

though I paid for a new one. My dealings with the manufacturer leave a lot to be desired. A certified letter and two phone calls haven't produced any results."

Mike Banholzer, Boaz, Alabama: Mike's **Kubota** mini trackhoe, which he bought used, rates as his "best buy". "I modified it with a hook on the arm so I could move slats on a breeder hen farm. It's small enough to move around in buildings without tearing up equipment. The slats are 14 ft. long.

"The electronic blade engager on my **Deere** LT 155 riding mower has gone out twice in four months."

Dennis Lee, Melvin, Ill.: "I like my **Makita** 14.4-volt drill and driver kit. The impact driver is the most used tool in our shop. Great for driving screws."

Loring Kufahl, Wheaton, Kansas: Loring nominates his 2008 **Chevrolet** Duramax 3/4-ton heavy duty pickup equipped with an Allison transmission as his "best buy". "This pickup has 365 horsepower and 660 lbs. of torque, which is enough power to pull any trailer that we have. It gets 15 to 16 mpg, which is okay but not as good as the 2001 Chevrolet Duramax I traded in. It had 96,000 trouble-free miles."

On the minus side, he lists his 2007 **New Holland** 456 sickle mower. "The pulley that hooks up to the counterbalance shaft that drives the sickle and shaft wasn't machined right. As a result, it came loose and required \$770 worth of parts and labor to fix. The dealer ended up fixing the mower at no cost, which I really appreciate."

Michael G. Scott, Junction, Texas: "My **Woods** 1027 front-end loader and hay spike is my best buy. It's easy to swap out attachments on the loader and is safe to use. I use it on my **Deere** 2040 tractor and couldn't get along without it. It's built much heavier than other models I've seen.

"My **Poulan** 46 cc, 20-in. chainsaw is my worst buy. The problem is that the adjusting knob for the chain tightener keeps coming loose. It's made from plastic and will probably strip out before too long. I prefer to use my **Poulan** 330 chainsaw equipped with a 22-in. bar. It has an old-style screw tightener that works much better. Both models lose bolts and screws whenever I use them."

J.W. Innes, Woodstock, Ontario: "My 1974 **Cockshutt** 1370 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader is my best buy.

"My **Deere** 935 riding mower equipped with a 76-in. deck is a best buy.

"I'm happy with **Stihl** chainsaws and trimmers."

Jon W. Briel, Cambridge, Maine: "My 2002 **Poulan** Pro Tach PT17 chainsaw has been trouble-free. I had to replace the spark plug and fuel pickup line. Otherwise it works great.

"My **Deere** L120 garden tractor has more than 145 hours on it and is a best buy. We use it to take care of more than three acres of reclaimed grass from wooded and pasture land.

"My **Homelite** PS33 chainsaw constantly leaks oil and is always hard to start. I found out it didn't have a brake on it. I took it in for repairs but they couldn't find anything wrong. I've also taken the saw completely apart and replaced the plugs and rebuilt the carburetor, but it didn't help.

"My **Eagle** air compressor never worked right. I've spent more time working on it than using it.

"My **Axis** HVLP paint system is a best buy. No problems (ph 877 477-7823; www.aircraftspruce.com). It's furnished with 20 ft. of air delivery hose and a spray gun."

Gary Rauch, Belpre, Ohio: "My 1996 **Toyota** Tacoma pickup is my best buy. It's

durable, dependable, cheap to operate, and fuel efficient. I take my hat off to Toyota for the way they stand behind their product. There was a frame perforation problem in the pickup due to faulty metal. The company spent a lot of time and money to repurchase the trucks involved. I'll definitely buy another one."

Michael A. Eilbes, Theresa, Wis.: "My 2006 **Scag** Tiger Cub zero turn riding mower equipped with a 23 hp Briggs & Stratton engine and 61-in. deck is my best buy (Scag Power Equipment, www.scag.com). It cuts well at about 10 mph, and the blades are easy to change. It's also built heavy. I've already put about 125 hours on it with no problems."

