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Mark Nolan, Danville, Ky.: Mark likes his 15-ft. **Krone** 46T rotary rake. "I bought it new 3 years ago and have had no problems. It rakes clean in any hay conditions. It's engineered well and makes perfect windrows in thick, thin, wet or dry conditions, without dragging dirt and thatch into the windrows like wheel rakes can."

Neal S. McCleary, Elkton, Md.: Neal's worst buy is a 2017 **New Holland** 163 Four Star hay tedder. "All four wheels went bad because there was no grease on the bearings. The dealer said it was the first he had ever heard of and packed the new bearings with grease. The tongue is too short and broke off the guards. The tines cut into my tractor tires."

Rodney Keith Parmley, Monticello, Ky.: "After 15 months the seal failed on my **LG** Refrigerator. Their manual states a 7 year warranty on the seal system. Long story short they avoided repairing or replacing the seal. Since I don't lie I sold it at auction with the truth written on it. I paid \$2,400 and sold it for \$25. I will never buy another LG product again."

Wayne Harley, New Brighton, Penn.: Wayne's best buys are his 2018 **Massey Ferguson** 2606H and his 2018 **Woods** Batwing 15.50 mower. "The Massey is well-built. The 3-cyl. Perkins diesel has lots of power, and with 4-WD will do anything we want it to. The Woods Batwing does a great job and is built heavy-duty. Both have great warranties and are best buys."

"On the negative side is my 2012 **Swisher** Trim-n-mow wheeled string trimmer, purchased at Tractor Supply Company. I bought it to mow under trees in our orchard and it would cover me with grass trimmings. It should have more shielding. It was hard to start. The sealed bearings seized up and the engine shaft sheared."

Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.: "While I am not a farmer I use the Best and Worst buys to make smart purchases. After reading a few good reviews of the **Ryobi** 18-volt tools in FARM SHOW, I purchased a multi-tool kit from Home Depot. So far, I have been very impressed. The tools have more than enough power for the average non-commercial user, although the circular saw is a bit lightweight and binds easily. The reciprocating saw works well and the drills are very good."

"I am also a big fan of the security products from **Wyze** (www.wyze.com). I've had two of their \$25 indoor cameras placed outside my home for a year now with no problems. Their Wi-Fi outlets, motion sensors, and light bulbs also work very well. Their contact sensors are a great buy and work well, but sometimes need a little extra adhesion as they tend to fall off doors and windows over time. But the price can't be beat. If you are new to Wi-Fi security and automation, Wyze products are easy to set up and use."

"Last year I purchased a **Snapper** 58-volt electric 21-in. push mower for my small yard. It has more than enough battery power to mow for over 45 min., and afterward I can clean up with the 58-volt blower using the same battery without recharging. I have used it for over a year and it's held up well. My only complaint is the wheels and the hardware that attach them to the deck are cheap."

"**Pocket Juice** batteries that replace 6Ah, 20-volt OEM DeWalt batteries are a good alternative. At \$65 each, or \$60 each for two or more, these batteries perform as well as OEM at about half the full retail cost." (Juice, 7165 E. Co Road 800N, Mooreland, Ind. 47360; ph 260 228-1619).

S. R. Flournoy, Crosbyton, Texas: "A reader earlier reported mice problems in two vehicles. Mice are not selective, they cause problems everywhere. I had a garage that got heavily infected with mice. I tried poisons but that didn't phase them. They ate a hole in the plastic poison bucket. They also got into my tractor cab doing considerable damage. They even got the poison blocks and built a nest in them. Then I noticed an article in FARM SHOW about **Rataway** (www.rataway.com; ph 805 646-2177). I had tried everything else so I tried it. It doesn't kill mice but repels them. After using it in my garage, I have no mice and no signs of mice. It also worked in my tractor cab. I now use it

"After using it in my garage, I have no mice."

in my vehicles. I spray it on the motors, being sure to cover all wiring. I spray everything every 2 or 3 months. I have had no problems with mice since using this product."

Richard Streib, Fuquay Varina, N.C.: "In FARM SHOW Vol. 44 No. 3, there was an article about book repair by **Viking Book Repair** (ph 320 491-8514; vikingbk@gctel.net). I sent in a family heirloom book published in 1892 that needed extensive repair. Dan did a superb job repairing this book. Now I can hold it and read it."

Olen Mast, Horsecave, Ky.: Olen's best buy is his Ultimate EZ Bottle Milker from **EZ Animal Products** (www.udderlyez.com; ph 859 368-9509). "We purchased this milker because we had a goat with small teats. It was easy to set up and had clear instructions. The company was easy to deal with. Ours is set up with an inverter and battery. A 6.0 Ah battery lasts a week for one goat."

Gary Parsch, Hope, Mich.: "I bought a **Greenworks** EGO 56-volt chainsaw and weed string trimmer on the recommendation of my son-in-law. Both work great, are high quality and should last for years. The saw and trimmer both have plenty of power. I have two batteries and chargers. They get a lot of use on my 30 acres. 56-volt packs a lot of power and has the benefit of no fuel or pull starting."

Marvin Martin, Elkton, Ky.: "On the negative side, my **LockNube** grease coupler was disappointing in that it broke on the first zerk that was totally stopped up. It claims that it's rated for 10,000 psi, but I was only using an old hand-pump grease gun. It's also too bulky for tight spaces, though that's unavoidable with the bulk needed to make it releasable. On the plus side, no more yanking zerk out of their threads, and the extra jaw set that comes with it is easy to install."

Joe Cegielski, River Falls, Wis.: "In 1983 I bought a **McColloch** 1010S chainsaw and retired it in 2006. I cut 200 plus cords of wood with it. I replaced the bar and chains but everything else was maintenance-free. Now I have two **Stihl** saws, a 311 which is a 3-pull start, and a 170 which is an 8 to 9 pull start. Both perform well."

