

32 to 34 mpg and uses about one quart of oil a month. It has some rust on it, but I think it'll make 500,000 miles. Then I'll buy another Corolla."

Allen Rose, Bloomingburg, N.Y.: "My 2005 **Dodge** 1500 4-WD, 4-door pickup equipped with a 6-ft. bed has about 61,000 miles on it and is a best buy. Only 2 problems. The edge of the left door corner digs into the door rubber by the bottom of the windshield, and an 'idiot light' has been going on and off for the past 3 years. This pickup is powered by a great Hemi 5.7-liter engine."

William Reiter, Ringoes, N.J.: William nominates his **Montana** 3940 4-WD tractor as his "best buy". "This tractor is built tough like a small Army tank and has a transmission made by Eaton Corp. A mechanic friend sold it to me, but he hasn't had a chance to fix it because it just won't break down."

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Ed Skeslien, Shelby, Mont.: "We're not too happy with a **Cleary** 60 by 140-ft. building put up in 2011. It was constructed so fast it seems they didn't get all the nails in. It's supposed to handle winds up to 127 mph, but an 80 mph wind took it down."

Arnold Ching, Mechanicsville, Md.: "My 2006 **Stihl** FS80R weed eater/trimmer works great. I use it every year on an acre of land with flower beds, along a 100-ft. chain link fence, and to keep 20 to 30 trees looking good. I also use it at a local cemetery to keep tombstone markers clear. Nothing on this unit has been fixed or replaced, not even the air filter. All I do is replace the trimmer line and add fuel. Then I start it and go."

Richard Groth, Naperville, Ill.: "I like my 1986 **Ford** Crown Victoria, 1996 **Mercury** Grand Marquis, and 2003 **Mercury** Grand Marquis. They're all rear wheel drive. I regret that Ford is discontinuing these rear wheel drive models, because they're easier to service."

Russ Biros, Plato, Mo.: Russ is disappointed with his **Cub Cadet** 1042 riding mower. "The mower blades have a star-shaped mounting hole that fits onto star-shaped pieces on the spindles. If you hit a rock and jam a mower blade it shears the male star off the spindle, and then usually both spindles have to be replaced. It's an amazingly dumb design."

Jack Kaspari, Bovey, Minn.: "My **DR** 12 1/2 hp walk-behind brush mower works great. I've used it hard for 10 years. It still has the original spark plug."

Kenton Mast, Alturas, Calif.: Kenton's impressed with **Georgia** Farm and Ranch boots (ph 877 795-2410; www.georgiaboots.com). "They're the most comfortable, longest lasting boots I've ever worn. Their shock-absorbing soles are nice and they breathe well enough that they took care of my fungus problems. I even use these boots for hiking."

"The company's construction boots are my worst buy. They're supposed to have the same shock absorbing soles, but the soles aren't as comfortable and don't breathe as well. It's a good thing these boots have replaceable soles because mine lasted less than a year. I don't know if my boots are worth repairing, though."

Bert Freytag, Elkton, Ore.: "My **Dandelion** **Dobber** is a worst buy. It's designed to treat individual weeds by dabbing on a small amount of liquid weed killer. It

consists of a 4 1/2-ft. long, 3/4-in. dia. pvc pipe with a spring-loaded pump at the bottom end. To use it, you simply press the **Dobber** down over a weed to release some chemical. However, it leaked all over the place. The company's reply to my call was that they would replace it. My question is, when? So far, no new **Dobber**."

Ben Eastley, Bagley, Minn.: "My 2008 **Dodge** Cummins 2500 pickup is a real pulling machine, and the engine sounds like it'll run forever. I upgraded it with a **Smarty Jr.** tuner to improve performance (ph 877 841-5173; www.smartydieseltuner.com)."

George Edmond, Edmond Mfg., Hillsdale, Wis.: "I'm well pleased with the **Torch Mate** plasma cutting table that I bought for my welding and repair shop (ph 866 571-1066; www.torchmate.com). It's powered by a Thermal Dynamics Cutmaster 151 unit with a table that can handle a 5 by 10-ft. steel plate."

"I design parts on Cad Key and then download the print of the part to be cut. It lets me produce precise parts for my customers. The company provides good tech support, and my welding supply company can get the tips and electrodes and any other parts that I need."

"This unit lets me cut 1/8-in. thick steel up to 3/4-in. thick. I've cut many different things with it including front truck bumpers, skid steer attachments, wheel hubs, and art work. I've had very few problems with the machine and use it every day. It took me a few weeks to learn how to design parts, but once I knew how it reduced the time it takes me to fabricate parts by more than half. The **Torch Mate** is a huge asset to the growth of my business, which is about 95 percent geared toward farmers."

L. Hoppe, Aztec, New Mexico: "My 2011 **Volkswagen** Jetta TD1 sedan is a good road car. It cruises at 70 to 75 mph and gets 42 to 47 mpg, and it has good power and torque. Who needs a high dollar hybrid?"

