

3656). “The bare root plants were robust and all started growing within 10 days of being planted. The nursery owner has responded to all my questions concerning how to grow these plants.”

Gary Pennock, Great Bend, N.Y.: “One of the best decisions I ever made was to become a member of the **National Foundation for Debt Management** (www.nfdm.org; ph 800 353-9890). They contacted my creditors and were able to lower my interest rates so I could pay off my debts faster. It helped me gain a better understanding of how to manage money and also a better understanding of debt and credit. I highly recommend this organization for anyone who is struggling with paying down credit card debt, or who wants a better understanding of debt-to-income ratios and credit reports.”

Jim Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.: “Installing a **Ferguson Transport Lock** from Red Rock Mfg. (www.redrockmfg.com; ph 641 780-1748) made life with my 9N easier. With the lock in place, I no longer have to worry about 3-pt. attachments drifting downward when



the pto is not engaged. I previously added limiting chains to prevent attachments from falling too far when in use. However, that can still be lower than I want when transporting them. The lock resolves the issue.

“The lock is a simple combination of a shaft and a guide plate held together by a spring bolt. The fix comes with a replacement pin for the lift arm. It is just enough longer to allow the shaft to be attached.

“When the guide plate is in the lowest position, it guides the shaft past the axle. Release pressure on the spring bolt and slide the guide plate to the upper position on the shaft. When the arms are next raised to their highest position, the shaft aligns over the axle. Lower the arms, and the pressure ‘locks’ the arms in place.”

“I also ordered a gas gauge for the 9N. It too is a best buy for my money. It beats finding a clean stick to check fuel levels. Red Rock owner Phil Smith includes clear instructions for preventing vapor lock, should that be a problem with the gas cap-mounted gauge.”

Thomas A. Sheridan, McPherson, Kan.: “It never misses a beat and always starts right up, even after sitting all winter,” says Thomas about his 1983 **Troy-Bilt** 6 hp rototiller. “It’s just on its second spark plug and second set of tines. By now it has become an antique like I am, but it still runs good.”

John W. Miller, Halifax, Penn.: “Some years ago I bought a **Harvestore** silo, and after it was built they told me it wasn’t sealed right. I had to pay more to have it re-sealed, but now there are cracks showing up in all the joints and water is leaking in. Also, all the brackets on the outside are rusted.”

Dan Martin, Sarona, Wis.: “This 30 hp tractor is the best I’ve ever owned,” says Dan about his 2002 **Kubota** L3010 4-WD model equipped with a front-end loader. “It always starts and is easy on fuel. Not being a mechanic I really appreciate its reliability. I’d buy another one without hesitating.”

Brian Byers, Lindale, Texas: “I bought my 2003 **Dodge** 1500 Quad Cab 4-WD pickup used with about 68,000 miles on it. It now has about 150,000 miles on it but still runs great without using any oil. It’s powered by a 5.7-liter Hemi engine that averages 18 mpg. After reading a story in FARM SHOW, I plan to lengthen the bed by 2 ft. and change the bed to a stake side model.”

Merlin Wooley, Beaverton, Mich.: “My 2012 **Cub Cadet** Volunteer 4-WD utility vehicle is well-built with more than 400 trouble-free hours on it. The steering could be improved so it would be easier to make slow turns. We use it to pull a maple syrup trailer in the spring and to do spraying work.

“My 2013 **Jonsered** CS 2152C chainsaw starts easy, cuts fast, and is lightweight.”

Kevin Ranette, Moyie Springs, Idaho: “I bought a **Makita** angle grinder equipped with a paddle switch to use in my steel fabrication and welding shop. It works great. I’ve dropped it countless times and stepped on it, but it still works like new. I highly recommend this tool.”

Steven M. Yoder, Reedsville, Penn.: “My **Miller Spectrum** 625 plasma cutter cuts up to 5/8-in. thick steel, and my **Millermatic** 250 Mig welder welds up to 1/2-in. material. Both work great.

“My **Northern Tool** 200 amp AC stick welder and my 140 wire welder were both worst buys.”

Kevin Page, Lyons, Mich.: Kevin’s had problems with his 2013 **Manitou** 735-120 telehandler. “It has less than 500 hrs. on it but the radiator already leaks in the seams,

“It has less than 500 hrs. on it but the radiator already leaks.”

the reversible fan doesn’t work, the door latch broke, and the hydraulic overload for the loader kicks out with just a bucket full of snow so that the operator can’t dump or lower it. Now the machine is out of warranty.

“Our **Claas** forage harvesters are best buys.”

Josh Beadles, Ellery, Ill.: “The first day I used my **Continental** B-9500 anhydrous ammonia controller, the diaphragm blew out. I called the company’s after-hours service number and explained the problem. They shipped a new diaphragm the next morning, totally free of charge. Problem solved. This company stands behind its products. I wish all companies did.”

On the negative side, “I’ve never worn out a set of **Goodyear** tires because the steel belts always separate while there’s still a lot of tread left on the tires. I wouldn’t use Goodyear tires again if you gave them to me.”

Rae Lawson, Valdosta, Ga.: “I’ve tried several ant-killing products but none worked. Then I bought a bag of **Advanced Insect Killer** at Lowe’s and came home. I had a big ant community in my yard. I used a little stick to stir the top of each ant hill and then sprinkled about 3/4 of a cup on it. The next day the ants were gone. I don’t know where they went, but they’re gone. I went right back to Lowe’s and bought more of this product before the government finds out that it works and bans it.

“I love my **Country Clipper** riding mower equipped with a joystick control, 60-in. deck, and 30 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. I purchased a manual deck lift jack from the company. It makes changing the blades a lot easier.”

