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Tom Demers, Bethlehem, Conn.: Tom's impressed with his 1996 **Ford F-350** pickup equipped with a Powerstroke turbocharged diesel engine. "I bought this pickup new and had a Fisher 'minute mount' snowplow mounted on it. With good snow tires and 700 lbs. of sand in back, I have no trouble plowing snow uphill. It has about 157,000 miles on it and is an excellent pickup.

"As far as worst buys go, I've been fixing chainsaws for a living for 42 years and have found that the customer is the problem at least 75 percent of the time."

David Bohrer, Three Forks, Mont.: "My 2005 **Kubota 5030** loader tractor has a lot of hours on it and outperforms other tractors I've used in the past. It can handle two big round bales – one on front and one on back. I also use this tractor to load gravel into a truck and to operate an 84-in. brush hog mower. I use it with a front-end grapple to handle hay. No problems.

"My **Harbor Freight** hydraulic press is my worst buy. The pump didn't work right from the start, and the press blew apart the first time I used it. The company wouldn't replace it."

Lowell Johnson, Wolford, N. Dak.: "In 2008 I bought a new **Kubota M5040** loader tractor. From day one, the loader has settled about 1 in. per hour, and when in the field it settles 3 1/2 in. per hour. My dealer said this is normal, even with a new loader. Another dealer said it wasn't normal and that he would fix the problem – provided I hauled the tractor 500 miles to him. So, I wrote to the company, and they told me the loader has a tolerance of 4 in. in 5 min. For the price of a couple of oil seals, the company lost a customer and gained a lot of negative advertising. A machine is no better than the dealer and the company that built it. Too bad I had to learn the hard way."

Ronald J. Fitzgerald, Seeleys Bay, Ont.: Ronald's pleased with the **Don Knasel** conversion kit he read about in FARM SHOW that makes it easy to install a V-8 engine in Ford N-Series tractors (www.awesomehenry.com; ph 937 497-9447). The kit contains all the hardware needed to connect the V-8 engine and clutch assembly to the tractor's transmission and frame.

"I made the conversion on my Ford 8N tractor. The company supplies precise parts and is helpful in answering questions regarding assembly. They're nice people to do business with."

He's disappointed with his **Mastercraft** 1/2-in. cordless impact wrench. "It won't start unless I rotate the drive by hand. I took the wrench back and they replaced it free of charge, but now the replacement model is doing the same thing."

Roger Bishop, Worthington, Ont.: "My **Deere 5325** tractor is user friendly and has never let me down. It has an air ride seat and loader ride control, which makes it comfortable to drive in fields.

"I had to replace the transmission 5 times before I finally traded it."

"My 2001 **Dodge Ram 1500 4-WD** pickup is my worst buy. I had to replace the transmission 5 times before I finally traded it. The pickup's front end is built weak and I had to replace a ball joint twice."

Donald Cool, Kalamazoo, Mich.: "I like my **New Holland TC 30 4-WD** loader tractor. It's equipped with **Cooper** tires that have been treated with a process called 'siping'

where slices are made across the tire tread. The process increased traction and boosted performance on ice."

Phillip Raatz, Fort Atkinson, Wis.: "My **Quadra-Fire** pellet stove runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to keep my 1903 farm house warm with no problems (www.quadrafire.com). I just dump a bag of pellets into it every day, and off it goes. It's a lot easier than cutting, stacking, and hauling wood."

Joe Husnik, Pine City, Minn.: "My **Leatherman** tool and **Leatherman Super Tool 200** are best buys (www.leatherman.com; ph 800 847-8665). I always carry the Leatherman with me and seem to use it every day, whether to grab something with the pliers or to cut twine off round bales. It costs a little more than other tools of its kind, but the quality is worth it. The best part is that if anything breaks, you can send the tool in to the company and they'll repair it and send it back with no questions asked. The last one I sent in was returned to me within 6 days. I wish every company stood behind its products like this.