Chuck Hays, Black Pines, B.C.: "After trying many different gopher traps and poisons, I read about a trap from **Lee's Trap Works** in FARM SHOW (Lee Schwartz, Swift Current, Sask. ph 306 778-2083; www.leestrapworks.com). I ordered a 'test batch' of 10 traps and am so pleased that I've ordered 20 more and am organizing my neighbors to make a large group order. We have a large gopher problem in our area, and that's going to change thanks to this trap. My subscription just paid for itself ten times over."

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Gary Graham, Albright, W. Va.: Gary nominates his 2005 **Dodge** 3500 diesel pickup as his "best buy". "It has great power and is reasonably fuel efficient. No problems.

"My 2002 **Chevrolet** 2500 pickup is my worst buy. I was always a Chevrolet fan until the purchase of this piston-slapping, rusting-rotor pickup. The company's customer service and the Better Business Bureau were equally disappointing."

Joe Ruppnick, Soldier, Kansas: "The **Vermeer** Rebel 5400 baler that I bought new a few years ago is a worst buy. The company won't do anything to fix it. I wrote a letter to the Kansas attorney general, who contacted the company. The company told them they had solved the problem, yet no one from the company ever came out to look at it. It plugs up nine or ten times for every 50 bales."

Melvin Pralle, Greenleaf, Kansas: "It's the best designed tractor I've ever owned," reports Melvin about his 2000 **New Holland** TC 35D 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader. "This tractor is easy on fuel and fun to use. I built a grapple fork for it which I use in my tree trimming business."

John Boor, Horseheads, N.Y.: "My 2004 **Case** MXV 125 tractor has had one electronic problem after another. It has spent more time at the dealer than in the field. The problems were never resolved, so we traded for a stripped-down **Case** MXM 40 equipped with a standard shift transmission. No problems. Our 1971 **Case** 870 has more than 10,000 hours on it. We still use it to do light work all summer long."

Ted Yaworsky, Wakeman, Ohio: "I like my **Energizer** 'quick switch' flashlight that runs D, C, or AA batteries so you can use whatever you have handy. This flashlight also makes it easy to change the bulb (ph 800 383-7323; www.energizer.com)."

Al Leister, Cream Ridge, N.J.: Al's pleased with an electric fuel shut-off valve for antique tractors that he bought from **Red**

More Hydrogen "Fuel Saver" Reports

Mike Thompson, Princeton, Minn.: He bought a hydrogen-generating fuel saver from **Advanced Energy** in Kansas (www.hydrofuelmax.com) and couldn't get it to work. He sent it back and received a replacement. It also didn't produce results for him, so he returned it and asked for his \$595 back. Instead they sent another unit, so he's trying it again on a small diesel-powered car and also a diesel pickup.

Richard Miller, Bloomfield, Iowa: He installed an **Advanced Energy** unit on a **Deere** stationary diesel. He says it draws as much as 40 amps and gets so hot that it actually produces steam. He has tried it with various settings and amp draws, but has yet to see any benefit in fuel reduction. "I think it draws so much juice out of the battery that it makes the alternator work too hard," he notes.

Miller also tried a multiple tower unit from **Robert Shrock** at **Imperial Diesel Machinery**, Kinsman, Ohio. It only draws three to four amps. Although he could see why the fuel-saving unit should produce positive results, he reports that he has not yet seen any benefit.

Eddie Elliot, Bozeman, Montana: Elliot says his hydrogen generator from **Advanced Energy** is saving fuel, but not as much as he had hoped. Elliot is an over-the-road trucker and reports a 0.2-mile per gallon increase. At times he has seen as much as a 0.7 increase, which he feels would more than pay for itself if it was continuous. He drives 2,500 miles each month, facing fuel bills as high as \$8,000 a month,

so even the 0.2 increase will pay off after 2 to 3 months.

"I plan to keep working at it," he says, adding that, "Advanced Energy has provided good support when I've had questions. However, they didn't send a promised replacement circuit breaker and amp gauge. If I could get the full 15 percent improvement they talk about, I would become a dealer."

