

with a lot of weeds and brush. If I can drive over the brush, this machine will chop it, and if I get stuck it's light enough that I can pick the machine up out of the hole. It starts good and requires only routine maintenance."

**Donald A. Ramberg, Mentor, Minn.:** "My best buy is my **Kubota B3030 HSDC** tractor equipped with an air conditioned and heated cab, a front-end loader, belly-mounted 60-in. mower, and 60-in. snowblower. No problems."

**David Boyd, Honea Path, S.C.:** "In 1978 I bought a used **Deere 730** diesel tractor from a local dairy farmer, who was the original owner. I've used this tractor to plow, plant, cultivate and to pull an Allis Chalmers 90 combine to harvest about 70 acres of soybeans. I've also used the tractor to bush hog, pull up trees, and to do many other chores. Over the years it has required only a few minor repairs."

"In 1998 I bought a used **Kubota B7200** tractor equipped with a belly-mount mower deck, and both the tractor and mower have required only minor repairs. The tractor now has about 1,900 hours on it. I plan to make a 3-pt. mounted, 12-gal. spray tank and 8-ft spray boom unit and mount it on the tractor. I'll use it with a wand on small areas and fence rows."

**Forrest Mendenhall, High Point, N.C.:** "My 2005 **Massey Ferguson 451 4-WD** loader tractor is my best buy. This 53 hp tractor is just the right size to do any kind of work on our small 150-acre farm. I use it with a bucket-mounted spear to load round bales in the field and to feed bales in winter. It has about 850 hours with no problems."

**John B. Leibbeck, Campbellsville, Ky.:** "I own a 1990 **Dodge 250** pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine that has more than 500,000 miles on it. We use **Shell Rotella** motor oil with it and keep to a regular maintenance schedule. As a result this pickup is always ready to go."

**Ray Naasko, Toivola, Mich.:** "I'm happy with my 2006 **Husqvarna 350** chainsaw, which I use to cut firewood. I've replaced the cutting chain and a spark plug, but in general this saw has been trouble-free."

**Glenn Allen, Mt. Vernon, Ohio:** Glenn likes his 2010 **Eby Maverick 24-ft.** gooseneck

trailer from a reputable dealership. We now stand by Ford products."

**Thomas C. Stanford, Lester, Ala.:** "I like my **Kubota ZD18** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 54-in. deck and 18 hp diesel engine. It has more than 1,100 hours on it while requiring only routine maintenance. It still runs like new."

"My **Bush Hog 3008 8-ft.** mower left a 2-ft. wide streak on the right side that was 6 to 8 in. taller than the rest of the cut. The company said they had never heard of anyone else with this problem and wouldn't replace my mower. I ended up trading for a smaller model from another manufacturer that isn't built as heavy, and losing \$1,800 on the deal. No more Bush Hogs for me."

**Joe Croney, Melbourne, Ark.:** "My son bought a new **Kubota 4-WD** tractor equipped with a Bobcat grapple. It's the only new equipment that I get to use. We use it to load everything from logs to tree limbs to scrap iron. The only problem is it's too small for some jobs."

"My 1978 **Deere 2240** tractor is still going strong."

**Neal Galloway, Lynch, Neb.:** Neal nominates his 2010 **Kaufman 24-ft.** gooseneck flatbed trailer as his "best buy". "I saved \$2,000 by picking it up at the factory in Beaver City, Neb., instead of buying it from a local dealer. I've used this trailer to haul everything from tractors to windmill towers. It pulls good."

"**Diamond** tools used to be a good brand, but I can hardly cut wire with the pliers I recently bought. Later I discovered their tools are now made in China, but you have to look hard because it's in very small letters. I returned my pliers to the dealer and they replaced it."

**Larry J. Snaza, Brooklyn Center, Minn.:** "I bought a used 1986 **Toyota 4-WD** pickup with about 100,000 miles on it. It now has more than 240,000 miles. I'm well pleased with this pickup's fuel economy and how it starts right up in cold weather."

"**FARM SHOW** is my worst buy. Several years ago I sent information about a device to hold up tailgate windows on pickup toppers with worn shocks. I never saw it in the magazine or heard from you. Recently a friend of mine saw the same idea published in a recent issue, with someone else getting credit for it. He might have seen it on my truck."

**Ed Dillard, Dade City, Fla.:** Ed's the proud owner of a 2009 **Gravely** zero turn riding mower equipped with an 18 hp engine and a 40-in. deck. "This mower has reduced my mowing time in half and cuts nice and level, even in high grass. The deck and frame are built heavy, and it's easy to adjust mowing height from the seat. The dealer replaced spindle bearings after 2 years at no cost under the machine's 3-year warranty."

**Harold Wesbecher, Evansville, Ill.:** "My 2008 **Kubota 95X** tractor is easy to operate. I also like my **Kubota L-3600** tractor."

**L. Devere Roth, Gridley, Ill.:** "The 1990 **GM** heavy duty, 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup I bought used now has about 174,000 miles on it. People marvel at the way this pickup can pull a 600-bu. load of corn out of the field. It's a good, solid pickup."

"I like my **Massey 1105, 275** and 285 tractors. They're all equipped with fuel-saving Perkins diesel engines."

**Charles Sassen, Reedsport, Ore.:** "I use my 2010 **Husqvarna 372** chainsaw, which is equipped with a 36-in. bar, to fell timber and to cut firewood. Runs great with no problems."

"My 2000 **Dodge** diesel pickup is by far the best pickup I've ever owned. I installed an aftermarket computer chip in it that added about 100 hp. I use this pickup to



Ridenour runs his Deere 3020 on natural gas as well as his garden tractor, pickup and farm trucks.

