

"I tried to duplicate the problem several times at home by letting it idle and placing it at the same incline as found while waiting for a green traffic light. It worked flawlessly all but one time. I also found gasoline in the crankcase. After two crossings, I took it to the dealer in 2022. They ran some diagnostics and found a fouled sparkplug and said this was the reason for the gasoline in the crankcase and the spitting and sputtering.

"I had a good feeling that I could now safely cross that highway. A few weeks after the dealer repair, it nearly quit again while crossing the highway. This time was the scariest. To stall in the middle of a highway with traffic starting to move is a bit more than a little scary. Perhaps some FARM SHOW readers have had this or similar issues and found a fix. My solution is to keep it home and never try to cross that highway again."

Harley Willett, Dallas, Texas: "My Milwaukee 18-volt 1/2-in. drive impact wrench (model 2763) has never failed to loosen a nut, especially the large blade bolts on shredders. The battery life is very good. It's well-made and balanced.

"Most, if not all, Chinese-made goods fail to please."

Gary Pennock, Great Bend, N.Y.: "I bought a 2011 Toyota Camry with 174,000 miles in July. It rides like a new car and feels snug to the road. It has a 4-cyl. engine, which is plenty of power for me. I plan to take it to Rust Check (www.rustcheck.ca) to have them treat it to prevent rust from forming."

Henry S. Yoder, Meyersdale, Penn.: "My 1970 Deutz 9006 tractor is powerful, fuel-efficient and trouble-free."

Dale Heise, Harrodsburg, Ky.: "My 2024 Kubota RTV-X1100C has no power, and the top speed is slow. The transmission is strange; when you let up on the accelerator, it feels like you slammed on the brakes. On the plus side, the A/C works great after a trip back to the dealer."

Dale is also unhappy with his **Sprayers Plus** professional landscape battery-powered 3-gal. sprayer. "It does a bad job of spraying, but the worst part is the battery. They're available only from the manufacturer and last for six to 10 charges. The battery costs as much as a pump sprayer, so I used my money to get a pump sprayer and threw away my \$150 Sprayers Plus sprayer."



Galen Martin, Manheim, Penn.: "My Tingley Airgo boots are 1/3 the price of Muck or Dryshod boots and last much longer (www.tingleyrubber.com; ph 800-631-5498). They're not insulated, but what does that help when your Muck or Dryshod gets cracks and lets your feet get wet? No more Muck for me."

Caleb Steiner, Dalton, Ohio: "Our best buy has been EGO power tools, which include a power head with a weed eater, tiller, edger and leaf blower. They perform well without the noise, fumes and vibration of gas power. They're also very durable."

Robert Klinkhammer, Anamosa, Iowa: "I've owned five Chrysler vans since 1992 with no problems. I've had four Dodge trucks since 1970. I had no issues with any

of them—that's why I buy them.

"I love FARM SHOW. It's the only one I look forward to every year."

Hugh Belvin, Alexandria, La.: "My 2006 Deere 150 mower has the original spark plug and drive belt. It'll start after the engine turns over two or three times. The carburetor has never been off of the engine. The deck belt has been replaced once."

Dale Miller, Thornton, Iowa: "I have yet to find a nut that my DeWalt 20-volt XR 1/2-in. impact wrench won't loosen.

"My Hobart 180 gas wire welder works great. I like that the wire speed automatically changes with the heat setting. My welder was stolen in 2023 and was recovered in Omaha, Neb., and still works fine."

Shirley Tipple, Lancaster, Ohio: "I like working with my battery-operated Ryobi weed eater and chainsaw."

Shirley is disappointed with her County Line catch-and-release traps, which she purchased at Tractor Supply. "Smart raccoons are stronger than the wire the traps are made of, and they've ripped holes in them."

Steven Lorenz, Beatrice, Neb.: Steven nominates his 1951 Moz-All lawn mower as a best buy. "It has a no-nonsense, completely open deck that would give OSHA nightmares. It's great for mowing overgrown areas with small trees and tall weeds. I finally had to replace the Clinton engine."



Wallace Bengtson, Braham, Minn.: Wallace is happy with his Malco TurboShear TSI metal cutting shear (www.malcotools.com; ph 800-328-3530). "I used it to recycle used steel roofing sheets. Just snap a line and cut using the shear hooked up to a drill. It works 10 times better than any hand tool ever could."

David Bork, Marion, Wis.: "SealLube hydraulic leak stopper really works for me. It dried up a combine leaking in various places and did the same for an older tractor with the same problem. There's a formula you must be aware of that tells you how much to add. You need to know your system's capacity when ordering.

"The barn hand tools at Fleet Farm, such as six-tine manure forks, are now a cheap Chinese product. They're not high-tensile steel and are easy to bend."

Wyatt Giles, Vanderbilt, Mich.: Wyatt is the satisfied owner of a 1947 Ford 2N he purchased just over a year ago. "It starts right up every time. It runs well, and I've only had one issue with it. As old as it is, it starts and performs like it's new."

