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Alvin Hook, Butler, Ind.: Alvin's impressed with his **DeWalt** chop saw. "We'd be lost without it. We hardly ever buy hacksaw blades anymore and also use much less cutting torch gas. It works fast, and it cuts much cleaner and straighter than a torch or saw. Also, the parts it cuts are ready to weld without having to do any grinding or touching up."

Dale Hekrdle, Stanton, Neb.: A 1985 **Deere** 4850 MFWD tractor rates as Dale's "best buy". "I bought this tractor used with 7,000 hours on it. It doesn't use any oil and has a lot of power. Also, it's fairly fuel efficient."

"My 2002 **Polaris** Magnum 4-wheeler ATV is my worst buy. The electronic module shorted out and was expensive to replace so I traded it and bought a 2004 **Polaris** 400 Sportsman. I had the same problem. The dealer, however, claimed it rarely happened. It took weeks to get a new module."

David Janitell, Sharon Springs, Kansas: A 2000 **Deere** 7810 tractor equipped with an 840 front-end loader and grapple fork rates as David's "best buy". "It's a superb all-around tractor. I especially like the 20-speed power quad transmission with left hand reverser. We've used this tractor almost every day for moving hay, mowing, loading and unloading, etc. No problems at all."

Alex Moore, Pomona, Kansas: "I've cut a lot of wood with my 1982 **Stihl** chainsaw, yet it has required only routine maintenance. I've replaced just one drive sprocket. In the past I used this chainsaw with a 16-in. bar, but now I have a 24-in. bar on it. This saw has never failed to start and always runs well. I own another **Stihl** model that I like, too."

"My 1989 **Chevrolet** Silverado pickup is a best buy. I've always used it hard but just replaced the engine for the first time at about 345,000 miles."

Charles O. Tostenson, Crystal, Minn.: "My 2006 **Deere** GX 345 garden tractor equipped with a 54-in. mower deck has plenty of power and is my best buy. I use it to pull a

weight on the handles and has a fast time speed so it does a good job of tilling in tough conditions. It has three forward speeds and one reverse. Up to 20 different attachments are available to go with it. The transmission is covered by a 5-year warranty. My dealer said he has never had to work on a transmission yet. The company also offers gas-powered models."

Larry Deckinger, Falls City, Neb.: "My 2007 **Elk Creek** 3-pt. implement carrier is a best buy (**Elk Creek Welding & Steel Products**, Elk Creek, Neb. ph 402 335-2610; www.elkcreekwelding.com). I use it with a **Deere** 7100 mounted planter. It's well designed and handles good. I have a 300-gal. fertilizer tank mounted on it, which it handles with ease. The carrier is built with rectangular and square tubing. There are no open tubes anywhere to fill with dust and debris."

Stephen Beck, Earlimart, Calif.: Stephen's the satisfied owner of a 2006 **Deere** Gator. "It has more than paid for itself with the savings in gas compared to doing chores in a full-size pickup. As a bonus, it's fun to drive."

Lee L'Heureux, Aztec, New Mexico: "My 2007 **Featherlite** weed eater, which I bought at Wal-Mart, is my best buy. I paid \$65 for it. Extra spools are available and it's easy to wind the line. This is a great little machine."

Ed Gorham, Gladewater, Texas: "My **Interstate** 5 by 10-ft. cargo trailer is my worst buy. It had 500 lbs. in it when I left Texas for a trip to Wisconsin. However, I went only about 50 miles before I had to turn back because the trailer pulled so hard. I unloaded the cargo onto a **Pace America** 5 by 10-ft. trailer and resumed my trip with no more problems. It pulls very easily. I later sold the **Interstate** model."

Mark Haines, North Branch, Mich.: "My son and I traded a 29-year-old **Massey Ferguson** 255 tractor that never had any trouble for a 2006 **Massey Ferguson** 451 model, which is the sorriest tractor we've ever owned. It has many problems. Two brackets were welded off location on the left front wheel, the fuel injector pump had to be overhauled, the safety switch on the pto shorted out, and there was a rubbing noise on the fan hub. The brakes were so hard that I couldn't turn with them or stop quickly, and the fuel gauge didn't work. We've owned this tractor for about 13 months, but the dealer has had it for three of those months. The last time I brought it home the fuel gauge still wasn't working, and the brakes were squealing."

