVT transmission, independent dual-arm suspension and the fact that the sides and back of the 34 cu. ft. flex-hauler cargo box fold down to open a flat platform for hauling oversized materials like branches and bales. The UTV has 6-ply, 27-in. ATV tires on 14-in. aluminum wheels that provide about 12

in. of ground clearance. "I added the optional thermoplastic roof and split windshield so we'd have some protection from the sun and wouldn't get wet in the rain, and those have been very nice accessories," Manthey says.

"The windshield folds down so we can get plenty of breeze when it's hot. Flexible fabric door panels secure with clips and keep tools, toys or lunch boxes from sliding out while driving. The cost of this machine was a lot less than a comparable Deere and it has a 3-year power train warranty. I'm very satisfied," Manthey says. "Side view and rear view mirrors provide good visibility to see what's behind you when backing up or driving on the road. The lights are also very adequate for night visibility."

Manthey says there were probably 20 other accessories he could've added, including an enclosed cab, power steering, a cab heater, snow blade and various storage boxes and lights.

the unit would meet my needs. They had me send the water quality values, hardness, calcium content, etc., of my well and then recommended their S38 model at \$495.

"After 4 months it became clear this unit wasn't doing the job. The water was hard and scale was still building up. The company informed me the unit wouldn't soften water, without explaining why an 'Alternative To Salt Water Softener' shouldn't be expected to soften water.

"Fortunately, I had recorded my original phone call with the rep, and after verifying what he told me the company claimed they fired him. They accepted my return of the unit but charged \$93.57 for a restocking fee. I should have bought from Amazon because they have a 6-month, no questions asked return guarantee with no restocking fee."

**J.E. Chizek, Cuba, Kan.:** He owns a 1999 **Ford F-150 4-WD** extended cab pickup with 236,540 miles on it. "We change the oil and lube this pickup every 4,000 miles or so. We've never replaced the antifreeze, transmission oil, power steering fluid or freon, yet there are no signs of any problems. We did replace the starter and alternator."

**Joe Stannard, Bloomington, Ind.:** "I own two **Branson** tractors - a 2013 3510 loader backhoe bought used from a rental company, and a 5220 equipped with a front-end loader. Both are built strong and heavy, with no plastic on them. They sip fuel and can handle a lot of hard work."

**Emil E. Smith, Franklin, Wis.:** "My **Ridgid** 13-in. thickness planer performed beautifully right out of the box. Ridgid tools come with a lifetime warranty, so I made sure to send in the warranty card right away."

**Charles Hawkins, Austin, Texas:** "Painting my dark red shingles with white roofing paint cuts my electric bill and

preserves my roof. I roll on a fresh coat of roofing paint every 4 years or so, and it saves money on my electric bill due to less need for air conditioning and a cooler roof. It also extends the life of the shingles. With a coat of paint, the granules are locked in place.

"I wait for roofing paint to go on sale at Lowe's or Home Depot and buy enough to coat my 1,700-sq. ft. roof. The first coat took 9 1/2 gal., the second took between 7 and 8 gal., and the third coat took about 6 1/2 gal.

"I like to use a nap roller, but if you have 2 helpers, you can use a power roller. You want to make a completely solid sheet that covers the ends and the slots as well as all the granules. By the time you have done multiple coats, the roof is one solid sheet of plastic. The wind can't begin to get under it all."

"It is best to paint after a really hard rain that washes the shingles clean. You need to plan ahead and watch the weather, as you need at least 3 good days of warm temperature and sunlight for a good coat.

"I used to buy roofing paint with a higher level of titanium, which is the whitening agent. The paint companies don't seem to offer that information anymore. The more titanium, the longer it will last."

**Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.:** "I loved the fresh, farm-raised, Pacific white shrimp I bought from **Windy Rock Shrimp** in Lime Springs, Iowa.

"Jennifer and Jason Reis sell their shrimp at local markets for \$20 per pound. I wanted to try it out so I bought a small tray and took it home. The 8 plump shrimp were only a few hours out of the water and still encased in shells and tail.

"A few minutes in a sauté pan and the naturally gray shrimp had turned white with pink tinges. The firm texture and clean taste was everything I could have wished for and