## Buy American: Burn Natural Gas

Rick Ridenour wants other FARM SHOW readers to be aware that they can convert nearly any vehicle to burn American-produced natural gas.

"The U.S. spends \$700,000 a minute on foreign oil," he says. He notes that other parts of the world - including Saudi Arabia - use natural gas. It's time that people in the U.S. figure out we can use our own fuel and that costs a lot less, he emphasizes. Natural gas costs anywhere from 70 to 90 cents, for the equivalency of a gallon of gas.

With free, natural gas on his property, the Glenford, Ohio, man designed his own conversions starting with a small garden tractor in the 1970's and later converted his trucks to run on natural gas, with gasoline as a backup. He owns a 3020 Deere tractor that runs on natural gas and a tri-fuel pickup that runs on natural, LP or regular gas.

The gas is compressed and tank size depends on how the vehicle is used. "For example, we converted school buses that have the same route. If it runs 150 miles a

day, it needs three tanks," he says.

He especially encourages people who drive semis, tractors or other big vehicles to switch to natural gas. Conversions average about \$2,500; and natural gas is becoming more readily available. Ridenour was recently hired to build fill stations in Ohio.

Engines run cleaner, trucks start easier, and fewer oil and spark plug changes are needed when using natural gas, he adds.

"It will create jobs right here," he emphasizes. "We have to keep focusing on America."

Ridenour recommends contacting alternate fuel specialists, Carburetion & Turbo Systems in Shakopee, Minn. ([www.carburturbo.com](http://www.carburturbo.com); toll-free 877 347-4334) for those interested in converting to natural gas. The website ([www.ngvglobal.com](http://www.ngvglobal.com)), also contains excellent information.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Ridenour, P.O. Box 101, Glenford, Ohio 43749 ([rick.reidenour@att.net](mailto:rick.reidenour@att.net)).

**"This trailer pulls so easily down the road that I hardly even know it's there."**

livestock trailer (ph 888 442-1961; [www.tantivytrailer.com](http://www.tantivytrailer.com)). "This trailer is built strong but light, and pulls so easily down the road that I hardly even know it's there. It's low to the ground which makes it easy to load, and cattle don't slip on the tread plate floor."

He's disappointed with his 2009 **Pro Track** tandem axle, dual gooseneck beavertail trailer. "One month after I bought this trailer rust started showing through the powder coat paint. The problem continued to get worse, with paint peeling off. I notified the company but got nowhere, even though I sent photos to them twice. I guess the 2-year limited warranty is effective only if you don't make a claim."

**Neil H. Noble, Shelburne, Ont.:** "We used to be solely **General Motors** customers, but in the last 15 years we've switched to Ford. The reason was that GM stopped selling full-size, rear wheel drive vehicles. Currently, we're driving 3 Fords - a 2004 Grand Marquis, a 2004 4-WD F-150, and a 2005 4-WD 500. All were purchased new

pull a 24-ft. livestock trailer and a 30-ft. flatbed, and it has plenty of power to pull them fully loaded. I installed new brakes, but otherwise this pickup has required only routine maintenance. It has more than 250,000 miles on it."

**Tony J. Vikla, Lonsdale, Minn.:** "In 1995 I bought a used 1992 **Chevrolet** Caprice Classic with about 35,000 miles on it. The car now has more than 555,000 miles with the same engine and transmission. I installed a new head gasket in the engine at about 250,000 miles and that was the only work ever done on the engine. It uses about a quart of oil every 1,500 miles. I still drive the car, but now the frame is starting to rust."

**Jim Wales, Elkhmont, Ala.:** "My **Echo** blower and Echo chainsaw start easy and are easy to operate."

**Thomas Elsernd, Rising Sun, Ind.:** A 2004 **Kubota L4330** tractor rates as Thomas's "best buy". "Other than scheduled maintenance, this tractor hasn't required a single repair. Even the lightbulbs on it are original."

"My 2008 **Swisher ZT 2766** zero turn riding mower came new off the truck with a burned-up wiring harness. The problem was the throttle cable had been run directly across the solenoid terminals. The dealer supplied a replacement mower which worked good for the first 40 hours, but then the throttle cable broke. Again, the problem was due to sloppy installation."

**Jon Thompson, Devalls Bluff, Ark.:** "My 2007 **Cub Cadet 4-cycle** gas trimmer/brush cutter won't rev up properly. I've had 3 different carburetors on this unit but it still doesn't run right. It has had many different primer bulbs and been seen by numerous mechanics."

**Mike Mitchell, Berlin, Mass.:** "My 2005 **Nissan Titan** pickup has a nice look and ride but isn't reliable. I had to replace the front axle, 4-WD, transmission, rear axle, and tie rods. The engine works good, but the running gear is unreliable."

"I use my 1968 **International Harvester 544** tractor like a construction-grade tractor. The loader on it is sturdy and well built. The tractor has required some minor repairs, including shimming the main bearing and rewelding the 3-pt. top link. There were also minor problems with the shift linkage."

"I had to replace the transmission twice on my **Honda Harmony** mini tiller. The engine starts easy, but the transmission is unreliable and doesn't stand up to normal use."

**Jerry L. Woosley, Morristown, Ind.:** Jerry likes his 1997 **Chevy S10 2-WD** pickup equipped with an extended cab. "This is my third S10. I've put more than 150,000 miles on it with few problems."

**Terry Buenzow, Hawkeye, Iowa:** "My 2000 **Lexus RX300** sports utility vehicle is quiet, comfortable, and reliable. The fuel economy is decent, too."

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