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everything from hauling junk, scrap iron, firewood, and animal feed. Fox uses the hopper in his house refurbishing business, where he has to get rid of a lot of construction debris. "I position the hopper below one of the house's windows and then throw old carpets and garbage into it. When it's full I load the hopper on a trailer and haul it home. There I use another tractor to dump the load into a big 3 1/2-yard dumpster that's owned by our local waste disposal company.

"The hopper is fairly heavy when loaded and extends forward much farther than a bucket, so I have to be careful using it. When loaded with feed it weighs the best part of 3,000 lbs. but my tractor has no problem lifting it. The hopper has a high quality paint job, and after 2 years it still looks like new."

Steve Mead, Hesston, Kan.: "I like my 2018 Hobart Handler 190 Mig welder, which I use with an H10054-10 Mig welder gun and a Hobart SpoolRunner 100 aluminum spool gun. I bought this welder to restore an IH Scout pickup from the frame on up.

"It's really surprising how many different kinds of welds you can make with this small welder. I've never pushed the duty cycle, but it always hangs in there on normal welds. It can weld everything from 3/8-in. mild steel to 14 ga. metal with ease and also works great on aluminum."

Lee Tremli, Luxemburg, Wis.: "We bought our Lincoln 220 arc welder used more than 40 years ago. One day last June the welder finally breathed its last, and now we're looking for another used one."

David Winegar, Moorhead, Iowa: David's 2013 Ford F-150 pickup equipped with a V-6 EcoBoost engine has about 180,000 trouble-free miles on it. "It rides and drives well. The engine is fuel-efficient and performs great."

John Whipple, Shenandoah, Iowa: A 2014 Deere 5115M MFWD tractor equipped with an H260 front-end loader rates as John's "best buy". "It has a good cab, well-placed controls, and has plenty of power for its size. Also, it's fairly fuel efficient and has a lot of hydraulic power."

Rev. Ivan Garrett, Wymore, Neb.: He's satisfied with his 1990 Chevrolet 1/2-ton pickup. "The original engine wore out so I replaced it with a rebuilt one. This pickup has required only routine maintenance and is still my go-to vehicle."

"My 2003 Chevrolet Impala will quit running for a second or two and then start up again while I'm driving, which causes a severe jerk. The problem could happen every few miles one day, but then it might not happen again for an entire month. I believe it's an electronic problem."

Bruce Parker, Atlantic Mine, Mich.: Bruce likes his Echo 630, 690, and 590 chainsaws. "The 630 model was the first one I bought. A weld bead wire broke loose from the muffler and got into the engine cylinder, scoring the cylinder wall so that the saw wouldn't run. It happened 4 1/2 years into the saw's 5-year warranty, but the company still gave me a brand new saw. Impressive!"

"My Ingersoll Rand needle scaler worked fine for a couple days, then started to slow down, and finally stopped working within three days after I bought the unit. I tried to disassemble it but couldn't get it apart. The 3 set screws that lock the needle attachment wouldn't stay in place at all. I bought the tool at Tractor Supply Company and they gave me a full refund."

Jim Hackney, Columbus, Neb.: Jim's the satisfied owner of a 2018 Kioti NX5510 loader tractor equipped with a cab. "It has

about 260 hrs. on it with no problems. I chose this model because it's the smallest compact tractor that's equipped with a Cat. II 3-pt. hitch."

Milton Webster, Taylor, Texas: "I'm well pleased with my 2017 Ford F-150 SuperCab 2-WD pickup. It has a lot of power and a smooth ride. With 2-WD it's easy to get stuck in mud, but I couldn't justify the cost of a 4-WD. My previous pickup was a 2004 Ford F-150 SuperCab. It had about 160,000 miles on it when the air conditioner clutch gave out. That was the only problem I ever had with it, and I hope my 2017 model performs as well. This is the fifth F-150 I've owned, and all but two of them were SuperCabs."

Luke A. Yoder, Middlebury, Ind.: "The Gehl 4635 SX skid loader we bought used in 2008 has required only routine maintenance. We're well-pleased with it."

David Irwin, Holly, Mich.: "When I bring my 2018 Chevrolet Malibu to a stop, the engine shuts down. It restarts as soon as I take my foot off the brake. However, if I take my foot off the brake too fast the transmission makes a big clunking sound, and I'm worried that over time this could cause the transmission to fail. I've happily driven GM vehicles for more than 50 years, but I don't like this feature."

Ron Lankford, South Rockwood, Mich.: "My Dremel 300 variable speed rotary tool is very versatile. I use it with attachments to cut off shock absorbers, grind surfaces, polish marks off surfaces, and cut through pvc and metal. I even have a mower blade sharpener attachment for it."

"I've had problems with my 2018 Ford F-150 crew cab pickup. It needed a front-end alignment job at only about 400 miles;

"It needed a front-end alignment at 400 miles."

electrical shorts ruined the battery and starter; and the transmission shorted out. The dealer had to rewire the electrical harness."

Walter Heckathorn, Navarre, Ohio: "In 2012 I lost my small barn to a fire with two old mowers inside. I replaced them with commercial models - a Ferris IS 2000 zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 28 hp. Kohler engine and 60-in. deck; and a Steiner 235 front-wheel drive tractor equipped with a 30-hp. Vanguard engine and 72-in. deck. Both have been very reliable with no problems. I've learned through the years that it pays to buy commercial equipment for reliability and peace of mind."

