

"By the end of the first full season we had to replace the battery. Also, the top of the front tires had tilted inward at about a 60 degree angle, making steering almost impossible. When we had the mower serviced before winter, we had to have the entire front assembly torn down to replace a number of parts. The service department said this has been a common problem. Fortunately, the warranty covered most of the expense.

"The following spring, I was cutting near our house and found it necessary to back up and turn around. As I did so, the small beam that supports the front wheels broke in half and I had to push the mower to the machine shed, where it sat for three weeks until the dealer finally came out to take it back to his shop. His reply, 'Well, sometimes things break'. My response to him was 'And, sometimes people buy their \$4,000 lawn mowers from other companies.'"

**Vickie Cope, Fremont, Iowa:** Vickie received a **Black & Decker** cordless chainsaw equipped with an 8-in. bar in 2006 as a Christmas present. "I really enjoy using this chainsaw. I've used it to clean up after several ice storms. It also works great for pruning work. It's lightweight and easy to handle. The battery is reliable and the chain is holding up well."

**Norman Palmer, Montgomery Creek, Calif.:** "Our 1991 **Shindawa** weedeater is our best buy. It has aged with no major problems - just new spark plugs. We recently bought a new model that's just as good but a lot more powerful. We still use the old one. We've purchased other weedeater brands, but none can compare."

**Bill Taylor, Meriden, N.H.:** "My **Paslode** cordless framing nail gun is my best buy. It doesn't have a hose to drag around which allows me to tackle many construction projects by myself. It eliminates the need for someone to hold the board while a nail is started. It'll shoot spikes as well as 8-penny nails.

"My **Kuhn-Deruban** round bale unroller is my worst buy. The chain was much too weak to handle 1,500-lb. silage bales, which caused individual links to snap all the time. We fabricated our own replacement links, but after a while we got tired of doing that and just parked it. We're waiting for an opportunity to trade it in."

**Jim Malloy, Alma, W. Va.:** "My 2006 **Welger** square baler is a real jewel. I've used it to make more than 2,000 bales without even one mis-tie."

**Charles Horton, Vinitz, Okla.:** "My 1998 **DR Trimmer**, a 6 hp wheeled weedeater model, still works great.

"My 2007 **White** riding mower equipped with a Kohler 19 hp gas engine has been a big disappointment. The engine doesn't have enough power and the deck is real flimsy. I use it to mow about 2 1/2 acres every week. I'll never buy another White mower."

**Rob Tolson, Callao, Va.:** Rob likes his **Kubota L3830 4-WD** loader tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission and 4-in-1 bucket. "It has 232 hours on it but still runs like new. The 4-in-1 bucket works great and is a real time-saver. I can do just about anything with it."

One of his worst buys ever was a **Deere 332** riding mower with a 48-in. deck. "This mower never would cut the grass right, and then the engine blew up. I had the engine replaced and that one blew up, too. We finally junked it."

**E. T. Guanin, Greenville, Georgia:** "I'm impressed with my 1990 **Dodge 250** pickup equipped with a 6-cyl. Cummins diesel engine. The odometer shows about 400,000 miles but it has been broken for the past six

years. I use this pickup to haul wood out of the woods on two trailers. It's a tough truck in every way. For example, I weigh 275 lbs. but the seat is still like new."

On the negative side, "I've had to replace the blades six times on my 2006 **Deere L130** and the center mandrell broke out. A friend who operates a machine shop cut some metal to cover the damaged portion and bolted the mandrell back in. If I don't see a big change in the performance of this mower, I won't ever buy a Deere again."

**Dennis R. Ewert, Mukwonago, Wis.:** "My 2008 **Valby 3-pt.** mounted wood chipper is my worst buy. I bought it with the optional hydraulic feed. However, the hydraulic motors on the feed started leaking after 30 minutes of use. I had to replace the motors twice, and then the safety bar wouldn't reverse the in-feed. Fortunately, the dealer refunded my money. This was supposed to be a heavy duty model that could handle a 9 1/2-in. dia. log."