"My **Deere LT 160** riding mower is my worst buy. The deck is a constant problem because it's built way too light. Both wheels broke off, and the mounting bracket that holds the deck to the machine broke off. The deck is cracked where the mower blade spindles mount, and one of the spindles broke off. I had to put tubes in the mower's tires because of slow leaks. The hydrostat transmission went out and I was told it wasn't rebuildable. They wanted more than \$600 for a new transmission. Now the fuel tank leaks."

Jeff Ring, Kingsville, Ohio: "I like 2010 **Horst Welding** front-end loader attachments (www.horstwelding.com; ph 519 291-4162). We bought a 6-ft. bucket-grapple combination for our **Deere 2550** loader tractor. It's a light-duty model that we use to get silage out of ag bags. It's really built well and works great. It grabs the silage without spinning or pushing."

David Moretz, Boone, N.C.: "I like my 2008 **Yard Machine** riding mower equipped with a 38-in. deck and 13 1/2 hp **Tecumseh** engine. It never fails to start and cuts a lot of grass to the gallon. I use it to mow 1 1/2 acres and still have gas in the tank when I'm done. I wore out 2 push mowers before I bought this model."

John F. Zimmerman, Marysville, Penn.: John's the satisfied owner of a 2006 **Dodge 150 1/2-ton** pickup that he bought used in 2009. "This pickup has performed well no matter what kind of load we put on it. It gets 16 to 20 mpg and handles well both on and off road."

Kyle Dobins, Neligh, Neb.: Kyle's impressed with **Free All** deep penetrating oil (www.freealloil.com; ph 800 846-7325). "I used this oil on the 8.3-liter **Cummins** engine on my **Case IH Magnum** tractors to free up the exhaust manifold bolts, which are notorious for rusting in and twisting off. It worked like a dream and made a believer out of me."

A prybar and punch set from **Cummings Tools** rates as his "worst buy". "These tools are made of soft steel and bend easily. They're good only for one-time use."

Steve Carpenter, Somerset, Ohio: "It'll go anywhere and turns on a dime. It's also easy on fuel," says Steve about his 2010 **Deere 5075 MFWD** tractor. "It has about 360 hrs. on it with no problems. My wife likes driving it, too."

John Sides, Smithwick, S. Dak.: "The engineers did their homework when they designed this machine. It has proven to be extremely reliable and versatile," says John about his 2009 **Bobcat Toolcat 5600**. "We use this machine for fencing, clearing snow,

Cargo Carrier Built For Walk-Behind Mower

Tom Goodman, Malone, N.Y.: "The **DR Brush Hog** walk-behind mower that I bought used in 2000 is a great machine and does everything the company says it will (ph 800 687-6575; www.drpower.com). Last year I built a 2-wheeled wood hauler that simply bolts on in place of the deck. The box rides on a pair of swivel wheels so it's easy to steer.

"I used some old bed rails to build the frame and maple wood to build the bottom and sides. The box measures 30 by 32 in. and is small enough to fit through my garage man door. My only expense was for the swivel wheels. It works great and I can still use the mower."



Tom Goodman likes his DR walk-behind mower. He built this 2-wheeled wood hauler that bolts on in place of the deck.

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moving dirt, cleaning corrals and loading feed. It has a comfortable cab with easy access, and can be driven at a respectable road speed. It's a pleasure to operate."

David and Angela Turner, Bradfordsville, Ky.: They nominate their 1978 **Ford 1600** 17 hp tractor equipped with 9 forward and 3 reverse gears as a "best buy". "It's an excellent machine that starts in all weather conditions and uses little fuel," says David. "It does the work of a tractor twice its size. We use it mainly for finish mowing, but also to grade our driveway, move snow, do landscape and posthole work, and bush hogging. We even use it to tow other tractors when they won't start."

Robert Cox, Harriman, Tenn.: Robert's happy with his **DR 6.75 Pro Power Wagon** equipped with a powered lift. "I was building a retaining wall with 8-in. blocks and hauling them in my wheelbarrow, which was a back breaking job. Then I decided to try this machine. I had been hauling 6 blocks in my wheelbarrow, but now I'm hauling 800 lbs. in my Power Wagon which has made the job a lot easier."

