

Continued from previous page

"In 1996 we bought our first new **Maytag** washing machine. The main bearings on it failed about the same day the warranty expired. A technician fixed the machine, but it broke down again within a year."

"At one time my uncle used his 1962 **Deere** 4010 tractor to do all the work on his farm, doing big jobs such as plowing



and harvesting. We bought the tractor used from him in 1997 and use it every day on our farm to do smaller jobs such as disking, planting, mulching, raking hay, pulling hay and silage wagons, and operating a round bale processor. The engine was overhauled long ago and the tractor now has about 16,000 hrs. on it. I've made a few minor repairs on it and painted it in 2012."

Vic Thurman, Drewsey, Oregon: "I like my 1987 **Western Star** dump truck equipped with a 16 cubic yard box, 811 transmission, and 3406B Cat engine. It's set up to pull a pup trailer and we turned up the power on the engine."

Mardy Holden, Solway, Minn.: "We like strap-on 'shoe chains' called **Yaktrax** (www.yaktrax.com; ph 866 925-8729). They're designed to stretch like rubber bands over the soles of your shoes or boots, keeping you from slipping on ice and snow. Metal coils on the bands bite into the ice. They were the only way to do chores this winter with all the ice we had."

"We bought a **Central Boiler** wood burning stove in 1996. Then my husband had a stroke so we downsized and bought a smaller Central Boiler model to heat our house, but it didn't do the job. The smaller stove has a 3/4-in. supply line instead of a 2-in. line like on the old model, but the dealer-installer didn't take this into account. So 10 pumps and 6 years later a new installer finally told us what was wrong and we fixed it. Now the stove works adequately."

Diana Sutherland, Benton, Ky.: Diana likes her **Harbor Freight** Luminar Work, 3-watt LED rechargeable cordless spotlight. It charges directly from a vehicle's 12-volt cigarette lighter socket or any 120-volt outlet to cast a bright beam of light over a wide area, making it perfect for emergency repairs, power outages or hiking and camping trips. It has a cushion pistol grip with trigger lock, protective lens bumper, and an auto shutoff when fully charged.

"It's very lightweight and has a far reaching light," says Diana. "It sells for only about \$15 but I bought it on sale for less than \$10. It works better than the \$40 light that it replaced."

Dale Havelka, Owensville, Mo.: Dale treats his well water with an injection system from **Essential Water Solutions**, which pumps Oxy Blast® hydrogen peroxide into the water line (www.essentialwater.net; ph 877 688-5002). "Our well is 35 years old and we always had a problem with iron and magnesium in the water. No one could come up with a solution. We couldn't drink this water or even wash clothes in it. Now we have great tasting water with no smell."

Phillip Morris, Dublin, Ga.: "It's built tough and works great," says Phillip about his 2005 **Kubota** L3400 tractor. "It still has the original battery and has never failed to start."

Abe Schlabach, Burkesville, Ky.: "In 2004 I bought a **Stihl** MS660 chainsaw equipped with a 22-in. bar for my logging business. Over the years it has cut an estimated 2 million feet of trees but is still going strong. I've always used only **Amsoil** synthetic oils in it, pre-mixing the oil at an 80 to 1 ratio, and despite 11 years of hard use this saw still has 95 percent of its original compression."

"Other than the common wear parts on it, this saw is completely original and the engine has never been touched. I credit its long and trouble-free life to Amsoil. I use Amsoil products in most of my equipment and have been a dealer for 20 years. The equipment runs smoother, quieter and more efficiently than it does with conventional oils. And, because it requires only a 25,000-mile drain interval on vehicles, Amsoil is also much cheaper to use than conventional oil."

Wayne W. Harley, New Brighton, Penn.: "Last year we replaced our old New Holland 472 haybine with a **Krone** 323CV disc mower conditioner. My son says this is an amazing machine and he enjoys using it. It's built in Germany and is heavy duty. We really like it."

"Five years ago we bought a used 2008 **Massey Ferguson** 5455 4-WD tractor with cab. The Perkins diesel engine on it starts easily in cold weather and is powerful and fuel efficient. This tractor is well built and has had only a few minor electrical issues. Massey is my favorite tractor brand."

Gene Johnson, McDermott, Ohio: "After looking at other side by side utility vehicles on the market, my wife and I finally decided on a 2014 **Kawasaki** Trans 4-WD model. It's transformable from a 4-passenger to a 2-passenger off-road utility vehicle, with the rear seat folded down and the cargo bed expanded to carry a larger payload - from 400 lbs. with 4 passengers to 800 lbs. with 2 passengers. I really like the versatility. I also like that the engine air intake is located high up on the ROPS bar."

Mike Budd, Columbus, Ohio: "I used an **Exmark** 32-in. riding mower for 10 years with no problems. Last year I bought another Exmark model and it works great, too."

