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poultry waterer from **Tractor Supply Co.** “I only used it a couple of months before the small metal spring that pulled a rubber plug against the inside of the hole (where the water comes out) broke off. It also rusted.”

**Greg Kropf, Westphalia, Kan.:** “For the most part, we like our 2023 **Kubota RTV-X1100C**. The cab is comfortable with fast heat and good air conditioning. The off-road ride is very smooth, and the 4-WD works well. We like the hydraulic dump bed. On the negative side, this UTV is very slow. It’ll go 27 mph downhill and with wind. Going uphill with the A/C on gets it down to 15 mph. The trip to our pasture, 3 1/2 miles from home, is pretty leisurely. Getting the oil filter off is a nightmare.

“About 10 years ago, we bought a **Load-Quip** skid loader skid loader face plate and made a bale spear out of it. Three years ago, one of the top plates where it mounts on the skid loader broke, and I discovered that none of the welds along the top on both sides had any penetration. We welded it properly. We’ve also fought the bottom part (too thin) bending and letting the spear drop off the skid loader. We finally retired it last week.”

**Victor Schantz, Hastings, Mich.:** “My best buy is my **Kawasaki Mule 610** I bought new in 2016. It always starts. I use it for working in the woods and for hunting. I burn wood, so I use it almost every day to bring wood to the house. It’s really handy. A year ago, I put a new battery in it and that’s all I’ve done other than regular oil changes.

“I’m not happy with my **DeWalt** 60-volt battery chainsaw. It leaks oil where the case gasket is, and the bar oil filler hole is set in the case, so you always have to clean sawdust away from around the oil filler hole.”

**Harlin Trefz, Jackson, Tenn.:** Harlin’s impressed with his 2023 **Ford Maverick Hybrid** pickup. “I get 45 mpg in town and can tow 2,000 lbs. It can carry 4 by 8 sheets of plywood and 12-ft. long lumber. The interior has many storage places. It was half the price of a full-size pickup.”

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**Steven Lahey, Nichols, Iowa:** “We bought a 2015 **Deere X500** with 8 hrs. on it, and by 15 hrs., the seat vinyl had cracked and split, and the solenoid failed. We’ve had many other Deere lawn tractors. Our 1976 212 and 1989 175 have many hours and the seats are perfect. Our 1998 425 had big cracks and splits in the seat by 800 hrs., and the X300s (2008 and 2011) had bad seats by 300 hrs. Deere seems intent on driving lawn tractor seats to the trash heap.”

**Ed Ulch, Solon, Iowa:** “My **Dodge RAM 1500** pickup has plenty of power and many nice features, including fender toolboxes.”

Ed isn’t a fan of his **Deere 5085** tractor/loader. “It’s short on power with a bad transmission and awkward to get in and out of the cab.”

**Paul Niccum, Cushing, Okla.:** “My 2023 **Kuhn** trailed mower mows great. It’s easy to pull and mows more in one round than using a cycle mower and then a disc mower like in years past. The maintenance is easy, too.”

**Eldon Christensen, Stapleton, Neb.:** “My best buy was in 2000 when I bought a **Deere 7210** with a 740 loader. It had 9,000 hrs. when I traded it in 2007 for a model with 750 hrs. It now has 10,000 hrs. It’s been pretty much

trouble-free. I also have another 7210 with loader, 7410, and 7510, which have all been great. They’re still worth more than the new price.”

**David Wolfram, Barron, Wis.:** “I saw **SealLube** in FARM SHOW and thought I’d give it a try. Amazing product. I had bad hydraulic leaks (mostly cylinders) on my older **Bobcat 610**. I was considering retiring it for parts. I poured a jug of SealLube into the reservoir and continued using it the next day. All of my hydraulic leaks disappeared. I’ve referred it to several friends and they’re also very happy with it.”



**Richard Luebke, Ladysmith, Wis.:** A 2023 **Bobcat UV34** utility vehicle rates as Richard’s best buy. “It’s great for use around the farm and in the woods. It has an enclosed cab with a great heater. It has easy-to-use controls and 4-WD. It’s very easy to handle with the power steering.”

**Russell Smith, Waco, Texas:** “FARM SHOW Magazine is a best buy. I always read each one several times, then put them in a pile, and read them again in a year or two. “N-News Magazine is another best buy. There’s always an old Ford tractor in the shop. We’re usually taking one apart or putting one back together.

“I’m just too old to do as much as I want to. But, when I have to quit for the day, they’re always something to read while I rest. I’m 81 years old.”

**Jeffrey Mittleiser, Vesper, Wis.:** Jeffrey is the satisfied owner of a **DeWalt** drill and driver combo. “It has a built-in light above the trigger that really illuminates areas you want to drill or drive screws in. It’s fast to recharge and lightweight.”

**Dudley Adams, Union, S.C.:** Dudley is the proud owner of a 1986 **Honda Big Red 3-wheeler** he purchased new. “It’s still running, and I use it every week. It doesn’t use any oil. The motor still has a lot of power. I use Castor 20W50 oil.

“I have two late ‘70s **Massey Ferguson** tractors, one with a front loader. They have over 2,500 hrs. on them. They’re real tractors.”

**Steve Reed, Matheny, W.Va.:** “My 2022 **Kiotti 40-hp.** compact tractor has been a best buy. I use it with a backhoe attachment, a 5-ft. finish mower, and a 5-ft. rototiller. It has forks for the Quick Attach and a canopy. The best part is the air-ride suspension seat.”