Joel Morocco, Inlay City, Mich.: "The Christmas tree-shaped drill bits from my local tool supply store are great—they'll cut a grade-8 bolt like butter. They're expensive but worth it.

"I'm pleased with my Milwaukee cordless tools. My 1/2-in. impact is very powerful. I've used the warranty a couple of times. The local service center has quick turnaround times. My grease gun is nice for one-handed operation."



Hawkes finds his V-plow to be a best buy for its versatility and visibility.

V-Plow Better Than Blowing Snow

Gerry Hawkes, Woodstock, Vt.: "I'll never return to a rear-mounted snowblower after adapting a Fisher V-plow to the front-end loader on my tractor. It's far easier to move snow plowing forward than blowing snow backward.

"My Kubota is set up for working in the woods with heavy-duty mesh screens on the cab instead of windows. I would get so coated with blowing snow that I looked like a snowman. The blowing snow would obstruct my vision, and I was forever stopping. If a rock or stick got sucked into the blower, I'd have to stop and replace a shear pin barehanded in the cold.

"I modified a quick attach bracket to mount the V-plow with a pivot so it follows the ground. A pair of retainer chains prevents it from flopping down when I lift it with the loader. I can raise and lower it with the loader hydraulics and tilt the plow up, straight ahead, or down to float across the ground.

"I ran hoses from the tractor's rear remotes to operate the configuration of the blades. They're bungee-tied to one side of the safety cab and the loader arms. I can tilt the ends of the blades forward to gather the snow or back to push the snow to either side.

"Mounted to the loader, the blade sticks out 8 or 9 ft. in front of the front wheels. I can push back snowbanks several feet beyond the front wheels and push snow into piles a dozen feet high.

"If the snowbank is too big, it can force the tractor to slide to the side. I lift the loader, push the top section forward, and then make a second pass to push the bottom portion.

"When I've pushed snow into a big pile, I



Mounted to the loader, the V-plow blade sticks out 8 or 9 ft. from the front wheels.

can raise the blade up to 12 ft. in the air and push over the top before the front wheels hit the bottom.

"To get needed traction, I usually mount a 1,200-lb. mulcher on my 3-pt. hitch. It counterbalances the V-plow without putting weights on the wheels.

"With four control valves for the loader and the V-plow, reattaching hoses can get confusing each winter. Instead of trying to recall what goes where, I put a single zip tie on the hose that connects to the first position, two zip ties on the second, and so on. Once everything is hooked up, I zip-tie the two valves for the V-plow together so I can push them simultaneously to change the shape of the blades.

"I keep a Tajfun winch on the back of the tractor with a chainsaw in a scabbard. If I happen to slide off the road, I can winch myself back on. If a limb or tree is down, I can cut it up and continue plowing."

Dave Hills, Columbus Junction, Iowa: "My 2023 Stihl 500 chainsaw is a beast. I bought the light chainsaw bar, and it balanced the saw right out. It feels like you're not pushing the limits of the saw."

Mike Crist, Quincy, Ill.: "I bought a 2002 Kubota L3010 tractor with 350 hrs. It came with a front-end loader. This is the first tractor I've ever owned. My wife and I live on 10 acres, and we've manually worked extremely hard over the last 20 years to make a beautiful setting. I wish I'd bought it when we first purchased the property. It would've saved a lot of blood, sweat and tears. I love using this tractor.

"My wife loves using our 2019 Cub Cadet Z-force ZTR mower with a steering wheel. When the first mowing season ended, I removed the battery as I like to store batteries in the basement on a trickle charger. It's impossible to remove the battery without removing a cross-arm first. Some engineers apparently don't believe batteries ever go bad. My wife still likes using it, although it causes me a little more work each year."

Darryl Wilson, Hadley, Penn.: "My worst buy is a Landmaster UTV with Kohler engine. This thing shakes badly and is so

noisy even when idling. It's only one-wheel drive with rear axle lock and won't go in light snow or wet grass. It's junk.

"Another worst buy is my Jansen MB-300 backhoe. The company claims it'll dig 7 ft. deep. I can dig up to 4 ft. if I'm lucky. There are only three grease fittings on the whole machine. The pins for the bucket are soft, have no grease fittings, and show wear after one hour."

J.C. Macha, Plainview, Texas: "I bought my 2001 Chevy Silverado 4x4 with short wheelbase at an auction with 298,000 miles. It now has 310,000 miles and is running as good as ever. It still has a rock-solid body, unlike my 2008 GMC with sagging doors.

"With only 70,000 miles on my daughter's 2014 Subaru Forester, she's had to replace the timing chain and numerous sensors. Now they say she needs a catalytic converter. Subaru is supposed to be one of the most reliable vehicles on the road. The extended warranty we purchased won't cover the cost."

James W. Mitchell Jr., Eaton, Ohio: "My Evolution metal chop saw is the best (<http://store.evolutionpowertools.com>; ph 866-386-8665). It works great on wood or steel and makes fabrication easy."