John R. Hemauer, Pennock, Minn.: "It starts easy, has a smooth hydrostatic transmission, and maneuvers great," says John about his 2016 Deere X350 lawn tractor equipped with a 46-in. deck.

Lee Dietsch, Hamler, Ohio: "My 2018 Drill Doctor 350X drill bit sharpener comes with good instructions and can be used on bits from 3/32 to 1/2 in. (www.drilldoctor.com; ph 800 597-6170). This isn't a commercial grade tool, but it performs much better than I expected and cost only \$49.95."

John Payne, Leavenworth, Kan.: John likes his Kubota L4701 HST loader tractor equipped with a bucket, forks and grapple bucket. "This tractor is easy to operate and I have a great view in front of me. The grapple bucket makes cleaning up after tree removal or brush trimming a simple job."

The Story Of A Faithful Old Garden Tractor

Larry Johnson, Ontario, N.Y.: About 30 years ago Johnson bought a used 1979 Ariens GT 18 hp. 2-WD garden tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission. He's still using the "best buy" tractor.

"I do all my own repair work so the tractor has never been in a repair shop. The most expensive repair I ever made to it was in 2004 when I paid \$204 for a new front pto shaft, bearings, and pulley," says Johnson. "The tractor came with a lot of features that were way ahead of other garden tractors at the time, such as a 3-pt. hitch, front and rear live pto, and hydraulic lift arms. It was designed more like today's sub compact tractors than anything else."

The list of attachments Johnson built for the tractor include a 3-pt. fast hitch adapter; an easy-to-install cab with wiper, defroster, heater and mirrors; and an offset drawbar for mowing.

Soon after Johnson bought the tractor he started using it to pull a drag in soft ground, which led to an accident. "While I was turning at the end of a field the tractor slid forward and hit a tree. To keep it from happening again, Johnson added a second brake pedal and modified the brakes so he could brake each rear wheel independently.

He didn't like the tractor's hand control shift so he converted it to a foot-operated system. "I disconnected the foot pedal that put the hand control in the 'stop' position and installed new linkage direct to the transmission. I also added to the back of the pedal so the operator can push it down to go in reverse. Now the hand control is used only to put the transmission in park, start, or drive."

He used masonite and wood to build the cab, which he hangs from the rafters in his barn when it's not in use. "I lower the cab until the back part clears the tractor and then pin it onto a bracket on back of the tractor that supports the 3-pt. hitch. Then I slip a pipe through holes drilled into both sides of the cab and tighten down four bolts against the pipe. The back part of the cab pins onto the 3-pt.," says Johnson.

He also made a big concrete roller for the tractor and a heavy-duty tongue to support it. The roller rotates on a small pipe that rides inside a bigger pipe. The tongue runs to both sides of the roller and is built with a pair of telescoping pipes. "I back the tractor up to the roller, slide out the small pipe, and hook it up to the tractor. Then I back up some more to slide the pipe all the way in and pin both pipes together," says Johnson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Larry

Richard Barngrover, Sr., Wakarusa, Kan.: Richard is on his third Traeger wood pellet grill (www.traegergrills.com; ph 800 872-3437). It uses an auger to move wood pellets from a hopper to a fire pot within the grill. A drip tray sits over the fire pot, keeping direct flames off the food, while catching drippings to help prevent flare-ups. "It cooks well and works great on everything from steaks to pork chops, roast ribs, and onions. I paid about \$500 for it. The pellets sell for \$15 to \$20 per bag."

Wilfred L. Krause, Bellville, Texas: "I own a 2004 Ford F-150 pickup equipped with a 6.2-liter engine. It has just over 200,000 miles on it but still doesn't use any oil. The clutch was replaced at about 130,000 miles."



Larry Johnson is still using the 1979 Ariens GT 18 hp. 2-WD garden tractor he bought used 30 years ago.



Home-built cab is equipped with a wiper, defroster, 15,000 btu heater, mirrors, flasher, and extra lights. Johnson rebuilt the snowblower.



Concrete roller rotates on a small pipe that rides inside a bigger one. Telescoping tongue hooks up to both sides of roller.

Johnson, 1740 Kenyon Road, Ontario, N.Y. 14519 (ph 315 524-8244; lejohnson35@icloud.com).

John Stuber, DeSoto, Mo.: "My 2000 Deere 4500 MFWD tractor, equipped with a Yanmar diesel engine and 12-speed transmission, has exceeded my expectations. However, the hood, side panels, and grill are made of plastic and fell off. The company's engineers must have really pleased the bean counters by substituting plastic for metal. Shame on them. If anyone has heard about a class action lawsuit against Deere by owners of this model, I'd like to hear from them (tomstuber69@yahoo.com)."

David and Jeff Shaub, Rolla, Mo.: Their 2019 Great Plains Turbo-Max vertical tillage tool "does a great job of preparing and leveling the seedbed."

Marvin Wagenbach, Tremont, Ill.: "My 1994 Agco Allis 9670 equipped with an