

stench of the dead mouse then blows into the vehicle. They also crawl inside the vehicle and chew up the interior.

"One time mice stored some dog food in the ventilation system, and the fan blew it onto the passenger side floor. My dealer's only advice is to mouse-proof my garage, but I said maybe GM should just mouse-proof their vehicles. Why should I have to ride in a newer vehicle that smells like the inside of an old mouse-infected shack?"

## "We use a grain binder to cut oats, and then thresh them with this machine."

**Samuel Yoder, Utica, Minn.:** "I bought a used 1950 John Deere threshing machine after I overheard the owner talking about it at an auction. I asked him about it and a few weeks later went to check it out. I was pleased with what I saw so I bought it and hauled it home. We use a grain binder to cut oats, and then thresh them with this machine."

**James A. Smith, Truxton, N.Y.:** "I traded my Stihl 310 chainsaw for a 362 model and used it hard for almost 2 years before it developed carburetor problems. I then traded up to a new Stihl 362C model for \$200, which turned out to be money well spent. I use this saw to cut about 50 cords of firewood per year and to do logging work. It's lightweight but powerful enough to fell logs."

"The firebox on my 2008 Central Boiler 6048 outdoor wood burning furnace has burned out, but the company won't honor the 25-year warranty. It seems the company started using cheaper imported steel to build this model. If your Central boiler is more than 7 years old, beware."

**Bob Hornbrook, Evansville, Ind.:** "I bought a Maytag washing machine in 1979 for \$399 and still use it to wash my dirty yard clothes. I've had to replace only the mixing valve and timer."

**Joe Bellor, Lapeer, Mich.:** "I put more than 200,000 miles on my 1995 Chevrolet full-sized pickup and replaced only ordinary wear-out parts and a wiper motor. I then bought a new 2015 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab long bed model, which is also a best buy."

"My 1988 Stihl 026 chainsaw equipped with a 16-in. bar is still going strong and always starts, no matter the weather conditions."

**Tommy Meyer, Lyndon Station, Wis.:** "It's a great machine and a real work horse," says Tommy about his 2019 Polaris Ranger 570 UTV equipped with a 32 hp. engine, snowplow and cab.

**Rich Blaskowski, Stevens Point, Wis.:** Rich owns a Harbor Freight 5-in. deep cut variable speed, Bauer portable band saw. "I use it for various metal cutting jobs and repair work. I like the portability and it's easy to change the blades. I bought this saw on sale for about \$100."



"I use the battery-operated liquid transfer pump I bought at Harbor Freight to pump gas into my Oliver 1650 tractor. I place a gas can on the loader frame and then transfer the gas up into a funnel on the gas tank. It can pump 6 quarts per min. I bought it on sale for only about \$10."

**Walt O'Brien, Paducah, Ky.:** "My 1997 Chevrolet S-10 pickup has more than 750,000 miles on it while requiring only basic maintenance and an engine overhaul."

"My 2017 LS 100 hp. tractor has had a lot of problems. The engine overheats after only a few minutes of use, rubber on the tires is peeling off, and there have been many electrical issues. I wouldn't recommend this tractor to anyone."

**Howard Stemen, Dickey, N. Dak.:** "I own many DeWalt cordless tools and like them. However my son recently bought a new Milwaukee 1/2-in. impact wrench, and we're amazed at how much power it has."

**Jeffrey M. Heiser, Vesper, Wis.:** "I used a KBS 3-step tank sealing kit to seal the rusted and pitted gas tank on my portable welder (www.kbs-coatings.com; ph 888 531-4527). I cleaned and capped the tank, then placed an old chain and other abrasive material inside it and strapped it to a cement mixer. I let the mixer run to clean the tank out, and then used the products that came with the KBS kit. The tank came out looking beautiful. The kit provides everything needed to seal a tank of up to 5 gal."

**Richard Ruggles, Marlette, Mich.:** Richard owns a 2019 Deere X739 4-WD lawn tractor equipped with 4-wheel steering, a mower deck, and a plow blade. "It works good and is fun to operate."

**Joe Walsh, West Chazy, N.Y.:** "My 2016 Meadow Creature 16-tine broadfork is built solid and a real workhorse in our garden (www.meadowcreature.com; ph 360 329-2250). Works great to pull up large clumps of weeds such as quackgrass, which we then scoop up with a tined potato fork and shake the dirt off."

**Marvin Lee Williams, Cleveland, Ark.:** "My Kubota 7040 loader tractor always starts and runs great, no matter the weather conditions."

"My 1992 Stihl 044 chainsaw is still running great."