Bob Gamble, Sundre, Alta.: "It's the best vehicle I've ever owned, and I've had a lot of them over the years," says Bob about his 2008 **Ford F-150** pickup. "It has required only routine maintenance."

John Cinnamon, Winchester, Ont.: "We own and operate 700 acres and also do custom combining work using seven **White** combines – four 8900 models and three 8920 models. All of them do a great job, and I've replaced only two engines in 30 years. There have been a lot of repairs, but these machines just keep on going."

Johnny Lesley, Okemah, Okla.: "This is one stout tractor for its size," says Johnny about his 2008 **Kubota 4400 HSC**. "I use it to operate my **Deere** round baler and to haul hay. With a hydrostatic transmission it's easy to operate, and it always starts.

"I had a problem with my 2008 **Dodge 3500 4-WD** pickup equipped with a 6.7-liter **Cummins** diesel engine. I got a tank of bad fuel, and unfortunately the pickup's engine warning light never came on – the engine just started missing and then died. The bad fuel caused \$18,000 worth of damage, which wasn't covered by the warranty. The pickup only had about 20,000 miles on it."

Royal Knepper, Markleton, Penn.: "My 2000 **Steiner 420** tractor is the best engineered piece of equipment I've ever owned. It's expensive but works great."

Jeff Beavers, Mt. Holly, Ark.: "We haven't had any problems with our two 2009 **Jonsered 2171** chainsaws. We use them to cut tons of wood every week."

Terry Hill, Ceresco, Mich.: Terry likes his 2005 **Poultryman** automatic 60-gal.

scaldier and **Poultryman** plucker (www.chickenpickers.com; ph 607 334-9962). "We've used these machines to process more than 7,000 chickens and several dozen turkeys. Both units work well and are easy to use and maintain. They're also reasonably priced."

Rudy Nartker, Lapeer, Mich.: "One of the most satisfying products I've used is a rubber glue called **Shoe Goo** (www.eclecticproducts.com; ph 800 767-4667). I've used this glue on just about everything. It works on leather, rubber boots, shoe soles, canvas, vinyl, glass, metal moldings on cars, tail lights on trailers, electrical wiring on cars, to seal cracks and to hold lights into brackets. I've also used it on fishing poles, to hold mirrors in place, to hold the knobs on tractor gearshift levers, and on tractor seats. After drying, this glue still has a slight amount of flex to it so it won't crack and break up. Temperature doesn't seem to bother it. Whenever I go hunting or fishing I take a tube with me. It's a product you don't want to leave home without."

George Kiskey, Buford, Ga.: "My 2009 **Deere CS40** chainsaw equipped with a 16-in. bar is the best chainsaw I've ever owned. It starts every time and is powerful and lightweight. I own five chainsaws, and two are CS40's. They work great."

Donald Crook, Rolla, Mo.: "My 2003 **Branson 2810** loader tractor is built strong and heavy for a compact tractor. It weighs 3,440 lbs. without the loader. I worked this tractor hard as we cleared our 10 acres of land and built a small pond. I use it with a 6-ft. rotary cutter to clear brush and tall weeds. No problems."

H. Gerylo, East Selkirk, Man.: "I'm well pleased with my 2010 **Troy Bilt ZT50** riding mower equipped with a 22 hp Kohler engine. I previously had a 24 hp **Sears** riding mower. The Troy Bilt cuts faster and clears the grass much better without plugging. It'll turn on a dime."

Scott Corey, Fountaintown, Ind.: "My 1970 **Ford 4000** gas tractor always starts, even on the coldest days. I use it for everything from skidding logs to plowing our garden plot."

Roy Huntington, Joplin, Mo.: "The 1,200-lb. capacity, hydraulic-operated motorcycle lift I bought from **Harbor Freight** a few years ago is a best buy. It operates by stepping on a foot pump. I use this lift to maintain our big motorcycles, but it also works great for working on small machines like riding mowers, ATV's, mower decks, and more. It's nice to get something up to waist height, and I keep a rolling stool so I can move around while I work. I paid only about \$300 for it."