Peyton Smith, Covington, Tenn.: "I'm well pleased with **Toyota** Prius hybrid cars. I've owned two of them and they average about 50 mpg."

Jack Bennett, Pauls Valley, Okla.: "I'm happy with a cockroach control product called **Maxforce FC** (**Maxforce Insect Control**, Oakland, Calif. ph 800 426-6228). I was on the road a lot so I rented out the front part of my house and used the back part for storage. After I returned I found the place was infested with cockroaches. I tried a lot of different remedies but nothing worked. Finally, my niece in Texas (where the cockroaches are even larger) sent me this product. The first year I put out a few bait stations and the next year a few more. After three years I haven't seen a single cockroach."

H.L. Bagg II, Eva, Tenn.: "I like my 2004 **Harbor Freight** 4 1/2-in. angle grinder. It has worn out about 100 cutting and grinding discs but is still going great. I owned one before this one and it only lasted a week. But this one is great."

Robert Dvorak, South Haven, Kansas: Robert's impressed with his 1989 **Deere** 4450

"Best Buy" Deere Terra Gator

"It's the handiest little machine I've ever used," says **Vernon Hoffman** about his 2003 **Deere** 4-WD Terra Gator. Hoffman lives in Arizona but works during the spring and fall for Barton Farms of Silver Lake, Minnesota.

The Terra Gator is equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine and a variable speed transmission.

"We put about 100 hours per year on this machine and really like it," says Hoffman. "During the spring we mount an 80-gal. tank and a 12-ft. boom on back and use this rig as a sprayer for controlling weeds in low, wet spots in fields. We also use it around our yard to control dandelions."

"To pick up rocks, we built a slip-in wooden box for it that fits over the tailgate. We can get 1,000 lbs. of rocks in it. We use a hydraulic-operated screw hoist to dump the rocks out."

"We mounted a pair of plastic flags on both front corners of the machine, which helps us when picking up rocks. Both the driver and passenger can just lean over to pick up rocks and throw them into the box, without having to get out of the machine. The flags make it easier to see the front corners of the machine so we can drive up close to the rocks."

"We also screwed a wooden running board



Vernon Hoffman uses this 2003 Deere 4-WD Terra Gator as a sprayer, mounting an 80-gal. tank and 12-ft. boom on it.

to each side of the machine, and a big rubber flap, to keep mud from flying up onto us when driving on wet ground.

"Our Terra Gator is equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine and a variable speed transmission."

"Sometimes we have to drive down the highway to get to fields. The Terra Gator didn't come equipped with mirrors so we borrowed two mirrors from a pickup camper, mounting one on each side of the rig."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, **Vernon Hoffman**, 4208 E. Fremont, Phoenix, Arizona 85042 (ph 602 437-5640).

tractor. "It has more than 11,000 hours on it but only the alternator and air compressor have been replaced."

Bruce Basinger, Cave City, Ark.: Bruce is pleased with his **Case** 1825 skid loader. "I bought this machine used with about 600 hours on it. I installed auxiliary remote hydraulic outlets and changed the front hookup system to make it work like the quick-tach systems found on newer skid loaders. We use it with a standard bucket as well as a grapple bucket and a backhoe attachment. We've put about 200 hours on this machine with no problems and use it for everything from loading manure to digging out tree stumps and cleaning brush. It's a great machine."

"I bought a Chinese-made **Run Master II** go-cart on Ebay which was a waste of money. There were no written instructions. It came with a video tape in Chinese. After less than 50 hours of use this \$1,500 go-cart is basically junked out. We had problems with everything. I've been told there's no longer a parts distributor for this go-cart in the U.S. I don't appreciate being scammed."

Bruce Thompson, Amenia, N.Y.: "My 1999 **Toyota** Tacoma pickup has more than 160,000 miles on it with no problems. I drive it every day and it always starts right up."

