

Continued from previous page

business shortly after I bought it. I went back to using my 25-year-old **Poulan Pro 395**, which is a heavy but dependable chainsaw."

John Kaelin, LaGrange, Ky.: "Three years ago I paid \$1,800 for a used 1988 **Toyota** pickup equipped with a 22R engine and 4-speed transmission. It had about 58,000 miles when I bought it but now has more than 130,000 miles, and I haven't done anything to it. It gets 29 mpg. Over the years, I could have sold this pickup several times for more than what I paid for it. I'm 60 years old now and I want to see which lasts longer, me or the pickup."

Titus H. Zimmerman, Shippensburg, Penn.: Titus likes the **747** ultra welding rods he bought from **United Alloy Research and Development** (ph 800 356-9353; www.unitedalloysrd.com). "These rods are designed for high strain welds and make an amazingly strong welds. We've been using them for a number of years now and have hardly ever broken a weld. The rods are too expensive to use on just anything, so we keep

"These rods make amazingly strong welds."

a box or 2 on hand and only use them where we really need them. Applications for these rods include: spring steel, tool steel, castings, manganese steel, stainless steel, dissimilar metals, and structural steel.

"Also on the best buy side, our **Drill Doctor** drill bit sharpener has been trouble-free and does a great job."

Lee Shepherd, Wabash, Ind.: "My best buy ever was a 1990's **Dynamark** riding mower, which I bought used at a garage sale with a blown Tecumseh engine. The guy who owned it was asking \$50 for it. Luckily, I had a good 12 hp Briggs & Stratton engine in my garage so I asked him if he would take \$20 for it. Long story short, I was driving this mower around the very next day."

Jerry Webb, Harrold, S. Dak.: "I really like the 16-speed powershift transmission on my 2006 **New Holland TJ 325 4-WD** tractor.

"My 2006 **Komatsu 146 WB** backhoe is a joy to operate and uses little fuel. Both machines are real workhorses.

"My 2009 **Speedway** series 125 amp wire welder never worked right from day one. I talked to the company's customer service people 6 different times and heard a dozen different reasons why they wouldn't honor the warranty. They even told me they would send a replacement unit, but they never did."

Harold McKee, Athens, Ala.: "We use our 1980 **Kubota L185D** tractor to handle big loads, such as pulling a 5-ft. Bush Hog and a 90-in. finish mower. It's no problem for this fine, small tractor. We also use it with a box scraper and rotary tiller in our garden. My granddaughter now lays claim to this tractor."

Roger Blum, York, Neb.: "My 1978 **Kubota 18 hp** tractor is a best buy. I replaced the fuel injectors and a U-joint and went through about 5 sets of tires. In 2006 I bought a **Kubota 4610** tractor equipped with a front-end loader and use it with a roto-tiller and shredder. I use this tractor every day to take care of a large garden and some cattle."

Ed Helbling, Coloma, Mich.: "This is the worst tractor I've ever owned," says Ed about his **Massey Ferguson 235**. "The power steering on it goes out about every 100 hrs. It also has poor hydraulics, gearing, and traction. The engine works okay."

Gary Alford, Edwardsburg, Mich.: Gary's impressed with his 1992 **Toyota Tercel** equipped with a 1.5-liter engine and 5-speed manual transmission. "I paid \$250 for this car, which had a rod out and 130,000 miles when I bought it. I spent \$1,100 rebuilding the engine, which gets 35 to 45 mpg, depending on the weather. The car now has about 165,000 miles on it.

"My **Ford Ranger** pickup equipped with a 4.0-liter engine gets 16 to 20 mpg, which I think is pretty good. It has saved me a lot of money on fuel. I like not being tied to the gas pump whenever I go somewhere.

"Years ago we bought 4 **Deere HPX 4-WD** Gators equipped with Kawasaki gas engines where I work. The engines are very cold blooded, even when it's 90 degrees outside. Deere tried to fix the problem but couldn't. Their new Gators are now equipped with electronic fuel injection, which solves the problem. However, anyone who has the old carburetor-style engine is out of luck."

