

**Jack Agnew, Gum Spring, Va.:** "I've been impressed with the **Kobalt** tools I bought in 2015. Both my 80-volt electric chainsaw and leaf blower are awesome. They have plenty of power and long-lasting, quick-charge batteries. The chainsaw isn't for firewood, but we built three barns (10,000 sq. ft.) with it. Where pole barn quality cuts are ok, it's a game changer with no cords to contend with and no starting issues. The leaf blower is great for tractor radiators and general field cleaning for air filters, etc.

"I bought new **Ford** trucks in 2019 (F-250 Super Duty) and 2021 (F-150 4-WD). They're great but driving them is like having a nagging mother-in-law on the dashboard: 'I'll cut the lights for you. Put your seatbelt on. You're at a stop, I'll cut the motor off for you. Here, I'll defrost your mirrors even if it's 50 F.' I can't put the darn key on my ring because the other keys press the alarm button so I'm constantly going back to get the key I need from the house. I can't carry these new keys. Why can't somebody just build a plain old truck?"

## "Why can't somebody just build a plain old truck?"

**Alan B. Werkheiser, St. Ignace, Mich.:** "About 15 years ago, I bought a 1948 **Farmall B** with a Woods belly mower for my lawn. My father got a 1945 B through the lottery during WWII, which I grew up with, and was cultivating corn at 9 years old. The '48 I bought was identical to the one I grew up with-I couldn't pass it up. It still puts along, mowing grass, and with me nearing 80 years old, is just the right size for me."

**Russell Brown, Spirit Lake, Idaho:** "A few years back, I purchased a used **Allis Chalmers 5020** tractor. It always starts and runs fine. It just needs a front drive shaft and cover.

"In late 2021, I purchased a new **Bobcat S66** skid steer. With the heat and A/C in the enclosed cab, it's great to run in all weather. It's a great compliment to my 1995 751 Bobcat.

"I bought some paint off eBay from **Paint For Cars** - acrylic enamel with reducer and hardener. The paint went on fine over the primed and sealed surface. Over the winter, it started to blister and peel. Anywhere the sun and weather doesn't hit it, the paint is fine. Everywhere else, it looks like crap. Nothing more from them."

**Bill Halstead, Dowling, Mich.:** "I'm very pleased with my **Kawasaki Mule**. I haul wood with it, pull wagons, and run my rottwailers 2 to 3 miles a day. We also take it for pleasure rides. The best part about it is that I didn't pay a cent for it since I won it at the farm show in Ft. Wayne, Ind., about 10 years ago."

**Gary F. Thomsen, Arion, Iowa:** "My subscription to **FARM SHOW** is a best buy. I find quite a few helpful hints and good ideas from other subscribers in every issue. This is one purchase that truly pays for itself.

"I've had a terrible experience with **Southwire 12/2 UFB** wire. It was installed on a power pole to the control breaker box for our well pump in May 2021 by electricians. By September, there were dozens of places where the outer sheath was missing, up to 5-in. in some spots. I complained to the electrician and found out grasshoppers were eating it. The sheath is made from soybeans. I imagine rodents will eat it also."

**Dave Mertell, Independence, Mo.:** "The worst problem I've had this past year has been the steering arms on my **Gravely** zero-turn mower. The shaft they were on was only attached on one end. The weld on one broke out of the frame and left me steering with one arm which is not easy with a zero-turn. I welded a new steel mounting plate on both sides of each shaft. Manufacturing defect problem solved by me at 96 years old."

**Dean Brotherton, Staples, Minn.:** "I like my **Rawhide** portable corral that I purchased in 2021 ([www.rawhideportablecorral.com](http://www.rawhideportablecorral.com);



ph 785-263-3436). I took it out to the pasture this spring when calving so when we had to deal with a cow for whatever reason we didn't have to walk animals a mile. The fences are 6 ft. tall. The animals don't get away unless you have a gate unlatched."

**Don Rakosnik, Lombard, Ill.:** "My 2000 **Deere 4200** utility/cutter tractor can mow the grass quickly and efficiently. I made a 3-pt. ball hitch to move/haul utility trailers around the property. I love the tractor. One day Deere will figure out how to make a lasting seat and better plastic hoods. They break at the mounting points.

"My **Echo** straight bar weed wacker starts hard and won't idle."

**Robert Moore, West Plains, Mo.:** "My **Case 1450** loader starts every time and lifts anything I need lifted. It's very handy. I just wish it had power steering.

"My **Bauer 20-volt** impact wrench (model 1782C-B) from Harbor Freight is a real workhorse."



**Gordon Stewart Jr., Boulder Creek, Calif.:** Gordon is pleased with his **Oregon 2500** series log splitter (OR25TBS-1). "At 76 years, I needed a vertical splitter as I can't lift 150-lb. rounds on my 40-year-old Craftsman horizontal splitter. The Oregon splits 20-in. dia., 26-in. long oak rounds efficiently and with very little gasoline. Auto return and other features allow me to save time, energy and my back. It can be used vertically or horizontally if desired."