"I tried using 2 bottles of SealLube, which is supposed to quickly stop leaks in engines, transmissions, power steering units, hydraulic systems and more. However, this product didn't work for me. Instead, it seems to have made things worse."

**Gary Bilby, Jerome, Mich.:** "When I got home from the Army in 1966, I bought a Ford 5000 loader tractor equipped with a diesel engine. This tractor still runs like new, and 3 of the tires on it are original. The Freeman loader has been a great help for many jobs."

**Marvin Van Dam, Chandler, Minn.:** "My 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan has about 115,000 miles on it with no problems. It rides nice and is easy to get into. It gets 24 to 26 mpg."

**Jack Borcharding, Decorah, Iowa:** "My Ferris IS700 zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 52-in. deck works great."

**Paul E. Weiman, Jr., Auburn, N.Y.:** Paul's impressed with the Jackson Power Steering kit he installed on his Oliver Super 55 tractor (www.jacksonpowersteering.com; ph 620 357-6546). "I needed power steering because I use a snowplow blade on front of this tractor all winter long, and a 6-ft. finishing mower on 5 acres all summer long. The power steering it provides works unbelievably well."

"The kit is easy to install. You remove your

## Modifications Make Deere Tractor More User Friendly

Mark Rinke uses a super clean Deere 2030 for mowing, moving snow, dirt, gravel and other light jobs. "The tractor is a real gem that I've owned for 10 years. Over time I've added several mechanical and technical modifications that have made the tractor easier and safer to operate."

Rinke says using the original step to reach the operator platform was inconvenient, so he built a new one with a larger footpad. "It's safer to step on, and together with the plating that I added to the platform, it doesn't get slippery when conditions are wet."

Rinke is an engineer by training and used those skills to improve the electrical, hydraulic and hitching functions on the 2030. He moved the battery case from a difficult-to-reach location under the hood to a holder that he built on the right side of the frame. That improved access to the battery and provided room for adding electrical relays and fuses that he needed to run an electric fuel pump, which he installed to replace the OEM mechanical version. He also replaced the OEM bowl filter assembly with a spin-on fuel filter that uses water separator elements.

Another modification was adding a starter ring gear magnetic pickup for the electronic rpm gauge, an upgrade from the original cable-driven gauge. "The original was okay, but I didn't really trust the accuracy, which I need to operate my wing mower at its optimum mowing speed," Rinke says.

Other improvements included installing electronic water/oil temperature and oil pressure gauges with settable warning lights. Says Rinke, "Now they'll flash and let me know if there's a problem, just like a newer model car."

The hydraulics on the 2030 are adequate to operate the front-end loader that Rinke uses, but he improved the controls by installing a joystick control valve and mounting it on a platform on the right fender. It's within easy reach of the steering wheel and allows raise/lower and tilt/tip bucket functions.

Rinke also relocated the front hydraulic accumulator tank from under the hood to allow additional radiator clearance. He uses a simple swivel hitch on front of the tractor for tie downs and to move wagons or trailers



Homemade footpad and diamond plated step is safe and easy to use (above). Homemade brackets on other side of tractor support battery case and another step. Rinke improved the loader controls by installing a joystick control valve inside tractor's right fender.



if the back 3-point hitch is in use. "The up-front hitch is a nice substitute that works just fine, and I never have to take it off."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Rinke, 11175 225th St. E., Lakeville, Minn. 55044.



tractor's original steering wheel, steering column, and steering worm gear. The new steering unit mounts on top of your present steering gearbox, with its own steering wheel, column, steering control unit, and bracket. The company offers great service and helpful advice."

**Ron Byelich, Higgins Lake, Mich.:** Ron likes his 2005 Mosquito Magnet (www.mosquitocontroltechnology.com; ph 800 214-7721). It uses an ordinary propane tank to convert propane to carbon dioxide, which



attracts mosquitoes that get sucked into a basket inside the unit and die.

"It works great. I wouldn't be without it," says Ron. "Once I start it up in the spring it stays running all summer. Several models are available that sell for \$400 to \$778, depending on the size of your yard. My cost for the LP gas is about \$20 a month."

**David D. Lonowski, Middleburg, Fla.:** "I bought a Swanson Tool Co. 60-in. level at a garage sale and then found that 2 of the bubble tubes in it were broken. I contacted the company and told them how I got the tool, but they still sent replacement tubes to me free of charge. When those tubes didn't fit they determined that I had an older version of the level, so they looked through their warehouse and found the correct tubes. They sent them to me free of charge (www.swansontoolco.com)."