

Jon Williams, Pueblo West, Colo.: "I really like my **Sears Craftsman** 3/8-in. drive flex head ratchet. It has a curved handle so I can use it where there isn't room for a straight-handled ratchet, and the flex head helps, too."

He's happy with his **Phillips** DVD player. "One of the best things we've done is to cancel our cable TV subscription. When we have time my wife and I can watch what we want, when we want thanks to our DVD player. Also, there's no monthly fee, no commercials, no political ads, and no program interruptions."

Kent Estes, Altoona, Kansas: "I'm really disappointed with the **Primecell** battery rebuild service for rechargeable batteries. I was led to believe the rebuilt batteries would be better than the original ones so I had 3 cordless drill batteries rebuilt. However, they don't hold a charge nearly as long as the original batteries, and I spent way more than what I would have for new batteries. So much for recycling and going green."

Mark Avery, Plymouth, Mich.: "I bought my **Ryobi** 18-in. chainsaw as a refurbished unit through a discount catalog. It was missing one of the blade guides, so I called the company and they promptly mailed me the part. They took care of the problem even though it wasn't their fault."

Marvin W. Jones, Sr., Fort Davis, Texas: "I've put a lot of miles on my 2013 **Ford F-150 Super Cab** pickup and find it to be the perfect vehicle for my wife and me. We live in the mountains 10 miles from any paved road and have many rough creek crossings. No problems."

Bill Bruninga, Boulder City, Nevada: "I borrowed a **SUMO USA** handheld post driver, and it was better than I ever expected. I was putting in posts for a sign on super rocky terrain. It pushed the posts right through the rocky soil."

"I had serious doubts, as the posts had to be in exact locations to match the sign. But it stayed right on course and put the posts where they were needed. The 1.3 hp Honda engine can drive posts in seconds. The 4-stroke engine makes fueling easy."

"It was very controllable and only weighs 35 lbs. It was super easy to use. It's perfect in remote conditions or working alone. You could go all day driving posts without feeling beat up after. The people who own **SUMO USA** are great to work with, too."

Ken Gardner, Lebanon, Ct.: "I use my 2013 **Toro TimeCutter MX 5060** zero turn riding mower to mow 4 acres a week. It's equipped with a **Kawasaki** 23 hp engine that purrs like a kitten. It had a bad coil the first time I used it, but the dealer replaced it within 24 hrs."

Mike Kovanda, Monett, Mo.: "My 2014 **Jonsered** 225OS chainsaw starts good and runs smooth even at high rpm's, with almost no vibration. It's a great saw."

Matt Lewis, Coldspring, Texas: "I had several requests from customers who wanted small square bales for their horses. I looked at different accumulators and grapples on the market and found those made by **Rafter M Equipment** to be within my price range (ph 817 556-7994). Their grapple works

like a charm, day in and day out. I also bought a used 10-bale accumulator and had it reworked, and it works good, too. I expect this equipment to last a long time."

Robert Zurfluh, Monticello, Wis.: "We use the heck out of our 2012 **Honda Big Red** utility vehicle for hauling and pulling jobs and to go joy riding. It works even better than I expected."

Donald Martin, Clayton, N.C.: "My 1970's **Gravelly** 432 garden tractor starts right up even in cold weather, and the Kohler 12 hp engine has plenty of power. I use this tractor with a front-mount blade to push snow and dirt. It has the original wheels and tires and they're still in good condition. **FARM SHOW** is a best buy. I'm only 14 years old, but I've already been reading your magazine for 3 years."

Richard Gadke, Capron, Ill.: "My **Farm Fans CF/AB270** grain dryer is easy to program and reliable. It stands outside all year long, yet every fall it starts right up on the first try."

Wayne Manthey, Big Bend, Wis.: Wayne's impressed with his 2013 **Great Plains 1006** 10-ft. no-till drill. "I had been using another **Great Plains** 10-ft. no-till drill since 1994 with success. Then 2 years ago I traded for this model and find it to be a vast improvement. It's easier to service, trash flows through it better, and it has more accurate depth control. It's also built heavier. I added a small seed attachment and Keeton seed firmers. Now I'm getting my best stands ever of no-till crops and cover crops."

"My 2014 **Krone KW 5.5/4** by 7 rotary hay tedder is built much heavier than anything on the market and offers a wider range of adjustments. It'll easily handle heavy windrows of green hay."

"I've had problems with the **CFC** pipe reel on my **Deere 220** flex head. It's well-made. However, in tall, tough-stemmed soybeans the reel wraps like crazy. Adjusting the reel's height, speed, and fore and aft position doesn't seem to help. But in small grains and dry soybeans, this reel seems to work fine."

Carmen D. Clement, Clarinda, Iowa: "In 1968 I bought a new **Deere 4020** diesel tractor which worked great. We had a lot of ground to cover so the following year I bought another 4020. We used both tractors to pull 5-bottom plows. My son drove the 1968 model and I drove the 1969 model. His tractor outpulled mine in good dirt, but in heavy ground he had to drop down a gear so I took the lead."

"We finally found out why there was a difference in speed when we compared the 2 tractors gear for gear on the road. The difference was in the rear tire size - the 1969 model had slightly bigger tires which caused it to go faster. I still use both tractors and enjoy them."