**Carl N. Hurst, Owen, Wis.:** "My **Leatherman Wave+** is a handy multi-tool that's compact and can be carried in a pouch by using a clip. The company has a very good warranty."

**Garry Rivers, Stamps, Ark.:** "My **Mahindra 8560** is the tractor from hell. The dash lights have been replaced two times and are still not working. The manual shuttle has been repaired twice. The A/C works when it wants which is almost never. The wheels on the front end have cracked at rivets seven times. The injection pump was rebuilt at 700 hrs. Too many more problems to mention."



A **Walkabout Mother Bin** provides 4,000 bu. of portable field storage to improve harvest efficiency.

## Giant Portable Bin A "Best Buy"

**Bern Prewitt Jr., Boyle, Miss.:** "We often have problems with elevator lines being terrible and semis having to wait for unloading, so using the 4,000-bu. capacity **Walkabout Mother Bin** helps keep our three combines rolling in corn, soybeans and rice. We park it in a permanent spot on the edge of a field and our carts dump into it rather than into semis. The 22-in. unloading auger on the bin fills a semi in 3 1/2 mins. from the time the tarp unrolls until it rolls back and the driver heads out. There's a scale on the bin so we know exactly how much is loaded. We run the bin with a **Case 310** Magnum because it takes a good-sized tractor to move it around. The bin helps us get our crops in when conditions are right, so we don't have downtime with combines waiting in the field."

**Keegan Jones, Pendleton, Ore.:** "I'd been tracking the **Walkabout** bins in Australia for a while and got a flyer in the mail during harvest. We needed something that would

keep us moving, and **Walkabout** was the answer. We're 45 miles to the nearest terminal, and during harvest with two combines, we can always overrun our trucks, so the **Walkabout Bin** has really helped us. Some days we were sitting from 1 to more than 3 hrs. at a time, and that's just not the case anymore. The cost of the bin is about half that of a combine, but using it is really like adding another combine because now our machines never sit and wait. Another benefit is that we can fill the bin at the end of a day when a field is done and move the machines to another field even if the terminal is closed. I use the bin for handling grain and feed blending during the off-season, so the bin is working year around. The bin is made well, and with the 22-in. unloading auger, it can fill a semi in about 3 min. It qualifies for a farm storage loan so that means low interest to buy it."

**David Smalling, Bluff City, Tenn.:** "I bought five 1 1/2-gal. pump up sprayers from **Tractor Supply** at different times. All started leaking at the seams except for one that exploded the first time I used it."

**Dave Shields, O'Brien, Fla.:** "Sprouting seed for livestock feed is extremely variable and highly unreliable as a production food source. After harvesting as many as 1,000 lbs. of sprouts a day and feeding them to pigs, chickens and cattle, I've seen real issues that people should consider before starting to sprout.

"Labor is a real concern. We easily spent 3 to 4 hrs. daily to harvest, feed out, clean, plant, and start soaking seeds for the next day's planting.

"Mold is a real problem for sprouts over 3 days old. If you harvest then, you lose the harvest weight to seed planted advantage. Mold prior to 3 days is a sign of failure to sanitize the seed you bought. After that, mold is likely environmental (air or tray contamination).

"Seed acquisition is problematic. Good, viable seed sources changed often, and nutrient values and germination rates changed with them.

"There's nothing regenerative about sprouting seeds. There's no building of fertility in the soil or food capacity as hydroponics, like sprouting, is normally an all-in, all-out system with no medium. Not to mention, monocrop seed farms are still required for inputs.

"Feed value varied by species. Pigs like the 7-day sprouts well enough, but they leaned out. Sprouts don't seem to provide adequate energy in their diet. The only fiber they offered was in the hulls. Supplementing

with skim milk for energy and hay or another source of fiber can help.

"Chickens preferred the 3-to-4-day sprouts, but layers required a balanced feed supplement. Cornish Cross or fast-growing meat varieties would not thrive with this other than as a supplement, which was pointless if you had good pasture.

"Cows clearly did well on 7-day sprouts, but pasture was superior. Producing sprouts took more dedication than milking cows daily. With the labor involved, we stopped sprouting and kept milking."

**Fred Massie, Louisa, Va.:** "I can work the trigger with one hand and keep the nozzle on straight the other," says Fred about his **DeWalt** cordless grease gun.

**Dean L. Stolp, Spokane, Wash.:** "I purchased a used 1994 **Dodge Ram 2500** 3/4-ton diesel 5.9 in 1995. It had 60,000 miles and now has 230,000 with minimal expense. This is the best 4-WD pickup I've ever owned. Excellent maintenance is the key to long life."

**John Godzik, Austin, Texas:** "I bought my **Kubota 900** UTV at an auction. This machine is a workhorse and the greatest thing since sliced bread. We've hauled so much wood with full loads in the hydraulic dump box. We back up to the wood pile, pull the lever, and the machine was ready for the next load.

"My \$6,000 **Carrier A/C** unit is only 1 1/2 years old, and the compressor went out. I'm not sure who'll pay. I'm working with **Carrier** now. I hope they do the right thing."

**Cloverdale Repair, Greenwood, Wis.:** "We like our **Snap-on** tools because they are made in the U.S.A. with quality components

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