**Richard Woods, King Ferry, N.Y.:** Richard's disappointed with his **Bixby 110** corn burning stove. "The automatic ash dump jams constantly, and then it shuts down. The dealer has come out to look at it whenever we call him, but he hasn't been able to solve the problem."

**Eldon Brandon, Mannington, W. Va.:** A 2005 **Kubota RTV 900** utility vehicle equipped with a diesel engine rates as Eldon's "worst buy". "This machine is underpowered, and it's very difficult to shift gears. Also, I almost go through the windshield when I take my foot off the accelerator."

**Philip Armstrong, Vilas, N.C.:** Philip's the satisfied owner of a 1980 **Stihl Super 90** gear-drive chainsaw with an Alaskan mill attachment and a 5-ft. bar. "I've used it to saw more than 10,000 board feet of slabs, always using a synthetic oil mix. I'm on my third spark plug. This saw always starts by the third or fourth pull. Not bad for a 28-year-old saw."

**Jack D. Cole, Dana, Ind.:** "I like my 2007 **Bad Boy 48-in.** zero turn riding mower (ph 866 622-3269; www.badboymowers.com). No problems, and it has a lot of power. When I bought it the dealer filled up the gas tank, which impressed me. I got 11.5 gallons of fuel which, at \$4 per gallon, came to \$46."

**Fuel Rubbert, Redmond, Ore.:** "My 2005 **Chevrolet K3500** pickup equipped with a Duramax engine is my worst buy. It blew

### "It gets 40 percent less mpg than my 2002 model."

its first set of fuel injectors at about 3,000 miles and has gone through a second set since then, as well as two injector pumps. It gets 40 percent less mpg than my 2002 model, which is almost identical to this one. Also, this pickup is underpowered. I put both pickups on a dynamometer, and found the 2005 model has 15 percent less power. The dealer can't solve the problem. I'm told the mileage on the newer Chevy pickups is also poor. I recently bought a used 2003 **K2500** model that gets 22 mpg."

**Mark L. Ballard, Roysse City, Texas:** "It starts every time, runs smooth and mows evenly. Also, it has a lot of power and maneuverability," says Mark about his **Kubota G1800** diesel riding mower equipped with a hydrostatic transmission.

"My worst buys are any tools from **North-ern Tool and Equipment**. Whether they're electric, pneumatic, or even hand-operated,

## "Best Buy" Garden Tractor Loader

Robert Crouthamel, Milford, Penn., recently contacted **FARM SHOW** to say he's happy with his **Johnny Bucket, Sr.**, a loader for garden tractors and riding mowers (Johnny Products, ph 414 328-1898; www.johnnybucket.com).

"I bought it last May and mounted it on my Deere 318 garden tractor. It really saves my back," says Crouthamel. "I use it to move rocks and logs and also for grading. It's a pleasure to operate."

The Johnny Bucket Sr. requires the tractor to have onboard auxiliary hydraulic ports. With the hydraulics it has a lift capacity of up to 500 lbs.

The Johnny Bucket also comes in a "Junior" version for smaller garden tractors that uses screw-type electric actuators that hook up to the tractor's battery. The actuators are used to do both the lifting and the dumping and have a lift capacity of up to 250 lbs.

A pair of switches - or a joystick - are used to operate the lift and the power dump simultaneously.

Both models are designed so the mower deck can remain in place while using the Johnny Bucket.



A wide variety of accessories are available, including tooth bars for digging; a bolt-on bucket doubler that raises the sides and back of the bucket; a snowshoe to protect the cutting edge when used to move snow; and caddy arms for carrying long boards, logs or for holding brush like a hay fork.

The Sr. Bucket sells for \$1,379.95; the Jr. Bucket with electric lift and dump sells for \$1,063.95.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Robert A. Crouthamel, 100 Crouthamel Road, Milford, Penn. 18337 (ph 570 296 -7366).

these tools are cheaply made and usually break after only one or two uses."