He isn't happy with **Century Link** high speed internet. "They promised a lot when I signed up, but the service has been poor. I hope things improve."

Mike Meadows, Briscoe, Texas: Mike nominates his 2011 **Ford** F-350 dually pickup equipped with a 6.7-liter diesel engine as his "best buy". "I traded in a 2008 F-350 dually diesel that was a lemon, so it made this pickup look like an engineering masterpiece. The 2008 model came equipped with a 6.4-liter diesel engine and was in the shop 5 times for major problems. It had only about 17,000 miles when I traded it."

C. Losee, Hubbard, Texas: "I can't find enough negative adjectives to describe how I feel about **Premier Poultry Netting**. If you're involved in rotational grazing like we are and have to move fences frequently, avoid this product like the plague. They advertise that the netting is easy to move and erect, but it's not. It's heavy and sags, and it takes a hammer to drive the stakes into our heavy clay. Pulling the stakes out is almost as hard."

"The sagging makes it almost impossible to get an electric charge through the netting. The netting is so heavy that we had to put a plastic electric post between every two of their posts. My husband and I built a wheeled A-frame to help support the netting, but it still takes about 4 hours to move fences."

"I think cattle panels covered with chicken wire work much better. They cost less and you can use a tractor to drag them to the next location."

Robert Weatherhead, Exeland, Wis.: "The following problems happened before my 1997 **Ford** F-150 pickup even had 80,000 miles on it: the rear end went out, it went



Ron Tschetter says he "couldn't be happier" with the **Drago** 8-row, 30-in. corn head he bought for his **New Holland** 9060 combine. (Photo shows a folding **Drago** head on a **Case IH** combine at a recent farm show).

He Likes His Drago Corn Head

Eight years ago Ron Tschetter of Carpenter, S. Dak., bought a **Drago** 8-row, 30-in. corn head for his **New Holland** 9060 combine. He says he couldn't be happier with it (ph 888 789-2723; www.dragotec.com).

"This header is built in Germany, and I found out about it when I went to the **Agritecnica** farm show in Hanover, Germany. It's the most popular corn head in Germany. The head is equipped with spring-loaded deck plates, which I really like because they automatically self-adjust on each side of the row according to stalk size."

"Because of the drought this year, our corn yields varied anywhere from zero on the high ground to 200 bu. per acre on low ground. But the spring-loaded deck plates always stayed close to the stalks no matter how big or small they were, which resulted in very little loss of kernels. They do a much better job than the hydraulic deck plates used on other brands because they constantly self-adjust as the stalks pass through them. Another advantage is that the 22 1/2-in. deck plates are the longest in the industry, which results in a slower knife-tip speed for less ear bounce."

"I have yet to replace any parts on this header. I took it apart this year because I thought that after 8 years some parts would be worn, but I didn't have to replace anything. I grease the deck plates every

spring and again after harvest to keep the deck's brass bearings and bushings from getting rusty. I understand that by installing a knife on the head it can be used to harvest sunflowers, too."

"Low maintenance cost is a big benefit to this header. I had been using an 8-row **Deere** head and had to replace the bottom sprockets and rollers every year because they weren't built strong enough. Also, I had a lot of trouble with ears of flying out of the head."

"My **Drago** head is equipped with the optional stalk chopper system. The knives are positioned so the stalks aren't chopped until the ear is harvested, which reduces shelling loss. The knives are more centrally located on the row unit to provide better residue spreading and rock protection. The chopper system works great when traveling at normal speeds of 4 to 4 1/2 mph, but in our light yielding corn we drove up to 8 mph and as a result the chopper knives didn't work quite as well."

"When I bought my **Drago** corn head it was available only with steel snouts, but the year after I bought it they switched to plastic snouts which are lighter weight."

"I paid \$42,000 for my **Drago** head, but the same head now sells for about \$72,000. It isn't cheap but the other brands aren't, either. To me the quality makes it worth the price."

through 6 starters, and we had problems with the brake lines and ring gear. Also, the cab lights would stay on and straps on the gas tank broke."

Mark Shores, Towanda, Penn.: "**Glenwood** boilers have been best buys twice for me. I put a hot air unit in my house 21 years ago. It still works fine, but I wanted hot water for in-floor heat in the shop where I run my business, **Shores Tractor Repair**."

"I had a new **Glenwood** 7060 installed in an old cement block milk house about halfway between my house and my shop that I operate in a remodeled barn."

"John Kreider, **Glenwood Heaters**, installed the 7060 and ran hot water lines to the shop and to the house. In the house, the hot water travels through heat exchangers in a water heater and the plenum of my older **Glenwood**. We have all the hot water we can use, and the house stays comfortably warm all the time. If the temperature dips, the thermostat turns on the fan and it warms right up."

"I like the fact that installing the heat



exchanger didn't affect my older stove. That means I can use it if I shut down the boiler in the milk house."

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