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double windrows of alfalfa at 10 mph and huge windrows of cane at 8 mph. When baling cane there were times that it would make a bale and wrap it in only 50 seconds.

"When I took delivery of the 605M in January, 2007 my dealer informed me of a recall because of a change made in the bearings used in the rollers. The company sent two men out to my farm who worked for several hours to change seven different rollers. The machine probably would have lasted until the warranty on it expired and they could have gotten by. To me this showed the integrity of this company."

Don Zimmerman, Ithaca, Mich.: Don's impressed with his "Little John" Johnson outdoor woodburning stove. "This stove provides all the heat and hot water we use in our house and shop. I'm impressed with the quality of construction and the performance of this stove (www.hud-son.com/woodfurnaces.htm; ph 800 765-7297)."

Ralph E. Curtiss, West Grove, Penn.: Ralph had his 1953 Ford NAA tractor remanufactured by N-Complete, Wilkinson, Ind. (ph 765 785-2309; www.n-complete.com): "This company does more than restoration and more than just fixing what's wrong. They take the tractor down to the castings and build it back with new parts. The quality of the sheet metal work and the paint job is excellent. They give you back a tractor that works as good or better than when

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it was new. They'll also provide free technical advice any time you need it."

Richard J. Mozeleski, Knox, Maine: "My 1999 Kubota B2710 tractor starts even in the coldest weather and runs great. It has about 1,500 hours on it and is my best buy."

Ray Sipple, Alexandria, Ky.: "Farmers in our area really like New Holland model 256 Rollabar rakes. They skip less hay in low dips and in tight corners, and they turn easier in tight corners. The axle on these rakes isn't straight but is tucked up close behind the basket. As a result, this rake works well in small, hilly, irregular-shaped fields."

"We like our two Jeep Cherokees. However, one of them recently developed a loud banging noise that was intermittent at first and then became steady and loud. Several mechanics told me I should replace the engine, but I wasn't so sure. As it turned out, the problem was a cracked flywheel which I was able to fix for only \$65."

"I really like my Kubota B2150 tractor, but I didn't change the hydraulic oil filter for a long time. Last spring, apparently a plastic part that resembled a washer disintegrated and pieces of it got stuck in various places inside the transmission and hydraulic system. A dealer fixed it in two or three stages, trying to save me money. The problem became evident when the filter pressurized and ruptured. Now after replacing three or four filters and spending \$1,300, it works fine. Even expensive filters look cheap after that experience."

Wilfred B. Dittmer, Quincy, Ill.: "My Walker riding mower equipped with a Kohler Pro 26 EFI engine and 48-in. deck is a pleasure to operate. This machine is stingy on fuel and will go anywhere, including steep hillsides. It has a tilt-up deck that's easy to service and clean. This may not be the least expensive mower on the market, but it's defi-

nately the best engineered."

Larry Puffenberger, Cool Ridge, W. Va.: "My 2006 Biotech Edenpure G-7 air purifier does a great job of eliminating odors in our home and also eliminates dust particles. I have coal miner's black lung, and with this product my breathing is much better."

"My 2005 Sears Craftsman riding mower equipped with a 42-in. deck is my worst buy. The tractor has an excellent ride, but the deck cuts uneven and leaves streaks of uncut grass. I checked for bent blades and adjusted the deck, but it didn't help. A service man came out and made adjustments, but that didn't help, either."

Norman Foellmi, Sparta, Wis.: "I like my 2004 Dodge Ram Hemi pickup. It's fun to drive, has a lot of power, and is fuel efficient. I recently used it to pull a camper on a trip to California and it performed flawlessly. I've never had to go back to the dealer for anything."

Bill King, West Townsend, Mass.: "We've used our 2000 Case IH 8545 square baler to make 10,000 to 14,000 bales per year with no major problems. It's an inline baler so it can fit through narrow gateways. The knotters have held up well."

Balton Gessaman, Troy, Ohio: Balton's satisfied with his Miller Power Max 30 120 to 230-volt plasma cutter. "We were building a welding trailer and wanted to add a plasma cutter. We found this unit is easy to operate. It uses little air and has been useful on a variety of steel cuts."

Duane Hayes, Bagley, Minn.: "My 2001 Kubota M 9000 4-WD tractor starts well in cold weather and handles great. The cab is easy to get in and out of, and the controls are easily accessible. It has been trouble-free."

"In 2003 I bought a new Westendorf front-end loader. Unfortunately, after a month or so, it started settling down and I had to raise it every 20 minutes or so while traveling. The hydraulic valve banks had to be replaced three times before I could get it to work right again. Also, the tilt cylinder seals had to be replaced due to nuts coming loose. At the time the loader had less than 100 hours on it. I'm not happy with the manufacturer because they wanted the dealer or myself to pay for all repairs."

Phillip Matthews, Laingsburg, Mich.: "My 2006 Deere 582 Silage Special baler has design problems. The tongue jack is too light, and the pto shaft is impossible for one person to hook up. It needs to have rotational ability so it can be lined up with the tractor's pto spline. The net wrap is a real joke. Also, the tongue on this baler is too short."

"The pto is impossible for one person to hook up."

Abe Hanson, Cherry Point, Alberta: Abe's impressed with his 2007 Xantrex DC controller. "We run our household exclusively on solar energy stored in battery banks, and it's a pleasure to have a controller as reliable and user friendly as this one. Installation was easy as the owner's manual is clear, concise, and easy to follow."

