

fix the loader under warranty, even though the problem was ongoing and the tractor had never been properly fixed while under warranty. I plan to sell this tractor on eBay if it ever gets out of the shop. I won't buy another Kioti product."

Bill Waples, Prospect, Tenn.: "My **Mantis** garden rototiller has worked flawlessly for four years. It operates exactly as the operator's manual describes, and the manual was exceptionally well written. Tilling the garden is a breeze with this machine."

Ken Preston, Wheatland, Ind.: "It has a lot of towing power, is dependable and is a pleasure to use," says Ken about his 2008 **Polaris** Ranger 700 utility vehicle. "I've always used 4-wheelers in the past, but with a utility vehicle I don't have to strap things down. I use this machine to spread grass seed, spray weeds, haul trash, drag small trees and limbs, haul firewood, etc."

"My 2006 **Chrysler** Town and Country van has been nothing but trouble. The speedometer is off by 10 percent, the battery loses its charge if we don't drive it for a few days, the back-up sensors aren't dependable, and so forth. Dealers haven't been able to resolve the problems."

Bud Pressler, Wabash, Ind.: "My best buy is a 12-volt, 6,000-lb. winch from **XcessElectronics** (ph 800-609-9457; www.XcessElectronics.com). I use this winch to drag logs that I convert into firewood. It'll drag 14-in. by 20-ft. logs with no problems. It comes with a wireless remote that works from 30 ft. away and a hard-wired remote with a 12-ft. lead. This winch has far exceeded my expectations."

Paul Klein, Head Waters, Va.: "My worst buy was my **Husqvarna** LGT 2654 garden tractor. I bought it at Lowe's to replace my 15-year-old MTD 18 1/2 hp tractor, which I had been using to do the jobs I can't or don't want to do with my Farmall Cub."

"We live on a mountain farm and over the years I used the MTD to haul, mow, push snow and transport my log splitter from one site to another. I never had any trouble on slopes of 16 to 18 degrees. However, soon after I started using the Husqvarna I was pulling the log splitter up a slope when the tractor just stopped pulling and began rolling backward. I was able to stop it, but it wouldn't go forward again."

"After I disconnected the splitter and moved it out of the way I was able to roll the tractor back downhill to a level place and restart it, and then it ran fine. Before going back up the slope to get the splitter, I went down to the shop and ran the hydrostatic transmission bleed procedure. After that it ran fine - until last spring when I was pulling a small trailer loaded with ashes from our wood furnace up a slight incline. This time I couldn't decouple the trailer and had to get my 4-WD truck to pull the tractor and wagon back to level ground. Then it worked fine again. But a few days later, the same problem happened again."

"I called the company and they said the maximum slope for the tractor was 15 degrees. It's a safety issue and not a mechanical one, but the company takes no responsibility if you use their product on slopes of more than 15 degrees. I emailed the transmission manufacturer (TuffTorq), and they said the unit is designed for 18-degree slopes."

"The bright spot in all of this is that after eight months and putting 25 hours on the tractor, Lowe's simply said 'Bring it back. We'll return it to Husqvarna'. They did, and I put my old MTD back in service, mowing, towing and generally going up and down

hills with no problem."

"My **Ramsplitter** is a best buy (Tri-D Mfg., ph 815 968-4014). I have the 16-ton model which splits anything I can fit into it. So far the largest piece I've split has been about 30 in. in diameter. It's a hardworking machine that starts easily and works well. Great support from the manufacturer, too. One of the wheels broke at the hub soon after I began using the machine. I emailed the company and they brought a complete new wheel and tire to replace the bad one, no questions asked."

"I bought a **Wood Master** 4400 outdoor wood burning furnace last year to replace our Taylor stove (ph 218 253-4328; www.woodmaster.com). Where the Taylor model had a 750-gal. water jacket, the Wood Master has 117 gal. And where the Taylor needed monthly cleaning to keep creosote from closing the heat exchange tubes, the Wood Master worked all winter (actually from the end of August to the first of June) without significant creosote build-up. I only had to remove the ashes twice before I shut it down."

James L. Hughes, Orange City, Florida: "My 2008 **Sears Craftsman** 22-in. weed trimmer has large rear wheels and .155 ready-to-cut strings that are easy to replace. I use it to cut under 3,300 ft. of board fence."

"My 2006 **Wagner** 'Paint Crew' airless paint sprayer is my worst buy. It won't spray Latex fence stain no matter how much it's thinned. Just about everything on the machine clogs up including the nozzle, line, pump, and filter. I spend more time and wasted more paint trying to make this unit work than it would have taken to paint with brushes and rollers."

Donald Ober, Manheim, Penn.: "The self-darkening welding helmet I bought from **Harbor Freight** for less than \$50 is my best buy. One tip - don't hang a trouble light too close to where you want to weld. The helmet will think you're striking an arc and will go dark."

Bob Tibbott, Manchester, Iowa: Bob nominates his 1994 **Case** 1845C skid loader as his "best buy". "I bought it 'very used' five years ago from a dealer and am the third owner. I thought the machine was about worn out. However, I'm still using it every day and it runs great with no down time. It has gone through five sets of tires and a few hoses."

"I really like **Sears Craftsman's** cordless tools but not the 19.2-volt batteries they use. The batteries don't last long enough and are expensive to replace."

Roy P. Anderson, Cedar, Minn.: "I'm 86 years old and have been an **International Harvester** man for 60 years. Their tractors always performed for me."

"I don't buy much any more but I did just buy an **Echo** weed whipper. It works great and comes with a 5-year guarantee."

Wilburn E. Nettles, Monroeville, Alabama: "My **Massey Ferguson** 2605 tractor has only 78 hours on it but already has problems that the dealer can't seem to fix. The company won't refund my money."

