

the cab. I finally installed an aftermarket fuel pump outside the fuel tank, which solved the problem. I've since replaced the fuel pump once."

Reuben Swarey, Henry, Tenn.: A Deere 6675 skid loader equipped with a Yanmar engine rates as Reuben's "best buy". "It has about 20,000 hrs. on it with no major problems, and always starts even in the coldest weather. All I've replaced are the starter, battery, and parking brake. I wish they still made equipment as tough as this. It was built by New Holland to Deere specs.

"We have 15 different Chevy vehicles including vans, pickups, and semi trucks. We also own Dodge trucks. We do most of our own repair work and avoid buying Chinese-made or rebuilt products from auto stores such as O'Reillys, Autozone, and Advance Auto. That includes pumps, steering, and brake components. However, we do still buy starters and alternators from NAPA stores."

Charlie Benson, Turtlepoint, Penn.: "I've used my 12-year-old Stihl MS390 Wood Boss chainsaw to cut 50 to 80 cords of firewood per year, much of it for sale. Exterior pieces have been replaced from time to time after someone accidentally dropped the saw, but otherwise this saw has needed only routine maintenance.

"My 4-year-old Leatherman Sidekick pocket-size Multi-tool is still going strong even though it has taken a lot of abuse. I've used it to cut heavier wire than it's designed for, to build fence, to sharpen pencils, and much more."



Daniel Troyer, Crofton, Ky.: "If my Mahindra 7520 tractor wasn't moving, I couldn't turn the front wheels on it at all. The dealer did nothing to help, so I got rid of it. No more Mahindras for me."

Joan Wilson, W. Va.: "My 2011 Poulan 18-in. chainsaw has seen moderate to heavy use but is still going strong.

"Far and away my worst buy is my Maytag washing machine. It broke down after just two years of moderate use by our 2-person family."

Marie Niesen, Clayton, Wis.: "My 2019 Deere 320G skid loader has a longer reach than the 2006 Deere 320 we previously owned. It also has a back-up camera, which I really like."

Chris Kliment, Prague, Neb.: Chris is the satisfied owner of an early 1990's Vermeer 605 J round baler. "It does a really nice job for an old baler. A spring broke and a couple bearings were replaced, but that's just routine maintenance."

Herman Gander, Kellogg, Minn.: "It has a lot of hours on it but is very reliable and still runs perfect," says Herman about his 1998 Dixon zero-turn riding mower equipped with a Kohler engine.

David McClure, Three Springs, Penn.: His 1994 Dodge Ram pickup has more than 200,000 miles on it while requiring only routine maintenance. "I was so pleased with this pickup that in 2019 I bought a used 1997 Ram with just 16,000 miles on it. I hope it lasts as long as the 1994 model."

Lloyd E. Conover, Bedford, Ind.: Lloyd likes his Husqvarna cordless chainsaw, leaf blower, and string trimmer. "All these tools use the same interchangeable 36-volt lithium-ion battery, so we always keep a backup battery on the charger. The battery provides 20 to 30 min. of operating time. We also have a spare charger."

Reggie Davis, Losantville, Ind.: Reggie

likes Schaeffer's Penetro 90 penetrating oil (www.Schaefferoil.com; ph 800 325-9962). "It puts the competitors to shame, including Deep Creep and PB Blaster. It will stay in place even with heat. I don't like the smell of PB Blaster, and heat evaporates it."

Terry Hill, Ceresco, Mich.: Terry is disappointed with plastic step-in electric fence posts he bought at Tractor Supply Co. "These posts get brittle and snap off, sometimes during the first season of use. We had a 50 percent failure rate of the posts within two years. They're absolute junk. We've used Dare Products plastic posts for more than 10 years, and 95 percent of them are still in use." (www.dareproducts.com; ph 800 922-3273).

Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.: "Shoveling snow is a required hobby for us in the winter. Last year I bit the bullet and spent \$50 on a better snow shovel for our large driveway. I have an Ariens snowblower to work the heavy snow but shovels make quick work of light snow.

The Snowplow Snow pusher (www.jmenterprises.com) is a shovel with a polyethylene blade. Made in the USA this shovel works well in all conditions, is light and has held up well. Snow does not stick to the shovel near as much as with metal shovels. It's light and easy to use. They cost more money but have proven to be worth it."



Robert Heiser, Hot Springs, S. Dak.: "I like my 1999 Deere 4600 4-WD tractor with cab. All I've replaced is the seat, a battery cable, and 2 door cylinders. Great tractor."

Rob Wodzinski, Iron River, Mich.: "My 2008 Deere 3022 tractor has run very well without any major problems since I purchased it. We got our money's worth.

"My worst buy products recently are Atomic Beam security lights and flashlight. The commercial for the flashlight showed it dropped from a helicopter without a scratch but mine fell off the bumper of my truck onto the gravel and the lens came out. The Atomic Angel security light only worked until the first heavy rain, when it filled up with water and never worked again."

Marvin Troyer, La Jara, Colo.: "I bought a used 2004 Bobcat A300 skid loader mostly because it has all-wheel steer. In our dry, windy climate a conventional skid loader scuffs up a lot of dirt while turning, but with all-wheel-steer that doesn't happen. Also, all-wheel-steer produces a much smoother ride. It's powered by a Kubota diesel engine that works great."

