

runs great and was the best Father's Day gift I ever received."

**Gerald Palmer, Oquawka, Ill.:** "I like my 1957 Ford 820 tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe. It's an industrial-built machine that doesn't use any oil and starts great. I bought it primarily to haul firewood and cut 5 or 6 cords of wood a year. The backhoe's weight helps balance any heavy loads on the loader bucket."

**Bert Roberts, West Kingston, Rhode Island:** "I enjoy driving my 2012 GM Sierra pickup equipped with an automatic transmission. In the past I had manual shift transmissions in all my GM pickups. I put almost 200,000 miles on every one except for the last one, which I gave to my daughter at about 60,000 miles. I had to buy a pickup with an automatic transmission because of nerve damage in my left leg, which kept me from using my foot to engage the clutch."

**Larry Futral, Jackson, Tenn.:** "I like my 1990 Yamaha 16 hp riding mower equipped with a hydrostatic transmission. It had an oil leak last year, and I installed new belts and a deck bearing. But overall, I'm well pleased with this mower."

**Roger Dickman, Monroeville, Ohio:** "My 2013 Toyota Prius hybrid car gets 45 mpg on mostly local, short trips. Despite criticism in a nationally known consumer magazine, I've found the car's acceleration and internal road noise level to be quite acceptable."

**Fred Strunk, Shenandoah, Iowa:** Fred's had problems with his 2010 Cub Cadet 1094 riding mower. "The belt that drives the blade has broken numerous times or has come off the pulley. I also had to install a new starter and battery. This mower worked great whenever it wasn't broken down, but the warranty will expire this fall so I plan to get rid of it and go back to Deere."

**S. Galluppi, Sellersville, Penn.:** "My 1982 Tanaka string trimmer worked great for several years ([www.tanakapowerequipment.com](http://www.tanakapowerequipment.com)). Then one day the head stopped rotating even as the engine kept running. I took the head apart and noticed the end of the shaft, which is supposed to be square, had rounded off and was no longer engaging the square hole in the trimmer head. I built up the end of the shaft with welding material and reshaped it. The trimmer then worked fine after that."

"I still use a Tanaka trimmer. During those 31 years of service I've performed this procedure at least 5 times. I hope others might benefit from my experience."

**Bobby Morris, Ariton, Ala.:** A 2009 Kawasaki Mule utility vehicle rates as Bobby's "best buy". "I use my Mule a lot to do different jobs including gardening and yard work. It saves me a lot of walking. Our grandchildren use it, too."

**Paul R. Makson, Warsaw, N.Y.:** "I use my 2011 Sears high wheel push mower for trimming around trees and flower beds,

**"The blade flew off, just missing my right foot."**

etc. One week before the warranty expired the shaft broke and the blade flew off, just missing my right foot. The dealer sent the mower to the company's repair center, but they said the warranty was voided because I must have hit something. Adding insult to injury, they billed me \$42 for examining the mower."

**William Stodart, Howell, Mich.:** "My Kubota L3200 tractor is user friendly and ultra reliable in any season. It's also easy to service. The loader goes on and off in just 10

min."

**Raymond Gleason, Chatham, N.Y.:** "My 2006 Deere X500 riding mower has never been in the shop and still has the original belts, tires and battery. It pays to buy the best."

"After selling my 1999 Chevrolet 3/4-ton pickup I felt like a new truck would be a good idea. Ford had great deals in 2009 when everyone else was having money problems. So I bought a new Ford F-250 pickup. However, it got only 9 mpg and lacked the power to tow my trailer and tractor. So a year later I sold it and bought an old 1998 Chevrolet 1/2-ton, 4-WD shortbed model with about 107,000 miles. It still runs like a top."

**Richard Andrews, Harrisonburg, Va.:** "My ParMak Fieldmaster FM-1 fence charger has operated continuously for at least 15 years with no problems (ph 800 662-1038; [www.parmak.com](http://www.parmak.com)). I bought 3 Parmak solar chargers and replaced the battery on the oldest one. The circuit board went bad soon afterward, but an authorized service center repaired it at no charge. No problems with the other 2 units."

**Lee Johnson, Lovettsville, Va.:** I bought a stick-on E Tip block heater for my Deutz 7206 tractor. It cost about \$100 but I bought it because it was made in the U.S. However, it wouldn't stick even onto a clean surface. The company charged me \$14 for shipping and handling to return the block heater even though it fit inside a 5 by 7-in. envelope."

**John Thomson, Mohawk, N.Y.:** A 2005 Dodge Dakota 4-WD pickup rates as John's "worst buy". "The first week the pickup had a transmission recall, and then many 'check engine light' problems developed. The pickup's entire rear end, including all brake components, had to be replaced due to recalls. It also needed an expensive front wheel bearing replacement, and the steering shaft had to be replaced. This pickup is now on its fifth set of front wheel brakes and rotors, even though it has only about 28,000 miles on it."

**Dewey Anderson, Moose Lake, Minn.:** Dewey's disappointed with his 2012 Bobcat 450 4-WD tractor. "No wonder this tractor has only a one-year warranty. The posi traction never did work, the air conditioner pump froze up, and two hydraulic hoses broke. I found out later the hoses were the weakest grade made. Also, one hydraulic cylinder leaks. Pulling a hay rake, this tractor uses more fuel than my 100 hp tractor does pulling a 4-bottom plow. And when I tilt the steering wheel the engine revs up."

"They told me when I bought this tractor that getting parts from North Dakota would take one day, but the tractor was in the shop for one month waiting for parts. I had to pay to have the air conditioner recharged, and I also had to pay for transmission oil and a new filter when they repaired the posi traction."