"My **Schumacher** Battery Maintainer, model SEM1562A, was another story. I put it on my Goldwing motorcycle with a one-year-old battery in November. In early April, when I went to start it, the battery was dead, yet the green light on the charger was on all winter and I checked it weekly. I threw the charger in the trash after that."

Wayne Wangsness, Decorah, Iowa: Wayne's best buy is a **Kencove** 24 electric fencer with remote he purchased in 2016.

Tough Billboard Tarps

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "Used billboard tarps are tough beyond belief. When I did an article on recycled billboard tarps 14 years ago (Vol. 30, No. 6), Sky Group, Inc. (still in business at www.billboardtarps.com) sent me a 14 by 44-ft. sample. I put it to immediate use covering a trailer load of wood chips being used for landscaping."

"When the chip pile was gone, I cut out a piece of tarp and used it as a base for a straw bale house for my dog, with another piece to cover a wood pile. Other pieces were put to various uses over the years until we moved in 2016. Among the things we took along to our new home were pieces of billboard tarp, lots of them."

"Once again they were put to work, this time as weed barriers in garden paths. So-called weed blocking landscape fabric doesn't always block weeds, but nothing comes through this heavy-duty plastic."

"This fall we pulled up all the pieces. They were still nearly as solid and durable as the day the original tarp arrived."

"Once again they were trimmed to be laid as a 3-ft. wide mat, this time beneath our 6-ft. deer fence. I had previously cut pine logs to lie along the outside and inside of the fence. I want to be able to use a string trimmer to control weeds growing up by the fence. Trimming around a netting fence is always a pain, but trimming alongside a log is easy. However, if weeds grow up between the logs, that will be a bigger pain."

"I pulled the larger outside logs parallel to the fence and then rolled them over the



Ruen uses 3-ft. wide billboard tarp mats, hued down by logs, to control weeds alongside deer fence.

outside edge of the tarp. Smaller diameter logs were set on the inside of the fence over the tarp pieces laid underneath the fence line."

"I know the logs will gradually rot away. I halfway expect that when they do, the billboard tarp plastic will still be there, doing its job as it has for the past 14 years."

"This fencer is not easily grounded out, and the remote makes fixing it much easier because you can shut off the fencer from anywhere along the fence. Thus you can walk the fence, find the short, shut off the fencer while you fix the short, and then turn the sensor back on and ascertain whether you have found the only problem. Over the years this has saved hours of time. The fencer 'on light' is bright enough to easily see whether the fence is working, and the shock it gives is sufficient to keep the animals in place."

Jeffrey Johnson, Dassel, Minn.: "My worst buy is a **Cub Cadet** LTX 1050 with Hydro Gear rear end. I bought it new in 2012 so I would not have to fix my old Cubs and Ford anymore. After 360 hrs. the rear end went out so that it would not even go up a little slope, and had no reverse. I have heard of others who've had this same problem. There is a recall, but very specific as to serial number. No more Hydro Gear rear ends for me."

Dennis Fox, Taloga, Okla.: "My worst buy recently was a pair of **Wells Lamont** gloves. After the second or third day of use, the stitching started to break and they fell apart."

Earl Jones, Harpers Ferry, Iowa: "I own two **2000 Poulan** chainsaws, one equipped with a 16-in. blade and the other a 20-in. blade. Both saws still start by the third pull. However, last year I couldn't keep the 16-in. model running so I had a repair shop look it over. They charged me \$20, and soon after I brought the saw home the same problem happened again. The problem turned out to be that the vent in the gas cap was plugged up."

Lee Vangsness, Decorah, Iowa: Lee's the satisfied owner of a 2018 **New Holland** T6.155 loader tractor. "It has about 800 trouble-free hours on it, and was less expensive than comparable models."

Thomas Dart, Northport, Ala.: "I use my 2018 **Kubota** L3901 tractor to maintain

gardens and wildlife food plots. It has more than 150 hrs. on it with no problems."

"My 2017 **Troy Bilt** Horse rear tine garden tiller has never worked right. The first time I tried to use it, the transmission snapped inside the case. I bought it online, and now the company tells me I have to ship it for repairs."

Richard Durham, Geddes, S. Dak.: "I bought a used 1973 **Chevrolet** 1-ton pickup and used it for 15 years to pull a 24-ft. trailer. My only cost all that time was for new tires and a battery."

"I'm still driving the 1974 **International** pickup I bought new, and everything on it is original. One time it took first place at a truck show."

Tom Byram, Gobles, Mich.: "I bought a new 2018 **Mahindra** 1526 4-WD tractor equipped with a shuttle shift transmission to replace my 1960 **Massey Ferguson**. This tractor is tough as nails and can go almost anywhere. It's also easy on fuel."

Norman Meuffel, Eudora, Kan.: Norman's had problems with his 2017 **Case IH** RB465 round baler. "While making the first 275 bales with it I had to replace 8 bearings and 2 belts. Fortunately, my dealer was able to make all the necessary repairs under warranty."

Ron Parker, Onalaska, Wis.: "My **Munckhof** tower sprayer has really made a difference in my small orchard. It gives me the advantages of a tower sprayer in a compact tractor package (www.munckhof.com; ph 250 498-4426).

"I was using a 50-gal. tank with a 6-roller pump on the pto and a high-pressure gun. I could dial the pressure up from 15 to 300 psi and go from a mist when barely triggering to a stream when triggering hard. I got pretty good coverage up to 10 to 12 ft. away, but at farther distances, it was like a fire hose."

"Even distribution of spray is important in my high-density, tall spindle system orchard. I have about 600 trees on 2/3 of an acre. My