C. R. Phelps and Lisa A. Fox, Sunbury, Ohio: "We like our **Stall Butler**, a portable, battery-operated separator that's used to clean horse stalls (www.stallbutler.com; ph 419 957-2980). It uses a screened rotating tub to separate stall bedding from the manure, removing pieces of manure as small as a marble. It separates and fluffs the bedding so it can be used longer, and it works fast. We

"Best Buy" '58 Ford Powermaster

When Dick Hayward and his wife moved to their current location 11 years ago, they had some land that needed bush hogging. "We needed a tractor for that, so we found a 1958 model **Ford 861 Powermaster** diesel with an overhauled engine," says Hayward. "It started real easy and seemed to have plenty of power. We bought it on the spot and 1,100 hrs. later, it still purrs like a cat. I use it for all sorts of jobs. I hook a 3-pt. winch on it to move logs and downed trees. When I lift something heavy it tends to do a wheelie, so I built a weight bracket for the front end. Now there's 200 lbs. on the front that hold it down. It has a good top and plenty of power to run the wood chipper I made from an old **New Holland** chopper (see Vol. 39, No. 1)."

Hayward has talked to tractor mechanics who've told him the 861 is one of the most dependable small tractors anyone can own. "I haven't done anything to the motor other than change the oil, change the filters and keep the radiator clean," Hayward says. "The tractor starts real easy, even in cold weather, and idles real well. One year before I had a shed it sat outside all winter, covered in snow, and it fired right up in the spring."

Hayward used the frame mounting holes to build a bracket on the left side to hold his chainsaws and a gas can. On the right side he has 2 brackets mounted on the hood to hold a large axe and a small bracket to hold a radio. "It's a small open station tractor, exactly what I need for this acreage," says Hayward. "The steering is still tight and I've never had



Dick Hayward bought this 1958 **Ford Powermaster** diesel tractor used 11 years ago. He has put more than 1,100 hours on it but says it still "purrs like a cat".

any issues with the transmission or brakes, although I did put a clutch in it a few years back. Another good thing about this tractor is that if I ever need parts, they're easy to find."

Hayward also has a 10-year-old **Chevy Duramax** with 168,000 miles on it that's been a real gem. "He was thinking it might be at the end of the line on miles when he read in **FARM SHOW** about a fellow who owned one with more than 250,000 miles, and it was still going strong. "After reading his account I rethought my plan to look for another truck and will keep this one, do the regular maintenance, and hope for the best," Hayward says.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, R.W. Hayward, 180 Blind Buck Rd., Salem, New York 12865 (ph 518 854-7564).

can clean a stall in half the time it would take with a pitchfork. It works with all pelletized bedding products and other fine bedding materials."

They also like their **CinchChix** slow feeder hay net (www.cinchchix.com; ph 651 277-2449). "It reduces hay waste by controlling the amount of hay horses are able to consume at any one time. It's designed for use with square bales, round bales, or even hay by the flake. We use a mini bag that holds almost half a small square bale. It's very easy to fill."

Eli Yoder, Turbotville, Penn.: "I like my **Sears Craftsman** wheeled tool chest. Now I can put each tool in its own drawer and push the tool chest to wherever I'm working, instead of hanging the tools on nails. Not many wrenches get mislaid any more."

Gordon D. Miller, Waseca, Minn.: "Our **Deutz 9150** tractor has front wheel assist which I really like. This tractor has plenty of power for a 6-bottom plow and is very easy on fuel. It also has a comfortable cab that's easy to get into."

Gerald A. Driskel, Driskel Bros. Tree Service, Nevada, Mo.: He's disappointed with his 1990 **Teco** boom truck lift. "It's mounted on a 1990 **IH** truck, which is fine. But the boom is a big hunk of junk, and no one can work on it. Whenever I call for parts I'm told none are available because this lift is no longer made. Money down the drain."

Daniel Kuth, Reardan, Wash.: "My **Skil** circular saw is more than 10 years old. I never thought it would last more than a couple of years and always planned to replace it with a better brand, but I haven't had to because it just keeps on going. I've used it to cut wood, metal, and stone and have never cleaned or maintained it."

"I knew my **Poulan** Wood Shark 14-in. chainsaw was a cheap saw, but it didn't last beyond its third tank of gas. I might have been trying to do too much with it, but I babied it along knowing it was new and low grade."

Leslie Fulk, Broadway, Va.: Leslie likes his 2013 **Steiner** Ventrac tractor (www.

ventrac.com; ph 800 393-0893). "The **Ventrac** is a 4-WD articulating 30 plus hp tractor with more than 30 available attachments. **Steiner** has been building tractors since the early 1970's and they've got it right. My **Ventrac** will go anywhere grass can grow. It's a great tractor. I've had 4 **Ventracs** since 2000 and still have all of them. I plan to buy another one next year."

Mark Antoncich, Anacortes, Wash.: Mark's impressed with his **Oregon** electric chainsaw and other cordless outdoor tools (www.oregoncordless.com; ph 888 313-8665). "I've always liked the idea of cordless outdoor tools but found them too weak. Then I tried this chainsaw, which runs on a **Lithium Ion** battery pack. Later on I bought an **Oregon** hedge trimmer and trimmer/edger, and they also met my expectations. Now I'm waiting for the company to come out with a cordless handheld blower."

"I like my **Duluth Trading Co.** work pants (www.duluthtrading.com; ph 866 300-9719). For years I bought the usual brands of jeans but in short order the knees and pockets gave out. My **Duluth** work pants look and feel great and should last a long time."

John P. Houston, Davidsonville, Md.: John's satisfied with his 2013 **JCB** track loader. "The side entry cab on this machine is really handy, because I can use the loader bucket to hold equipment up off the ground and then exit the machine and work on the equipment at waist level."

Mark Nolan Van Patten, Tebbets, Mo.: "Our **Whizbang** chicken plucker does a fantastic job of plucking up to 3 chickens at a time (www.whizbangbooks.blogspot.com). We built it after buying the plans from **Planet Whizbang**, a small, homestead-based publishing company that's owned and operated by **Herrick and Marlene Kimball** of **Moravia, N.Y.** It's a tub plucker. You just flip a switch, drop the birds in the tub, and watch while the machine takes all the feathers off. It all happens in a matter of 15 to 20 seconds."