

**Telforde Adams, Hollsopple, Penn.:** "I'm well-pleased with my 2002 **Cub Cadet** 2518 garden tractor equipped with a 44-in. mower deck. I use it only to cut grass and it does a good job. I replaced the battery two years ago."

**John Juhasz, Montpelier, Ohio:** John's the satisfied owner of a 2004 **Chevrolet Silverado** 4-WD, 1/2-ton pickup equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission. "I bought this pickup new with only single digit mileage on the odometer. It now has more than 140,000 miles with no problems, despite being in the body shop three different times after accidents. Too bad none of the Big Three auto makers offers a manual transmission in their pickups any more."

"I don't like the 'worst buys' listed in FARM SHOW regarding problems that happen after warranties have expired."

**"Just because they didn't write you a check 10 years after the fact is no reason to drag their name through the mud."**

Manufacturers state what their warranty period is when you buy the product and if you expect them to fix something years later, you're smearing the reputation of a company that kept its part of the bargain. Just because they didn't write you a check 10 years after the fact is no reason to drag their name through the mud."

**John Gruman, Waterloo, Iowa:** "My 1992 **Deere** F725 mower and 2008 **Deere** 2520 utility tractor both work perfect. I can always depend on them."

"I bought my 2009 **Heat Mate** kerosene heater to provide temporary heat when the power went out during an ice storm. However, it smoked up the house so bad we had to hire a cleaning company to clean and repaint everything."



**Jim Ruen, Lanesboro, Minn.:** "I recently bought a new pair of work boots from the Duluth Trading Company, a Wisconsin company that sells rugged work clothes that includes a line of U.S.-made work boots."

"Not only are the boots made in Wisconsin, but the leather is even tanned there. They aren't cheap at \$159.50, but they are everything customer reviews said they were. I had never bought boots online before, but they fit great and felt broken in the first day."

"I have some arthritis in my feet, and I think their built-in supports help with that condition. I can spend a long day working up and down our steep hillsides without feeling nearly as sore as I did before."

"These boots can be resoled and have replaceable shock-absorbing insoles. The leather is triple stitched with nylon."

"One reviewer said her husband liked them so much he was going to buy extra pairs, just in case they stopped making them. I may do the same."

**Dennis Wildasin, Seven Valleys, Penn.:** A 2004 **Deere** X475 lawn tractor rates as Dennis's "worst buy". "After 20 to 30 minutes of use, the engine shuts off as if I hit a kill switch. No help from the dealer."

**Randy Patsy, East Brady, Penn.:** "My **Allis Chalmers** D17 tractors work great and never fail to start. All I've replaced are the brake linings and a steering U-joint. Our old 1950 **Allis Chalmers** WD tractor also still works great."

**Walker Clafin, Chippewa Lake, Mich.:** "It's going on 290,000 miles with no major repairs," says Walker, pleased with his 2000 **Ford** Ranger 4-WD pickup equipped with a 4.0-liter gas engine.

"My 2008 **Poulan** 16-in. chainsaw is difficult to start, even after it has been running for a while. Also, the chain oiler clogs up."

**Vincent T. Schroeder, Leipsic, Ohio:** "I'm well-pleased with my 60 by 60 by 16-ft. **Golden Giant** machine shed, which was put up in 2010 ([www.goldengiant.us](http://www.goldengiant.us); ph 800 828-1209). The purlins on it are made from galvanized metal and look really nice. This building is bird-proof and has smooth, easy-gliding 30-ft. doors."

**Walker Baumgartner, Columbia, Mo.:** "We use our 1974 **Case** 870 tractor to pull our 12-ft. Case disk and it does an awesome job. We also use it to pull our Case IH RS 551 round baler."

**Gary Davis, San Antonio, Texas:** "My **Stihl** 044 chainsaw starts after only a few pulls, and its cutting action makes it a real animal."

"My 2003 **GM** 2500 Duramax is a good, reliable pickup. I use restaurant grease and waste oil to power it, which saves a lot of money. I've noticed that the nearer to zero the fuel cost gets, the less mileage matters. A front wheel bearing went out at 60,000 miles, and an upper ball joint at 70,000 miles. But overall, it's a good pickup."

**Paul Beiler, Sumner, Ill.:** "We're well satisfied with our **Frigidaire** Affinity front-load washer and dryer set. The cost was reasonable, and the washer uses much less water and soap than top load brands. Most importantly, it gets our clothes clean and wrinkle-free."

**Gary Alford, South Bend, Ind.:** Gary's impressed with his 2010 **Gray** TSL-50 25-ton air/hydraulic jack (ph 800 821-7320; [www.grayusa.com](http://www.grayusa.com)). "It works great with tractors and trucks. I don't know how I got along without it."

On the minus side, he lists his 2005 **Deere** Gator 4-WD HPX equipped with a 20 hp gas engine. "We have four of these utility vehicles, and they all start hard even when it's 90 degrees above zero. We're disappointed that neither Deere nor Kawasaki ever came up with a carburetor for this vehicle that works. Newer models are equipped with electronic fuel injection, which works much better, but these carbureted models stink. We'll probably have to buy new starters in the near future."

**Dallas Anderson, Westcliffe, Colo.:** "My 2009 **Montana** R3644 is a great little tractor. The diesel engine on it starts easily even at 11 degrees below zero, and it'll plow 30-in. deep snow without tire chains. I use this tractor with a 7-ft. bush hog and with a 6-ft. box blade equipped with ripper shanks. I've also used it with a loader bucket to dig out a septic system. No problems."