Allen Stultz, Afton, Va.: "Several months ago, a FARM SHOW reader who had purchased a Kubota RTV900 RTV complained that he couldn't shift the gears, especially when he was on a hillside. I had the same problem so I called the company's tech support people several times. Finally they came out to see what exactly was taking place. Within minutes, they determined the tractor's

LED Lights Great For Special Uses

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

After hearing so much about energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs, I tried some in my garage. They didn't last. One failed after a few months. Neither was satisfactory. Turn on the lights on a cold night, and instead of 100-watt equivalent light it felt like 20. To make it worse, because of the mercury in them, there is a \$1 recycling fee to discard them.

Thinking LED bulbs might be a better answer, I picked a seller off the internet and ordered two. They weren't cheap, at \$35 for a 2-watt bulb and \$45 for a 3-watt bulb, but they're supposed to last 60,000 hours.

The 2-watt was described as being good for a bedside lamp, while the 3-watt was recommended for reading lamps or ambient light. It also was supposed to be perfect as a porch light.

I tried them both in a couple of spots. The first was stairway lights. Both were adequate at replacing 40-watt bulbs. The bright white light wasn't a problem, and the money saved over the life of the bulb would make nearly any color light acceptable. Between using less electricity and lasting longer, the company figures savings of \$353 over the life of the bulb.

Ruen tested LED lights as an alternative to fluorescent models and gives them a qualified "thumbs up".



I then tried them both in reading lamps. Glossy paper reflected a bright glare that was hard to read through, while non-glossy paper and newsprint, like FARM SHOW, was fine.

Outside lights were another use where the bulbs really (pardon the pun) shine. Unlike fluorescents, the LEDs are not temperature sensitive. The hard, white light was more than sufficient. While not the warm yellow of incandescents, it was acceptable, and those savings again make the difference. My wife endorsed the idea of replacing all stair and porch lights with LEDs. As she said, "We may never have to change them again!"

idle speed was twice as high as it should have been and began lowering it, road testing the tractor between adjustments. The bottom line is that with their help my RTV went from 10 percent usable to 99 percent usable. Now it's a heavy hauler and is a great help on my mountain property."

Jon Handlon, Auburn, Kansas: "My Walker 20 hp riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck is my best buy. It's very maneuverable, and the blades are easy to clean and sharpen. This is my second Walker."

"About everything I buy at Harbor Freight either breaks or wears out right away. I've quit shopping there."

"I find that Tractor Supply Company is an expensive place to buy just about anything. Recently they wanted \$114.99 for Timberline shoes when the same shoes were selling elsewhere for \$89.99. The company will match any price, but they should be lower."

Ken Schiroo, Glencoe, Minn.: "I'm pleased with my 2000 Chevrolet S-10 pickup equipped with a 2.2-liter, 4-cyl. engine and manual shift transmission. It's a 'flex fuel' pickup, and I get about 22 to 23 mpg on short trips and up to 28 mpg on longer trips. I don't need a \$35,000 pickup just to run to town to get parts, so it's great for what we use it for. I use E-85 gas in it most of the time."

On the negative side, "We've built four Lester buildings over the years, but the last building I put up in 1993 is my worst buy ever. The glue in the particle board isn't any good so the outside just falls apart. It has a 15-year warranty and I've called the company but with no success. They blame it on the company that made the material, Louisiana Pacific. Apparently, Lesters won a lawsuit against Louisiana Pacific for \$59 million. But my warranty is with Lesters and it doesn't say anything about Louisiana Pacific. I just want the building fixed."

John Millard, Round Top, N.Y.: "I like my 2005 Bachtold Bros. electric log splitter (ph 217 784-5161; www.websfarmssupplies.com). It's powered by a 1 hp, 110-volt, 3,460 rpm Leeson electric motor that operates a double stage hydraulic pump and has 10 tons of splitting force. This unit requires no gas, oil, or engine maintenance and is quiet. I've used it to cut many cords of wood with no

problems. I run this log splitter off my solar electric-power 'grid' using a 6 kw inverter. It has saved many gallons of gas."

John L. Light, Evington, Va.: John's the third owner of a 1966 Case 531 diesel utility tractor and says it's his "best buy". "For many years this was my primary tractor for plowing, disking, mowing, raking and baling. It handles well, has a lot of power for its size, yet is fuel efficient. Except when pulling a maximum load it burns less than one gallon of fuel per hour. It has a lot of torque which minimizes down shifting. I wish I could get a new one since this one is almost worn out."

"My New Holland TL 80 loader tractor with cab is my worst buy. It has a marginal torque curve which produces excessive speed drop of the pto with varying pto load. It has had a lot of small but recurring problems, and the fuel efficiency isn't the greatest. Also, the hydraulics are often very slow. However, this tractor does handle well and is comfortable to operate. It would have been a much better tractor if it had a Perkins diesel engine. It has about 1,000 hours on it."

Larry C. Miller, Harper, Kansas: "After reading a number of FARM SHOW reports about Harbor Freight electric tools, here's my experience regarding a 1/2 hp drill that I bought used on eBay. I didn't know it was a Harbor Freight product until I received it. I was rather new at shopping on eBay at the time so I can blame my inexperience. However, it didn't turn out all that bad."

"When I received the drill it did run for a short time but then it quit working. Rather than complain to the seller, I decided to check out the switch. I discovered a ground wire had come out of the wire terminal block that connected the ground circuit. That fix solved the running problem, but then once it would run for several minutes it would begin to smell hot so this time I checked the brushes. I found that one of the brushes hadn't been inserted into the holder correctly, and because the brush didn't contact the armature properly it caused a heating problem. Once I fixed that I haven't had any more problems."

Jeffrey Van Acker, Marengo, Ill.: "My 1999 Chevrolet S-10 4-WD 'cab and a half' pickup equipped with a ZRX package is my best buy. It's a great pickup."