Charles R. Keller, Tacoma, Wash.: “Ten

“Owner’s Report” On 2015 F-150

“I’ve driven Ford pickups for 25 years and every one of the 6 models I’ve owned has improved on the previous one. My new 2015 F-150 Super Crew Platinum is no exception,” says contributing editor Lorn Manthey.

“I drive about 25,000 miles a year over all types of roads and terrain, pull 3 different trailers, and use my trucks for farming and recreation, and I’ve never had a major breakdown,” Manthey says. He and a neighbor do all the required regular maintenance, and he says his 2009 model was the only one that had a problem they couldn’t fix: a failure in the wiring system on the driver’s seat.

“When Ford announced that the 2015 models would have a lighter aluminum body, I ordered a 2015 Platinum 4-WD Super Crew model with a 6-ft. box and the large Ecoboost engine,” Manthey says. “After spending a few hours getting used to the truck, I hooked up my 12,000-lb. dual axle trailer and put the truck to work. Hauling 5 tons of seed and fertilizer was a breeze because the Ecoboost V-6 really has the juice. It’s mid-range torque is much better than my previous V-8, and gas mileage pulling that loaded trailer over 200 miles was 15 mpg. In normal over the road driving I’m getting 18 to 19 mpg with 87 octane gas and almost 20 mpg with premium.

“The body of the new Platinum is very sturdy and doesn’t have a squeak. I really like the remote power-assist endgate: just push a button and it lets itself down. The grandpa step in the back makes it easy to get into the box. Box lighting is functional for seeing what you’re trying to load and unload in the dark. My truck has the automatic running boards that are activated when a door is open, a great feature. Front mud flaps should be added to keep gravel and mud off the boards. The exterior side box step is also great for reaching into the front of the box.

“My truck has the center console and floor shift. The storage area in that console is large enough to hold a full size dog. That’s good and bad if you carry a lot of stuff like I do. The cover has a couple nice pockets for storing notebooks and papers and a tray that slides across the interior storage is also great. I really like the large bucket seats that



Lorn Manthey likes his 2015 Ford F-150 4-WD Super Crew Platinum pickup. “The Ecoboost V-6 engine has plenty of juice for pulling trailers,” he says,

are heated, cooled and adjustable 9 ways to Sunday. Both seats in the back fold up to open a flat floor large enough to carry a big dresser...or a lot of tool cases and extra clothes. My dog loves the area because the vents blow fresh air right over her.

“The instrument panel, like today’s phones, laptops and computers, has way more electronics than I’m used to. However, once I learned what was what, they’re nice gadgets to have. I can even open and close the sunroof without looking away from the road. The HD sound system is amazing.

“The center LCD screen is a big improvement over my previous 2009 model. The touch screen is divided into modes for Phone, Navigation, Climate, and Audio and Entertainment. A finger to the screen puts every vehicle control imaginable at your fingertips. Better have reading glasses, though, because the text and icon sizes are small for visually challenged adults.

“There’s a lot of good to say about the 2015 Ford, and a few disappointments. The driving experience is comfortable, yet soft. Feeling the road at times is a challenge. The truck stops just fine, as long as I really put a foot to the brake. I’ve done it with an easy push and that’s not enough. Another issue I have is with the box, which has an expansion crack on the front, sides and back. My first 10 miles on a gravel road covered the toolboxes with dust. I alleviated most of that problem by filling those spaces with flexible caulk that matches the black sprayed-on bed liner. Problem mostly solved.

“All in all, if you’re in the market for a new Ford, the 2015 aluminum body design is indeed ‘Built Ford Tough’.”

years ago I began a new job as a custodian in a public school, working the swing shift. I learned early on that concrete under carpet is a killer on your feet.

“I heard about work boots made by the **White Boot Company** of Spokane, Wash. (www.whitesboots.com; ph 800 541-3786), and bought my first pair in the summer of 2005. They offer a variety of styles depending on your needs. I chose the ‘Farmer-Rancher’ with 10-in. tops and standard oil-resistant soles. For added comfort I use Spenco Rx Comfort insoles and wicking work socks. I was so pleased that the next year I bought a second pair. Now I trade off wearing them every other day. Both pairs of boots spend time on a boot dryer, and I use **White’s Boot Dressing** along with saddle soap regularly.

“I wear these boots almost every day in all types of weather. In addition to work, I wear them while on vacation, hiking, camping, tractor pulls, and even to church. If the boots should ever wear out, the company will rebuild them like new. I’ve had the heels redone several times and last year had the soles replaced.”

Ronnie D. Kuykendall, Ridgely, Tenn.: “I

bought my 2012 **Polaris** Ranger diesel utility vehicle used in December 2013 with 80 hrs. on it. This machine is useful around our house and shop and always starts. It runs smooth and goes right through snow and mud. No problems.”

Alex Dunn, Louisville, Ky.: “My **Red Max** straight shaft commercial weed trimmer is absolutely the best product I’ve ever owned (www.redmax.com). I also own a **Red Max** leaf blower, hedge trimmer, and chainsaw and they’re all best buys.”

David Krausz, New Baden, Ill.: “My 2002 **Gravely** 60-in. zero-turn mower is equipped with a 25 hp Kawasaki gas engine and has about 1,300 hrs. on it. It’s the best machine I’ve ever owned.”

Gary Johnson, Yankton, S. Dak.: “I bought my 2011 **Chevrolet** 2500 heavy duty 4-WD pickup used with about 18,000 miles on it. It’s equipped with a 6.6-liter diesel engine and an Allison 6-speed automatic transmission. I use this pickup to pull a 12,000-lb. Ditch Witch trencher and to haul other heavy loads, and for lots of other jobs including snow removal. It works great and gets a respectable 16 to 18 mpg.”