On the negative side, "I bought my 2014 JCB 195 skid loader used from a dealer in Pennsylvania, who said the machine was in good condition. But if the temperature got anywhere near freezing, the engine wouldn't start, and the glow plugs are set not to come on until the temperature gets down to 10 degrees above zero. The air conditioning unit didn't work, either, and I was told it would cost more to repair than it was worth. Another problem is there are very few dealers in our area."

Rob Wodzinski, Iron River, Mich.: "My 2008 Deere 3022 tractor runs great and has been mostly trouble-free."

Dustin Parson, Hudson, Ky.: "It has more than 300,000 miles on it but is still going strong," says Dustin about his "super reliable" 1993 Ford F-350 flatbed pickup. It's equipped with a 7.3-liter International Harvester IDI diesel engine and manual transmission. "The engine still starts right up. I'm a multi-generational Ford man, and this



The system sends a text alert when the temperature in Millsap's greenhouse is too hot or cold.

Temp Monitoring System Offers Peace of Mind

Curtis Millsap of Springfield, Mo., says he is "overall, very pleased" with his purchase of an AcuRite Weather Monitoring System. The system has been a convenient and cost-effective way for Curtis to keep track of the current temperature in his greenhouses.

The system sends a text alert when the temperature in the greenhouses is too hot or cold, letting him know it's time to open vents or add more wood to the furnace. "It lets me sleep a lot more," Curtis says, especially in the spring when tomatoes are being started in the houses. He says the system has reduced the amount of firewood needed by nearly a

pullup reinforced that tradition."

Paul Hess, Drumore, Penn.: Paul likes his 2017 Kubota GR2120 all-wheel-drive diesel lawn tractor equipped with a 54-in. deck and bagger. "We use it to mow two large lawns every year with no problems. It does an excellent job of mowing, even in tall grass. Starts easy, has a lot of power, and is fuel efficient. Excellent traction and maneuverability."

On the minus side, "The cutterhead on my 2020 Valmetal self-propelled, walk-behind bedding chopper is smaller than the tub the bales of straw feed into. As a result, bales don't feed evenly onto the knives and sometimes bridge over. When that happens, I have to dig around in the tub until the knives will cut again. Power is provided by a 13 hp. electric start Honda engine, and if the temperature drops below freezing, I have to use starting fluid or the engine won't start. The machine has a single steel caster wheel that rides rough on my grooved, freestall barn floor."

Gary Baumgarten, Onalaska, Wis.: A Milwaukee M12 1/4-in. drive cordless ratchet rates as Gary's "best buy". "I'm retired but still do small engine repair work. Milwaukee M12 tools are lightweight and powerful, and this compact ratchet does an excellent job of loosening hard-to-get-at rod capscrews."

Marvin W. Peters, Lake City, Minn.: "Packing bearings by hand is a dirty job, but the Handy Packer from Advanced Tool Design saves time and greasy hands (ph 877 238-2623; www.advantageautoparts.com). It quickly flushes out old grease and repacks bearings with less mess.

"The unit comes with a piston and a cap. You load the packer with grease and place a clean bearing, small taper down. Then place the cap over the center post and press down. The bearing will be completely packed. Then

third because of more adequate monitoring.

The AcuRite system can send text alerts to unlimited contacts, so if Curtis is off the farm, the greenhouse temperatures can still be managed by others.

Curtis purchased a lower-end system from AcuRite for \$189 (www.acurite.com) and said that for his farm, it was the best option considering cost, even if the system has some limits in terms of range. Curtis also noted that AcuRite customer service is effective, and he appreciates that the system is not a subscription service. Millsap has been using the system for 6 years.

pull the cap up and retrieve the bearing."

Edwin Garber, Meyersdale, Penn.: Edwin's impressed with his 2019 Pequea Plantmaster 614 6-row corn planter (ph 717 442-4406; www.pequeaplant.com). "I like how they patterned this planter after a Deere 7200 model, but borrowed ideas from other brands as well. The planter is less than 14 ft. wide going down the road. I'd recommend it to anyone.

"I don't think I could operate our farm without our Milwaukee 1/2-in. impact wrench. We've had good luck with all our Milwaukee power tools."

Walter Graham, Pella, Iowa: "Best pickup I've ever owned," says Walter about his 2002 Chevrolet 4-WD, 3-door pickup equipped with a 4-speed automatic transmission. "I bought it used in 2007 with about 102,000 miles on it and now it has about 271,000 miles. Runs great and has very little rust."

Harold Kues, Fleming, Colo.: Harold's the satisfied owner of a 2018 Bobcat 3400 utility vehicle. "It works great for all-around farm use. We use it a lot to maintain more than 20 miles of barbed wire fence. I love the power steering and the ease of getting on and off the machine."

Donald Jetter, Sparta, Tenn.: "Several years ago I bought a used 1952 Ford 8N tractor with implements for \$3,000. The engine was smoking badly so I rebuilt it. Ever since then I've been using this tractor to retrieve firewood to heat our house, and to till our garden and mow our lawn. It's a great old tractor."

On the "worst buy" side, "In 2011 I bought 110 Empress Splendor trees from World Tree Technologies, Inc., which I read about in FARM SHOW. I paid \$888.25. These trees are supposed to grow fast into marketable timber but most of mine didn't even survive. I doubt the survivors will amount to anything."