J.D. Lyall, Tonkawa, Okla.: "My 1987 **Honda 4-Trax 300 4-wheeler** always starts and has been trouble-free. I've replaced just the tires. I use this machine to check 10 miles of electric fence. I mounted a 25-gal. sprayer on the rear rack so I can spray fence rows and corners and along roadsides. It has been a perfect vehicle for all these years."

On the "worst buy" side, "My 18-volt **Black & Decker 'Fire Storm'** cordless drill works well on small jobs. However, the batteries don't last long enough to get much done. Also, it's hard to find new batteries and they're expensive. Another problem is the chuck falls off if I even barely touch the release, which is poorly placed. I plan to throw this unit away and go back to **DeWalt**. Their cordless drills cost more, but they last."

Leonard Heck, Belfield, N. Dak.: "My 2008 **Chevrolet Silverado LTZ** crew cab pickup is roomy, comfortable, and is also fuel efficient. We've towed it about 4,500 miles behind our RV with no problems. It has about 20,000 miles on it."

Robert Frommeyer, New London, Ohio: "I haven't had one minute of trouble with it," reports Robert about his **Cub Cadet** model 1904 riding mower equipped with a 46-in. deck. "I use it to mow 5 acres of American Legion property, plus my own. I'm 72 years young and have had a lot of riding mowers over the years. This **Cub Cadet** is almost as good as my old **Bolens 1220**. That tractor was so strong it could have pulled a house down if it had enough traction."

Patricia Peacock, Sulphur Springs, Texas: "The dual head turbo propane torch I bought from **Northern Tool** is my worst buy. I couldn't get the torch to work so I kept sending it back for a new one. They made me pay to send it back after the first one. Now I'm on my third model, which if I sent it back in exchange for another, will have cost me \$69. That's way more than the \$39.99 I paid for the original tool. But the company won't refund my money unless I pay to ship this model back. I won't buy anything from them again."

Robert A. Smalley, Colon, Mich.: "I like my **Tracfone** cell phone (www.tracfone.com). I tried 3 other 'major' cell phone services, but none of them worked as well as this one. It has fewer dropped calls and no monthly charges. I'm well pleased with it.

"My 2008 **Cleary** pole barn was comparatively expensive but the workmanship very poor. The doors don't close tight, condensation drips from the ceiling, and the steel roof lets all the snow slide off at once. The company did come out and repair whatever they could."

Ray Bawol, Rhinebeck, N.Y.: Ray's

"Cow Friendly" Poly Free Stalls

A new "cow friendly" free stall for dairy cows came on the market recently. John Dortmans gives it a big thumbs up.

The **Strathroy, Ont.**, dairyman recently became the first dairyman to use **Greenstall** free stalls in North America, when he installed them in his new 60-cow dairy building.

"The nice thing about these stalls is that they're made from flexible polypropylene piping, so they 'give' whenever a cow comes into contact with them. As a result, there's almost no way a cow can get stuck in them or get hurt," says Dortmans. "The polypropylene gives in all directions, but has 'memory' so it always snaps back to its original position. If a cow runs into the headrail it will flex up or down, and the same for the stall's sides - there's nothing to catch her hips on."

The stalls can be easily adjusted to any size you want. "The same stall can be used for either small calves or big cows by simply moving some clamps," says Dortmans. "We have a heifer and dry cow barn so we group the animals according to size and maturity. We have 3 different stall sizes that accommodate everything from smaller calves to big cows."

impressed with his 2005 **Kubota RTV 900 4-WD** utility vehicle equipped with a diesel engine and power steering. "This rig is reliable, starts every time, is fuel efficient, and has great traction and pulling power. I'm getting on in years, and I couldn't farm without this machine."

Chris Stutzman, Port Washington, Ohio: "My **Leatherman Wave** pocket multitool has a lot of useful features and is built with quality. It's made from stainless steel and provides access to 4 locking blades without opening the tool. The tool has 18 features in all and comes with a 25-year guarantee. It lives in my pocket and goes everywhere with me. Excellent company service."