"My 2003 **New Holland** TN-70 tractor is a worst buy. First a sensor on the transmission went out and the tractor was down for a week before the dealer came out to fix it. Then, with only 500 hours on it, another electrical problem developed inside the transmission. It took two weeks and \$1,200 to fix. Then another transmission sensor went out, and it took another two weeks to fix and cost another \$1,500."

Ben Eastman, Sacramento, Calif.: "My **Savage** pecan cleaner and pecan harvester are both excellent machines (**Savage Equipment**, Madill, Okla. ph 866 572-8243). They're very well engineered."

Gary Helgeson, Rye, Colo.: "It's a great all-around farm and ranch vehicle. We use it for everything from fencing to moving cattle," reports Gary about his "best buy" 2005 **Polaris** 4-WD Ranger utility vehicle.

Daniel Wilson, Kerrville, Texas: "I like my 2006 **Kawasaki** Mule 610 4-WD utility vehicle equipped with a hi-lo transmission. Works great and hauls impressive loads."

Robert Craghead, Moneta, Va.: "My 2005 and 2006 **DeWalt** 18-volt cordless power tools are best buys. We build boat docks and have tried most of the other major brands, but **DeWalt** tools are by far the best."

"My 2001 **Ford** F-150 pickup is my worst buy. The transmission had to come out in 2005 with only about 43,000 miles on it. This pickup was used for everyday use with no hard miles on it. Even though the 36,000-mile warranty had only recently expired the company wouldn't help. It cost me \$3,600 to fix which was not acceptable. Now I own a **Chevy**."

David M. Pickett, West Jefferson, N.C.: "My 2006 **Troy-Bilt** trimmer/brush cutter has power to spare and is easy to start. My wife has no problem starting it. It replaced my 1982 **Echo** weed eater which was used hard for 24 years. Finally the coil on it failed and parts were no longer available."

Craig Grodman, New Hampton, N.Y.: "My 2005 **Suzuki** King Quad 700 4-wheeler works great in almost any kind of terrain, from woods to desert. I highly recommend this machine."

On the negative side, "I purchased a pair of **Red Wing** high top boots last December, but by April the leather stitching had torn and the boots were totally useless and had to be thrown out. It was an expensive pair of boots, considering I was able to use them for only four months."

Albert Patterson, Taft, Tenn.: "We bought our **Kuhn** disc mower used last fall and couldn't be happier with it. The most impressive thing about **Kuhn** products is their tough construction and easy maintenance. We bought it to replace an old **New Holland** haybine and put it to work right away, cutting more than 100 acres of hay with no problems. The ultimate test came when we used it to cut an old field that hadn't been mowed in four years. The grass was as high as the tractor tires, but the mower ripped it down like it was pure Bermuda grass. This mower has hit several metal T-posts and large rocks without any damage to the cutterbar. If we ever need to buy another mower, it'll be a **Kuhn**."

Ann Arens, Bayfield Co., Colo.: Ann likes a product called **Oxy Blast Plus** that's designed to improve water quality (**Essential**

"I replaced the engine for the first time at 345,000 miles."

Swisher 60-in., 13 hp finish mower. Both machines are great."

Curly McGhee, Mt. Olive, Ill.: "Our **Maytag** MTW 5600TQ washing machine is so loud that I can't even hear the TV when it's on. The machine always makes clunking and thudding noises, but the dealer says they all do that. The company refuses to help. This will be my last **Maytag** product."

Jerome Webb, Harrold, S. Dak.: "I like **Ballistol** Lube. It can be used on just about anything as a lubricant, cleaner, and preservative. It makes antique items, firearms, boats, cars and RV's look like new. It's non-carcinogenic and biodegradable."

"My **Wen** 3500 portable generator starts on the first pull and is light enough to easily move around. It has plenty of power to operate most shop tools."

"Over the years I've had four **Toyota** cars, including **Corollas** and **Camrys**. These cars can't be worn out. When they get to about 100,000 miles, I figure they're just getting broken in good."

James Rissler, Hopkinsville, Ky.: "I like my **Grillo** G85 garden tiller equipped with a **Lombardini** 7 1/2 hp diesel engine (**Earth Tools, Inc.**, Owenton, Ky. ph 502 484-3988; www.earthtoolsbc.com). It puts a little more