

air-cooled Deutz engine is a great tractor. I bought it used in 2005 and it now has more than 7,000 hrs. with only a few minor repairs. I love the Deutz engine for its tremendous torque, and I like not having to worry about a leaky radiator."

Leslie Bulthouse, Wellston, Mich.: Leslie bought his **Stihl 045 AV** chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar back in 1970. "I heated my home with wood for 30 years so I've cut a lot of wood with this saw, but it has been trouble-free. I've replaced a couple of bars and installed new chains and spark plugs, but there have been no problems with the engine."

Craig Spierling, Levering, Mich.: "I like my 2018 **Milwaukee** 18-volt cordless tools which include a big impact wrench, small impact drill, and reciprocating saw. All have plenty of power and batteries that last a long time. The impact wrench is superb and the saw is really handy. I use it a lot more than I thought I would."

Elijah McMillan, Stanwood, Mich.: "I bought my **Stihl MS 170** chainsaw just a few months ago, but so far it works great. It came with a 2-year warranty with the purchase of a pack of **Stihl 2-cycle** oil, which cost just \$17.95."

Craig B. Chapman, Mapleton, Maine: "My 2016 **Sears Craftsman** self propelled, walk-behind lawn mower works great on my steep yard. No problems."

A 2014 **Cub Cadet** snowblower rates as his "worst buy". "It always started, but at full throttle the engine rpm's would constantly surge up and down. I put up with the machine that way for one winter and then returned it to the dealer, who replaced the carburetor under warranty."

Elwin Strahm, Sabetha, Kan.: "My 2005 **Ford Freestyle** SUV has about 130,000 trouble-free miles on it. It has good visibility and versatile, stadium-style seating for up to six people. The seats fold down to provide lots of room for cargo."

Dean Howarth, Janesville, Wis.: Dean's satisfied with his 2015 **Cub Cadet** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck. "It'll mow even the thickest grass without plugging up, and leaves a nice looking lawn."

Jim Knetzer, Carlinville, Ill.: "My 1981 **IH 986** tractor has required mostly just routine maintenance. I used it as my tillage tractor at first, but now I use it for planting and mowing."

"My 2016 **GM Sierra K1500** pickup rides and handles nice. It's more fuel efficient than my previous 2013 model, which was also a great pickup."

Tom Smith, Moodus, Ct.: "I have to use a wheelchair so I adapted my **Kubota L35** backhoe/loader to be wheelchair friendly. I use this machine a lot to dig building foundations."

"I can't start a gas chainsaw because of a rotator cuff injury, so I really appreciate my **Husqvarna** cordless chainsaw. The battery lasts a long time, and even people who own gas-powered chainsaws are impressed with it."

Kenneth L. Smith, Waterloo, Ind.: "This pickup rides and handles great. No problems," says Kenneth about his 2015 **Chevrolet Silverado HD 2500**. "I think it'll go 200,000 miles before it needs new brakes."

Tim Ojala, New Ipswich, N.H.: "I've put about 1,000 trouble-free hours on my 2000 **Kubota M9000** tractor, and hope to put on thousands of hours more."

Dale R. Knipp, Tipton, Mo.: "My **Echo CS-530** chainsaw always starts and has plenty of power."

"I like my **Bobcat T250** track skid loader. I don't know how I could have kept our cows fed last winter without this track machine."

Tony K. Wright, Taswell, Ind.: Tony's the satisfied owner of a 2016 **Massey Ferguson 22 1/2 hp.** utility tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "This is a small tractor but it does a man-size job. I wouldn't own another tractor without a loader."

James Hutchinson, Cedar Springs, Mich.: Last April James bought a 2019 **Cub Cadet Ultima ZT2** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck. "So far we love this mower. It works so fast that it takes only about one third as long to mow our yard now as it did before with two conventional riding

"It works so fast that it takes only about one third as long to mow as it did with two conventional mowers."

mowers. One had a 42-in. deck and the other a 54."

A 2012 **Husqvarna LGT 2654** garden tractor rates as his "worst buy". "Within two years the rear axle broke and we had to buy a new rear end. Then last summer the transmission went bad. I decided not to spend another \$1,000 for a new transmission."

Richard Garrett, Antioch, Ill.: "My **Sears Craftsman** shop vacs have never failed me. I use them to clean up around the house or shop, and when we have flooding problems. I always keep two vacs on hand. Fine particle filters are available for this vac and they work great. I bought several attachments for the vac and a 20-ft. hose to use with them. Sometimes I even buy new vacs and give them away as house warming gifts or for anniversaries and graduations. Everyone who receives them loves them."

"I replaced all my gas-powered tools with cordless ones including a chainsaw, leaf blowers, weed trimmers, and a snowblower. I like not having to mess around with cans, oil-and-gas blends, bad gas, filters, spark plugs, and so forth. My wife enjoys using these cordless tools for the same reasons."

Jerry R. Wiese, Randolph, Neb.: Jerry's impressed with his 2010 **Dodge Ram** crew cab pickup equipped with a 5.7-liter Hemi engine. "I like how it handles. It has a lot of power, and the 4-door cab makes it easy to enter the back seat. The front seats are heated and cooled, and the back seats heated. Also, the cab has a lot of storage space."