**Robert Mork, Sevierville, Tenn.:** "I've owned my **HTP** 200 wire feed welder for 20 years with no problems. It's a well-built machine."

## "Best Buy" Bug Shirt

"We live in a heavily-wooded area with lots of mosquitoes and other flying insects."

"When I saw an ad for the Original Bug Shirt, I decided to try one. The shirt has solid, densely woven panels front, back and over the shoulders and neck where it touches the body. Wide, tight mesh panels on the sides create lots of airflow. The bottom of the shirt has a draw cord to pull it tight against jeans. At the top, a hood with see-through mesh protects the face. Everything is loose for lots of air movement."

"Customer reviews raved about the shirt, which is made by a small company in Trout Creek, Ont. The shirt had proven itself in the Canadian north woods, Alaskan tundra and southern swamps – any place that biting flies and mosquitoes can be found."

"After trying it out in our mosquito haven, both my wife and I agree, this shirt is amazingly comfortable and effective. My wife was recently diagnosed with lyme's disease, which she got from a deer tick, so we're getting serious about finding protective clothing."

"I paid an extra \$10 for a fully detachable



**Bug shirt has solid, densely woven panels front, back and over the shoulders and neck. At the top, a hood with see-through mesh protects the face.**

mesh face panel. It's well worth it. The company also makes pants, gaiters and a full-head mesh hood. We'll try the pants next. I already bought the hood, which is light and great for keeping clouds of gnats off the face."

"I ordered the shirt direct from the website [www.bugshirt.com](http://www.bugshirt.com). Sells for \$59.95 to \$79.95 depending on options. A child's version is also available."

**James and Ginger Minix, Henderson, Tenn.:** "My 2003 **Deere** LT155 lawn tractor, which I bought used in 2009, has performed

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flawlessly. I'd recommend it to anyone. It's built much better than the newer Deere lawn tractors sold at Lowes and Home Depot."

**Dale Ayer, Chrisney, Ind.:** "My 2011 **DR** 48-in. grader works great and puts material right where I need it. I tried it out on my neighbor's driveway, and he couldn't believe how well it worked."

"My 1997 **Dodge** Ram pickup was a worst buy. I had to put in two transmissions and an oil pump within a 2-year period. When the pickup was only 14 months old I drove it on a trip with my girlfriend and her daughter, and the trip turned out to be a nightmare. The oil pump went out, and it was a Sunday. I'm not sure which was worse – being broken down with two girls, or being broken down on a Sunday in the middle of nowhere."

**Randy Kuehn, Enumclaw, Wash.:** Randy likes his **Silky** Hayauchi aluminum telescoping pole saw (ph 866 345-2468; [www.silkysaws.com](http://www.silkysaws.com)). "It reaches out up to 21 ft. so I can prune a lot of trees without having to climb them. It extends and retracts like a surgical tool. I've used it on a lot of trees, but it still cuts great."

"My **Coleman** 18-volt cordless drill came with two batteries. One of them never worked, and the other one lacked power."

**Henry Seward, Milton, Wis.:** "The 23 hp **Yanmar** compact tractor I bought 30 years ago now has about 5,000 hrs. on it without needing any tune-ups or repairs. It has worn out three brush mowers around my 38-acre salvage yard, which includes some real tough mowing. I've also used it to move thousands of yards of gravel and snow. I use it all year long."

**David Rogers, Ionia, Mich.:** David's the satisfied owner of a 1956 **Ford** 640 tractor. "This tractor does it all, from pulling tree tops out of the woods to plowing snow and doing

garden work. One time I even used it to pull a UPS truck out of a ditch. It has required only routine maintenance."

**Doug Kraynik, Denmark, Wis.:** "I've used my **Miller** 235 Millermatic wire welder for several years and have found it to be a real time saver for repairing and building trailers and wagons, etc."

"I like my **Weslo** inversion flex system. It's a table that tilts you back and holds you by your feet. I had trouble with my knees and back and was on two different pain pills for six months. They helped somewhat. But after I bought the flex system the pain disappeared, and I was able to stop taking pills. You can buy them at Walmart for as little as \$99."

**George Bates, Henrietta, Texas:** "My **Texas Fence Fixer** lets me repair fences by myself and doesn't require as much strength and maneuvering as regular methods ([www.livestockshed.com](http://www.livestockshed.com); ph 800 621-8546).

"My 2011 **Ford** Fiesta isn't as fuel efficient as advertised. However, it's easy to drive and drives well."

**Dave Branigan, Albin, Wyo.:** Dave's the owner of a 2002 **Chevrolet** 2500 heavy-duty 4-WD, extended cab longbed pickup equipped with a 6.0-liter engine and automatic transmission. "This pickup has been trouble-free and gets 17 mpg pulling a load."

"We bought several cases of **TKO** cleaner, but it didn't work at all like the salesman's demonstrations. The company didn't return our phone calls."

**Abraham Pratt, Griswold, Iowa:** Abraham's impressed with his 1986 **Excavator** 400ELV chainsaw and his 1980's **Huskee** lawn tractor. "The tractor is well-built, always starts, and has never failed me. It runs great every time."

"The deck bearing on my 2002 **Deere** L120 lawn tractor went out twice within a month. I always have to charge the batteries on the tractor before I can start it. Also, the tractor's electric deck clutch won't start even after the tractor has been running for a while."

**Jay Gelm, Waynesburg, Penn.:** "Black Flag propane insect fogger produces a lot of fog in our barn stalls. However, it doesn't kill flying insects. Instead, the insects seem to thrive on it. I followed all directions and closed all the doors, but when I came back a few hours later there were no dead flies. What a waste of money."