"The tractor doesn't accelerate correctly, the draft control quit working, the hydrostatic steering cylinder sprays fluid, and the engine runs ragged."

Steven L. DeGayner, Menominee, Mich.: "I bought a **Nortrac** loader tractor equipped with a 20 hp, 3-cyl. diesel engine and really like it. It works great for plowing and scooping up snow."

Dean D. O' Neill, Davenport, Iowa: "My 2002 **Ford** F-250 pickup equipped with a diesel engine is always dependable. It pulled a travel trailer to Alaska and back

Coyote Decoy Saves Crop From Birds

Before he found a realistic 3-D coyote decoy to scare them away, geese and ducks were a real problem for grain farmer, Roger Gutschmidt of Gackle, N. Dak.

"Once grain is in the windrow it can be really difficult to keep the geese and ducks from eating it. I've seen up to 2,000 geese on some fields, and with those kind of numbers, it takes only a short amount of time for them to clean out a field of grain that's laying on the ground," he says. "Most people have to go out to their fields every day with a gun to scare them away, and that isn't very effective because they come right back a short time later."

This year, Gutschmidt invested in a plastic coyote decoy and it has worked wonderfully. He ordered 3 of the 3-D, life-sized coyotes from Gempler's (www.gemplers.com; 800-382-8473) for \$51.95 each and spaced them out over about 90 acres.

"They were definitely worth what I spent," Gutschmidt points out. "I've had no problems whatsoever with birds this year." He says the fake coyotes are made out of a rubbery, pliable material like Halloween masks. Their underside is split and opens up, so Gutschmidt draped each one over a 2 1/2-gal. chemical jug filled with water.

"They're kind of crouched down and you can't see their head very well because the



Plastic 3-D coyote decoy keeps geese and ducks from eating up grain fields for Roger Gutschmidt of Gackle, N. Dak.

stubble kind of hides them a little, so I recommend placing them on top of the swath or someplace more easily noticeable," he suggests. "Their bushy tails do wiggle in the wind and that makes them look more real."

Gutschmidt says next year, he may fill the coyotes' body cavities with triple expanding foam to make them hold their shape so that he could set them up to pivot on a stake in the ground.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gutschmidt Manufacturing LLC, Roger Gutschmidt, 6651 Hwy. 56, Gackle, N. Dak. 58442 (ph 701 698-2310; shopdoc@drtel.net).

and has gone on many other trips. I also use it to pull my flatbed trailer. This pickup consistently gets more than 20 mpg on the highway when empty. It still has the original batteries."

Lyle Moege, Hurley, S. Dak.: A 2004 **Deere** X485 all-wheel-steer lawn tractor equipped with a 54-in. deck rates as Lyle's "best buy". "It replaced my Deere 425 all-wheel-steer lawn tractor and was a good move up. I really like the combination of all-wheel-steer and power steering, which makes this tractor easy to use and to maneuver around objects. It's an amazing machine and is well built. It was worth every penny I spent on it."

Dwight H. Haverkamp, Dumont, Iowa: "Over the years I've owned three different **Buick** LeSabres and have put 250,000

"The bulbs are rated at 30,000 hours, but mine lasted less than a month."

miles or more on all of them with only routine maintenance. The 3800 engines are dependable and get 28 to 31 mpg. It's a full-size car that's roomy and comfortable."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists **FEIT** electric LED 1.6-watt light bulbs. "I bought three of these bulbs for my bathroom at more than \$9 apiece, hoping to save on the cost of electricity. The bulbs are rated at 30,000 hours, but mine lasted less than a month."

Stewart Deering, Seven Persons, Alberta: "I bought two used 1980 **Honda** E3500 generators and really like them. Even if these generators sit unused for month, they'll always start right up on the second or third pull."

"My 1981 **Dodge** Ram 50 pickup gets more than 30 mpg. I bought it used at a farm auction with unknown miles on it. I abuse this pickup but it just won't quit running. Rust hasn't been a problem, either."

Richard C. Johnson, La Crescent, Minn.: "My best buy is my **Dairymaster** milking system made in Ireland (ph 513 942-0868; www.dairymaster.com). I've used this system for 2 1/2 years and found it works well and is user friendly. It always milks the cows dry without injuring the teat ends, and it'll milk any length or size teats dry without liner slips. It's so easy to use that my 10-year-old grandson can easily milk cows with it. It has been mostly trouble-free."

Rodney Earl Claggett, East View, Ky.: "My **Stihl** 24 chainsaw starts every time and has a lot of power. My three Homelite chainsaws don't start like this one."

"About three years ago I bought a **Bristor** Trail wagon from TSC for \$5,700 and have had nothing but trouble with it. It takes five minutes to get it in gear, and once I get it in gear it won't stay there. I bought an extended warranty for \$600, so I wouldn't have to worry about fixing the wagon myself if something ever went wrong. However, the warranty isn't worth the paper it's written on. Now the warranty has expired and I'm stuck with it."

Ted Thompson, Thompson, Iowa: "We've owned six **Deere** 9000 series combines since 1992 and have been happy with all of them. The engine on our current model, a 9570 STS, locked up at 120 hours. However, the company supplied a complete new engine and the dealer had it installed in just three days. Meanwhile the dealer provided a good, used combine to us free of charge. Deere's customer service is the best."

Tom Wall, Iowa City, Iowa: "My wife bought a front-load **Fisher & Paykel** washing machine (www.fisherpaykel.com). It uses less water and spins the clothes almost dry. The machine senses the average fabric mix of the load and creates the optimum wash cycle based on what it 'feels'. I'd recommend this washing machine to anyone."

Charlie Breiding, Mogadore, Ohio: "I like my 1991 and 2000 **Simplicity** lawn tractors. Both have been very dependable."

"The lawn vacuum system I bought from (Continued on next page)