"The tractor starts hard, and when it does start it belches so much smoke that I can't see out the cab door. The dealer says he can't do anything about it and that all their tractors are like that. The tires don't hold air, and I need a long pipe just to pry the locking levers down on the quick-tach bucket."

**Dallas Corder, Oak Grove, Va.:** "The 2011 Swisher log roller hook that I bought at Tractor Supply Co. bent on the first log I used it on, even though it was a small log. The company wouldn't take it back. There went \$30 out the window."

**Bill Filson, Bozeman, Mont.:** "In 2000 I bought a Deere 445 garden tractor equipped with a 54-in. mower deck and 47-in. snowblower. This is an amazing machine. We're maintenance fanatics, and it pays because after 13 years and 2,200 hrs. this tractor has been to the dealer just

## Custom Harvester Reports On Stripper Head Test

Alan Roland and his family have been in the custom harvesting business for more than 30 years. They've seen three decades of technology improvements on the New Holland combines they've used throughout that time. Those improvements have made harvesting easier, more efficient and, when things break down, more expensive. In the summer of 2013, the Roland crew tested a stripper header on one of their New Holland CR rotary combines while harvesting small grain near Colby, Kan.

"The stripper header has many good points," says Alan's daughter Megan, who's been part of her dad's crew for more than 15 years. "On flat fields we could run faster than with a draper platform, getting just as much done with a 28-ft. stripper as we could with a 36-ft. draper head. The stripper works well in green straw, too, because there are no sickles to get gummed up."

Megan says another benefit of using a stripper head is the amount of stubble that it leaves after harvest. "With a draper or auger head, the grain can sometimes get cut fairly close to the ground, leaving just a few inches of stubble if the crop is lodged. A stripper header removes only the heads of grain, so longer stubble is left in the field. If a farmer is no-tilling, he plants right into that taller stubble, which catches snow during the winter. Tall stubble also provides more shade to growing crops, which keeps the ground cool and helps retain moisture."

The stripper head was a Shelbourne Reynolds model that the Rolands bought and used specifically to harvest grain that was short and hail damaged. The head has 8 rows of stripping fingers mounted on a drum that rotates upwards. As the combine moves through the field, the fingers strip grain heads and some of the straw from the standing crop and deposit it onto a conventional auger that moves it to the feederhouse.

The Roland crew said using the stripper head was mostly a positive experience, but there's room for improvement. Says Megan, "On terraced fields or rough terrain, the fingers would easily hit the ground and send unwanted clumps of soil into the combine. We found that the stripper head was more difficult to maneuver than a draper head, almost like the solid auger platforms from 10 years ago."

once, to replace an electronic board — due to age it was cracking. I designed and built an abrasion resistant internal liner for the snowblower housing, which makes it a real gravel eater. If anyone is interested I can provide parts and information (ph 406 580-7984; [metalmagician@3riversdbs.net](mailto:metalmagician@3riversdbs.net))."

**Eugene Leeper, Bemidji, Minn.:** Eugene is proud of his 1954 Ferguson T030 tractor. "I paid \$750 for this tractor in 1970 equipped with a Paulson front-end loader. In 1974 I overhauled the engine, and in 1982 I installed a new clutch, pressure plate and throw bearing. I'm still using this tractor 43 years later. I put fluid in the tires and added wheel weights from a Farmall A tractor, as well as road grader chains. It has a lot of traction and really goes through snow. Over the years I've replaced one front tire and both rear tires."

**David Fricker, DeValls Bluff, Ark.:** "I use my 1989 Deere 2355 65 hp tractor for raking out levees in rice, drilling seed, and bush hogging. It has more than 4,400 hrs. on it and I've replaced only the water pump. It's



**"On flat fields we could run faster than with a draper platform," says Roland.**



**On rough ground, Roland says the stripper fingers sometimes dig into the dirt.**

Megan says her father, Alan, compared the stripper head to wearing a pair of gloves. "He told me they have a purpose, sometimes you absolutely need them, and other times you don't need them at all," says Megan. Another problem they experienced was on a field where the wheat was short and the terrain was uneven. Alan had to continually speed up and slow down, which overheated the oil and caused hydraulic lines to burst. "We certainly wouldn't want to put up with that on a daily basis," Alan says.

The Rolands also used the stripper head on seed peas and liked the way it performed. For most of their harvesting clients, however, they'll continue using draper heads. Alan says those heads work well on different crops and a variety of conditions and, most important, their customers are satisfied with the results. The stripper head will be used in very short or hail damaged crop and for farmers who specifically want tall stubble for no-till planting.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Megan Roland, All Aboard Wheat Harvest Correspondent, Roland Harvesting, 455 Cty. Rd. 65, Hemingford, Neb. 69348 (ph 308 760-0396).

also easy on fuel. A great tractor.

"I use my Yanmar 1702D 4-WD diesel tractor in rice fields to spray levees, to drain fields, and to haul out levee gates. I also use it with a 60-in. finish mower to mow our one-acre yard, where it uses only a half gallon of fuel. I also use it with a 60-in. tiller in my garden."

**Robert Fussner, Brookville, Ind.:** "The Deere 6 by 4 Gator I bought used is an excellent machine for hauling stuff. It's easy to start, comfortable to drive and saves us thousands of steps every day. It has good flotation in wet ground, and the dump bed comes in handy when hauling soil or brush. It also has good towing capability."

**Galen Frahm, Cheyenne, Wyo.:** "I like Pelican LED flashlights (ph 435 245-6642; [www.pelicanproducts.us](http://www.pelicanproducts.us)). They run on two AAA batteries, which last a long time. I have the 1920 model. I've tried using other flashlight brands, but this one lasts longer than any of them."