On the negative side, he lists his 2012 **Massey Ferguson 1660** tractor. "Whenever I shift gears with the transmission under load, the tractor comes to a stop before it'll start moving again. There's too big of a gap between the transmission's high and low ranges. The 3-pt. hitch is built weak, and the cab could use more room. Another problem is that the owner's manual doesn't match up perfectly with this particular model."

John G. Bakker, Tyler, Minn.: John and his brother like their 2013 and 2016 **Summers 700** rock pickers. "They help keep our fields clear of the one crop we grow that never fails to emerge - rocks. Excellent design and construction. We'd recommend these machines to anyone."

Scott Kiesel, New Riegel, Ohio: "I've used an **LDAG Machinery** Bale Skiis

Gopher Trap Kills Moles, Too

The **GopherHawk** trap that Lee deVries bought after reading about it in **FARM SHOW** is promoted primarily for gophers.

"But we've had good luck trapping moles, too," says deVries, Crawfordsville, Ore. "As soon as we start watering the yard each spring, the moles arrive for their grubs and worms. Over the years, I tried a variety of traps. Some worked, and some didn't, but the GopherHawk works nearly all the time. Best of all, it's very simple to use (www.gopherhawk.com; ph 805 486-8225).

"The GopherHawk comes with a probe that makes it easy to find the tunnel and a wedge that makes an opening to insert the trap. No need to dig up the ground and no worries about pets getting into the trap.

"The problem with moles as compared to gophers, is that the tunnels are so shallow. So to hold the trap in place, my wife made a couple of small sandbags out of scrap material to hold the trap vertical over the tunnel. With the GopherHawk, when the



A couple of small sandbags hold trap in place over shallow mole tunnels.

trap is tripped you always know you'll have a mole.

"We couldn't be more pleased with this great product."

liner on my **Deere 336** small square baler for several years and really like it (www.LDAGmachinery.com; ph 866 889-3846).



It makes uniform, compact bales for picking up, stacking and transporting. I didn't realize how much good my Bale Skiis insert was doing until the universal joint on our baler's driveline broke and we had to borrow a neighbor's baler that didn't have Bale Skiis. Bale Skiis cause our bales to retain a lot more leaves, and they're also heavier. When my son recently bought a new baler he had the dealer install Bale Skiis right away."

Del Southern, Latham, Ill.: "We recently bought a new 2018 **Kubota BX2380** tractor equipped with a 60-in. mower to replace another model we had bought used. I think this tractor will last forever."

James Hansen, Bloomer, Wis.: "Our 2017 **Mazda CX-5** all-wheel-drive car handles and rides great. It averages 32 to 33 mpg and gets 26 to 28 mpg pulling a trailer. This is my third Mazda. I put 400,000 to 500,000 miles on the other two."

Harvey Schaefer, Chilton, Wis.: Harvey's the satisfied owner of a 2016 **Bob-Cat Predator-Pro** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 61-in. deck (www.bobcatturf.com). "It cuts great, has a lot of power, and does a good job of mowing at high speeds. It's built heavy."

Steve Auchtung, Oakfield, Wis.: "It's the strongest and most versatile little tractor I've ever owned," says Steve about his 1995 **Deere 5400 MFWD** loader tractor. It has about 4,000 hrs. on it.

"This tractor only has 65 hp., but I can't believe what it will do. I've used it with a **Deere 7000** 6-row planter to seed several hundred acres of corn and beans. We also use it to load a lot of big square and round bales, and it's a great tractor for working in the woods. I've also used it to clean out drainage ditches and to pull out neighbors' machines that got stuck. The controls are handy, and

it's easy to get in and out of the cab."

James Hilbrand, Omro, Wis.: "The **Forest King** log splitter I bought at Menards is my worst buy. It came damaged out of the box, even though the box was undamaged. The manufacturer did provide a new motor and other parts, and the machine worked okay until a hydraulic hose started leaking fluid. I had trouble finding anyone who carries the Chinese version of metric hose couplings, but finally found a company that was able to cut and weld the metric hose ends to a U.S.-made coupler."

Stanley O. Byerly, Corydon Junction, Ind.: "It drives well and has a smooth ride," says Stanley about his 2014 **Ford F-150** super cab, longbed pickup equipped with a 5.0-liter engine and 6-speed transmission. "It averages 18 to 20 mpg on the highway. I've driven GM products for 50 years but the company couldn't sell me the pickup I wanted, which is a 1/2-ton extended cab longbed model. I can't get used to a pickup that's equipped with an extended cab and shortbed. They look so lop-sided."

Harry T. Kuyper, Kewadin, Mich.: "I'm still driving my 2002 **Toyota Sienna** minivan which is the best car I've ever owned. No major repairs have been needed - just new tires, battery, and brakes."

He has had a problem with his 2011 **Deere X360** riding mower. "In order to attach my snowblower, I have to remove the deck first, which means I have to lay on the floor and work in the dark with one hand. The snowblower goes on easier than the deck comes off."

Raymond Stein, Gladwin, Mich.: "My 2019 **Massimo 4005** 4-WD utility vehicle doesn't turn short enough, is too loud, and rides rough."

"My **Cub Cadet LT1050** riding mower steers hard and the deck belt comes off all the time."

Jerry Hon, Florence, Ind.: Jerry nominates his **New Holland BR750** round baler as his "worst buy". "The pickup on this baler vibrates up and down so much that I can't operate the tractor pto at its normal speed. The vibration is so bad that some of the bars have broken. The pickup has only one counter balance instead of two like on newer balers. Also, the baler cuts the string too short for the next bale."