**Donald R. Miller, Dongola, Ill.:** "My 2006 **Vermeer 505** Rebel round baler is as near perfect as any machine I've ever owned.

"I own five **Allis Chalmers D17** tractors and they're all still in great shape. We bale a lot of hay and these tractors are all used in our hay operation."

**Jim Mitchell, Eaton, Ohio:** "I bought my **Case IH 7130** tractor new in 1989. Over the years this tractor has required only minor repairs. Last summer I checked the main engine bearing at 7,000 hours, but it showed no wear.

"My 2004 **Kinze 3600** planter is a best buy. I used a 2600 model for 10 years with great results. The 3600 model is built heavy and is a joy to use. No problems."

On the minus side, he lists his 1990 **Sukup 12-row** ridge-till cultivator. "It's not built heavy enough. The company sent me 'free' parts for four years, but finally I gave up and bought a **Buffalo 6430** model, which is a great cultivator."

**Jeff Berens, Holland, Mich.:** Jeff's the satisfied owner of a **Silver Stream** wood hoop building (ph 877 547-4738; www.silverstreamshelters.com). "It was fairly easy to set up, and is very bright and well ventilated inside. When we bought the kit it took us a while to actually put the building up. When we got started, we found we had the wrong size cover. We called the company and they sent us a new cover at no charge.

"Our **Premier** poultry fence isn't easy to move and didn't hold up well. It sagged badly so we had to put on extra posts, which took more time."

**Ralph R. Look, Wichita, Kansas:** "A **Wisconsin AK 4** hp gas engine I bought in the mid 1940's is still going strong. We've used it on a table saw, air compressor, grain auger, grain elevator, and hay elevator. One time when it was on a bale elevator it got shot by a 12-ga. shotgun, destroying the fuel tank. The engine was headed for scrap until I intercepted it, found another fuel tank, and put it back to work. It's still running great."

**Lawrence Boden, St. Clair, Mich.:** "My 2004 **New Holland** self-propelled 2450 Speed Roller haybine is my best buy. It cuts well and does a good, clean job. It requires very little maintenance, and parts for it are

readily available."

**Benny Davis, Boonville, N.C.:** "My 2007 **Deere 3520** tractor is equipped with a front-end loader. The first time I used it was to



move 18-in. dia., 10-ft. long logs with forks installed on the loader. It performed great and I never had to leave the cab. It has been a dream machine, and at 62 years of age I need all the ease of operation I can get. It's powered by a turbocharged diesel engine that doesn't know when to quit. Before I bought this tractor I looked at other brands, but this model has a more user friendly cab, great visibility, and controls that are easy to reach."

**Kenneth R. Sanders, Brownsville, Ky.:** "This machine mows beautifully," says Kenneth about his 2007 **Grasshopper ZTR** mower equipped with a Kubota diesel engine and 60-in. mid-mount deck. "I don't get tired using this mower, even though I use it to cut several acres of yards every week. The diesel engine runs great and the mower has all the blade and ground speed I could want. It's also easy on fuel.

"I also like my 2002 **Ford 4-WD** crew cab 4-WD pickup equipped with a Powerstroke engine. It runs and drives great and has a comfortable seat. No problems after about 92,000 miles. It's also fuel efficient.

"I bought a used 2000 **Dodge** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. It only has about 130,000 miles but doesn't ride or drive well at all. This pickup always seems to need something whether it's transmission work, electrical problems with the blower motor, and so forth."

**Mark Heeter, Martinsburg, Penn.:** "The dairy farm where I'm employed made the costly mistake of buying **Animat** cow comfort rubber flooring. It was installed in a sand-bedded, alley scraper-cleaned freestall barn. The product wasn't fastened correctly and was constantly ripping up. The only thing more worthless than this product was the company's service."

(Continued on next page)