On the negative side is a **Troy-Bilt** sickle bar mower. “It’s a great running machine, but the 34-in. sickle bar (the one that oscillates) keeps breaking. A replacement is really hard to find, and if you do, it’s too expensive to justify buying for an older machine.”

**Jeff Koster, Formoso, Kan.:** Jeff likes his **NightBuddy 230° LED Headlamp** (www.nightbuddy.co). “You just wave your hand to turn it on and off. It has four different light settings—high, low, red, and spotlight. It’s rechargeable so there’s no need to keep batteries on hand.”



**Brent Opell, Fairfield, Ill.:** “My best purchase is my used 1986 **Case IH 1680** combine I bought in November 2022. I had a 1978 1460, but it was having problems, so I bought the 1680. I absolutely love it. It performs well, and the 466 engine has plenty of power for my 1020 header and 1063 corn head.



Most manufacturers make a long list of tools that use the batteries you already have for your existing tools.

## “Best Buy” Battery Tools

**Scott Geyer, Lakeville, Minn.:** “I’m not a farmer by trade so I don’t need commercial-grade battery tools like DeWalt and Milwaukee for my projects. Like most people, I have invested in a brand and now continue to expand on my tools, which are Ryobi. I use their 18V batteries for the normal tools but have found a few to be quite handy.

“The Ryobi inflator/deflator is great for bike and lawn tractor tires as well as topping off truck tires when cold weather turns on the low tire pressure warning. It’s also quite handy for air mattresses and floating toys for the pool or lake. I find it useful enough to keep in a kit I carry in my vehicle.

“I also carry their jump starter. While the unit is larger than some of the smaller ones that look like an electronics charger, the unit uses the batteries I already have and works better than putting vehicles together to jump-

start battery to battery.

“Their handheld flashlight has become my ‘go to’ and stays with my kit. It seems to run forever on a battery and puts out good light. It’s a little awkward when working topside on a vehicle but for everything else it has exceeded my expectations. It came in a kit with a few other tools that I bought.

“Possibly my favorite battery accessory tool is the cordless hybrid forced air propane heater. It puts out 30,000 to 60,000 Btu from a regular propane cylinder and can go anywhere. The fan directs lots of heat and makes working in the cold bearable.

“I don’t recommend their cordless electric snow shovel. The battery doesn’t last and it’s too narrow at just 10-in. to move any snow. That, along with their 18V handheld pressure washer, were tools I regretted buying.”

**Marvin Boike, Maynard, Minn.:** “I bought my **Gleaner L2** combine with a 6-row corn and 20-ft. bean head new in 1980. It’s still the only combine we use, and in the past 2 years, we’ve harvested 800 acres without a breakdown. It has approximately 3,500 hrs.”

**James Cherry, Miami, Fla.:** James nominates his **Predator 210cc** gasoline engine as a best buy. “I put it on an old heavy tiller machine that previously had a 2-hp. Briggs & Stratton engine that was ruined from sitting outside. That predator engine started on the first pull and was so powerful that I could use the tiller to dig holes to plant trees.”

**Dennis Huwe, Bagley, Minn.:** “I bought my 2020 **GMC Sierra** pickup used. It gets good mileage (better than my 2012 Cadillac) and is a great ride.”

**Ralph Oster, Morganton, Ga.:** “I was given 18 logs for firewood from a neighbor. My neighbor let me use his new **Tractor Supply** top-of-the-line tow-behind gasoline-powered wood splitter. It was powerful and had a fast recoil. I fell in love with it but had to return it when I was done cutting more than two cords of wood.”

**Brent Opell, Fairfield, Ill.:** “My best purchase is my used 1986 **Case IH 1680** combine I bought in November 2022. I had a 1978 1460, but it was having problems, so I bought the 1680. I absolutely love it. It performs well, and the 466 engine has plenty of power for my 1020 header and 1063 corn head.

“On the negative side, I bought a **Mr. Heater** Torpedo heater. It never worked from day one. I did everything the manual said and still couldn’t get it to work right. I never contacted the company to see if they would

make it right. I did purchase a tank-mounted heater that was also from Mr. Heater, and it works perfectly.”

**Ed Landis, Abilene, Kan.:** “Our 2015 **Jeep Renegade** is a worst buy. There wasn’t a spare tire, just a canister with air and gel to use for a flat. It didn’t come with floor mats. We had the car for about 2 years, and a sensor kept telling us our tire pressure was low on the back left tire. They wanted \$250 for just the sensor. The windshield visor kept falling down on the passenger side, and they wanted \$250 for a replacement. The only good thing is the gas mileage.”

**Larry Shilling, Rocky Mount, Va.:** Larry likes his **RK Tractors RK24** tractor with backhoe and front bucket. “This little tractor has done 99 percent of what I’ve demanded from it on my 5-acre farm. It came with an 8-year warranty. It picks up bales of hay with ease using a hay spear. I really like it.”

**Chris Miles, Pocomoke City, Md.:** “Even though it had many recalls, my 2015 **Ford Focus** has been efficient and performs well.”

**Nathan Love, Williamsport, Md.:** “I paid about \$150 for my **Georgia Boot** men’s 8-in. waterproof Logger steel-toed boots. They’re worth it. I’ve had them for just about a year and use them for welding, farming, and even hunting. Despite wearing 40 to 50 hours a week, the leather still hasn’t worn down to the steel toe.”

**C.K. Dale, Howard, S.D.:** C.K. is the proud owner of a **Greenworks** 48-volt 21-in. self-propelled lawn mower. “I love this mower. It runs for about 1 hour, so I bought two extra batteries. I don’t have to recharge during mowing. I bought it on Amazon for \$400. I’ve had it for 3 years with no problems.”