Ell Kramer, Fredericksburg, Texas: The 85-year-old has had consistent results with his **Advanced Energy** unit, seeing increases of 2 to 3 mpg and as much as 6 1/2 mpg in his Dodge diesel pickup with 4-WD. He notes that different driving conditions can make a big difference in mileage.

"I had a guy install the unit, but I wired it myself," says Kramer. "It was very easy. I'm happy with it."

Marlo Salo, New York Mills, Minn.: Salo bought a hydrogen generating fuel saver from **Stan MacDonald** in Ontario and he has also been using a home-built unit. He has seen no improvement in mileage from either unit.

Leon and Gideon Fisher, Myerstown, Penn.: They bought a unit from **Stan MacDonald** for a stationary diesel. They're still working with it, but as yet can report no improvement in fuel use.

Charles Peterson, Holiday Island, Ark.: Peterson bought a unit from **Eagle Research** but saw no improvement in mileage. He requested a refund and received a check.

Rock Mfg. (ph 641 780-1748; www.red rock mfg.com). It's a small spring-loaded brass solenoid-activated valve that fits in the gas line and wires to the ignition switch. When the ignition is off, the valve is closed. It opens automatically when the ignition switch goes on.

"I installed the valve on my **Ford** 8N tractor. In the past I had to manually shut off the fuel every time I turned off the engine. Since I installed the valve the tractor starts right up every time," says Leister.

Ray Haffner, Springfield, Mo.: "I acquired a 1981 **Deere** 111 garden tractor from my father's estate. It has always been well



maintained and still mows lawns as good as new. I picked up a second **Deere** 111 as a junker at a garage sale for \$30. It had been terribly neglected. I restored it and built a little cargo box on back. It gets a lot of second looks at tractor shows."

John Nye, Delta, Utah: John's the satisfied owner of a 1986 **Deere** 4450 MFWD tractor equipped with a **Sound Gard** cab. "I bought this tractor used for \$40,000 in 1990 with about 700 hours on it. At first we used it on our Connecticut farm. Then in 1995 we moved our dairy operation to Utah where we've used the tractor to feed 1,600 cows every day. The tractor now has about 42,000 hours on it. A new engine was installed at 25,000 hours, and the transmission was rebuilt at about 35,000 hours. We've replaced the water pump, batteries, and starter, but there have been no big problems.

"My 2007 **Deere** 444 J articulating wheel loader is my worst buy. We bought it after another loader burned up in a fire. We put about 4,000 hours a year on it so we needed to replace it as soon as possible. However, it took six months to get it and it had numerous computer problems, mostly relating to thinking it has water in the fuel. You can't use it until you fix the problem or short out the sensor wires to fool the computer. The company says they're there for you 24-7, but they don't provide any parts at the dealer. All you really need nowadays to fix equipment is an internet connection and a mechanic. Dealers have become useless. This tractor was a waste of money."

David S. Chalmers, Marcelona, Mich.: "In 2004 I bought a reconditioned 1973 **Ford** 2000 tractor equipped with a 40 hp engine for \$5,000. It works great, has a lot of power, and maneuvers well in tight places.

"My 1997 **Murray** 14 1/2 hp riding mower is my worst buy. I've had problems with the so-called automatic drive transmission. I couldn't get the transmission back into drive after putting it in neutral. It has gone through three different transmissions."

Adam Moore, Woodbridge, Va.: "My mother purchased a 2003 **Toro** Super Recycler mower with a Key-Lectric starting system. She has bad shoulders and is unable to start regular pull-start mowers so she needed an electric start. The mower has a 'guaranteed-to-start' warranty for five years. She began having trouble starting it after the first year and it also burned oil. Each year the starting problem got worse and it burned more oil. Finally, it wouldn't start at all. The dealer replaced the carburetor at our expense, but we still had trouble starting it and the oil problem got even worse.

"I've written three letters to the company, but they're not willing to stand behind their products. They claim I was using old fuel, and that all mowers burn oil."