Gary E. Havens, Frankfort, Ohio: "This is one tough little tractor. No problems," says Gary about his 2005 **Deere 5205** tractor equipped with a 522 front-end loader.

"My 2009 **Deere 5093E** Limited tractor has had two problems in the first 100 hrs. First, the cab doors don't fit right. The dealer tried to adjust the doors but they're still cracked at the bottom. Second, a throttle linkage problem made the engine surge up and down. The dealer installed a new throttle linkage, which helped."

Delmar Oetting, Concordia, Mo.: "I like my **Deere** disc mower, and also the **New Holland** disc mower I had before I bought the **Deere**. **Kuhn** makes both mowers. As long as these mowers are well serviced, they're a pleasure to operate. On the minus side, if you break something the repairs are expensive."

Jerry Berdell, Odin, Minn.: Two years ago Jerry had **Gerard** steel roofing installed on his house and says he's well pleased with it (www.gerardusa.com). "No more asphalt shingles to replace ever again. I rate this product a 10 out of 10."

Thomas Gould, Bigfoot, Texas: "My 2007 **Kubota L-3400** tractor is quiet, fuel efficient, easy to operate, and well-built. It has incredible power for such a small tractor.

"My **Cub Cadet** riding mower is my worst buy. Replacing the battery is a difficult job. Also, the paint falls off, the wiring system is a nightmare, and I had to redesign the drive belt guards on the deck. Another problem is I can't change the engine oil without making a mess."



Polypropylene stalls "give" in all directions but have "memory" so they always snap back to their original position.

Dortmans says the price for **Greenstall** free stalls is about the same as conventional free stalls made from steel tubing.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, John Dortmans, **Strathroy, Ontario, Canada** (ph 519 868-1398; jdortmans@isp.ca).

In Canada contact: **John Moses, P.O. Box 1149, 109 St. Andrew, Mitchell, Ont. Canada N0K 1N0** (ph 877 738-4384; sales@greenfreestall.com; www.greenfreestall.com).

In the U.S. contact: **Pete Captein, 801 Foothill Dr., Ontario, Oregon 97914** (ph 877 655-4665 or 541 212-0588; www.greenfreestall.com).

Glenn Fisher, Homer, Ga.: "My 1924 **Ford Model T Roadster** car is a best buy. My dad bought it for me in 1952 when I was beginning to learn to drive. I was going to soup up the engine and make a hot rod out of it, but I grew to like this car so much that I decided not to. Dad paid \$30 cash for the car. If Ford ever makes another vehicle as good as this one, I'll buy it.

"My 1984 **Nissan** extended cab 4-WD pickup runs great. It's equipped with a 4-cyl. engine and 5-speed transmission, and has plenty of power to pull a 22-ft. livestock trailer. I'd probably buy another **Nissan** if the company ever brings its 4-WD diesel pickups into the U.S."

Dale Martin, Cosmos, Minn.: "It's the most versatile shop tool I've ever owned," says Dale about his **Uni Hydro 42-14**



ironworker (www.unihydro.com). "I use it to cut, punch, and bend metal and to do many other jobs. It cuts my repair time in half and works great. After 20 years of use it's still worth within about \$500 of a new one."

Carl Goetz, Woodland, Wash.: "My **Sears 8 hp** tree branch chipper works great for shredding aluminum pop cans. I just tie a porous 50-lb. feed bag over the chipper's outlet chute and then drop the cans into the hopper. Hundreds of shredded cans will fit into a single feed bag, which I then haul to a local recycler. There's no mess at all. It's a handy way to get rid of cans and is a lot easier than crushing them by hand."

Charles Nevills, Worthington, Ind.: "My **McCullough 12-volt** cordless drill didn't work well when I bought it, but a factory rep replaced it free of charge. The new drill works great.

"My **Crosley** refrigerator is my worst buy. It caused nothing but trouble so I traded