Steve Skillman, Denton, Neb.: "In 2001 I installed a new Interstate 72-month battery in my old Farmall Super M tractor. Several years later I put **Battery Equaliser** in the battery (ph 888 851-4431). Believe it or not, I just replaced that battery this January. I also put this product in my new riding mower's battery 11 years ago, and the machine still starts perfectly. I'm a firm believer in this product."

Al Barem, Tacoma, Wash.: "I bought a new **Deere** 4320 tractor in 2006 and used it to cut 2 1/2 acres of pasture and to till a 100 by 200-ft. garden. Once a year I also use this tractor in a local parade to pull a farm trailer made into a Christmas float with about 30 children on it."

"Last year on the way to the parade the tractor broke down about 2 blocks from home. I called our local Deere dealer where I bought it new for \$32,096 cash. They picked it up and took it into town (2 miles for \$125) and found out it had a bad fuel injector pump and camshaft. It cost \$1,200 to tear the tractor down, and they wanted another \$7,800 to fix it. They said they don't make this engine any more."

"The tractor has only 180 engine hours on it so it isn't even broke in, yet the warranty has expired. I'm 74 years old and on Social Security so I can't afford to fix it. I thought I had spent my retirement money wisely to get a new tractor so I wouldn't need another one in my lifetime."

Using Natural Gas In Diesel Engines

A growing number of irrigation farmers are realizing substantial savings by converting diesel irrigation pumps to natural gas. Nebraska farmers Jerl Joseph and his son Eric saved hundreds of dollars a year in fuel costs after they converted two diesel-burning irrigation-pump engines to natural gas. One of them is a Case-IH 4-cylinder that runs a quarter section pivot plus an additional 40 acres. The other is a 4-cylinder Deere on an 80-acre pivot. After converting the engines with a kit, the Josephs plumbed the engines for the natural gas feed.

Until recently, Norman Bredthauer of Arcadia, Neb. had the longest pivot irrigator in Valley County, and the engine powering it consumed 7.5 gal./hr. of diesel fuel. Norman's fuel bill was \$30,000/year for this one engine. After he converted to natural gas, Bredthauer's engine was using gas at a rate of 7.25 therm/hr. There are approximately 1.4 therm in a diesel gallon equivalent, which meant that this engine now uses the equivalent of 5.2 gal./hr. of diesel fuel with natural gas. The conversion therefore reduced Bredthauer's operating costs from \$28.13/hr. (figuring diesel fuel at \$3.75/gallon) to about \$13.64/hr., a savings of \$14.49/hr.

The Nebraska farmers converted the engines with kits from C&E Clean Energy Solutions in Sturgis, S. Dak. The kits included the required gas valves and solenoid, a fuel-injection manifold that fit between the air intake and the turbocharger, and a pyrometer (temperature gauge) that was installed in the exhaust manifold to protect against overheating. The kit meters natural gas into the engine airstream after the engine is started using diesel.



Norman Bredthauer converted his diesel irrigation engine to natural gas fuel and says he saves thousands of dollars a year on fuel costs.

Joseph says it generally costs about half as much to irrigate using natural gas. He adds that the best part of the conversion is that you can go back to 100 percent diesel at any time. He says kits are sized for engine horsepower and fuel consumption. A kit ranges from about \$1,300 for engines up to 75 hp, to \$3,400 for larger engines. Joseph says if diesel becomes less expensive than natural gas, or the flow of natural gas is interrupted, he can easily go back to diesel.

According to C&E, return-on-investment on a stationary diesel application can be achieved in a few hundred hours of operation. The kits work well on both turbocharged and naturally aspirated stationary engines.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, C&E Clean Energy Solutions, Sturgis, S. Dak. 57785 (ph 800 435-6810; info@cecleanenergy.net; www.cecleanenergy.net).

Duane Spencer, DeFuniak Springs, Fla.: Duane's satisfied with his 2006 **Ford** F-350 4-WD crew cab pickup equipped with a 6.0-liter diesel engine and an 8-ft. bed, which he bought used with about 99,500 miles.

"I had to replace the oil cooler and the turbocharger needed work, but overall I love this pickup's power and ride. It's fun to drive as long as I don't have to park in tight spaces. The crew cab is wonderful and has plenty of room for my hand tools and parts. And as a contractor, I have a lot of tools and parts to carry."

"My wife and I bought a **Sears Craftsman** 42-in. riding mower equipped with a 19 1/2 hp engine and hydrostatic transmission. I like not having to stand on a foot pedal to keep moving. Instead, I just put my feet on the floorboard and use the clutch only as a panic button."

"All I've done is change the oil, blades, drive belt, battery and recently the starter solenoid. I think ethanol is bad for small engines, but that's almost all I've used in this mower yet it always starts right up. The only problem is that its ground-driven belt seems to wear out and slip prematurely. If the company had used the same hydraulic drive transmission that IH uses in its Cub Cadet tractor, this would be a fantastic machine."

Darren Spangler, Carthage, Ill.: "My 2014 **Douglas Ultimate** post puller makes removing fence posts super easy and safer (ph 785 536-4902; www.douglasweldingmachine.com). I also use it to pull smaller trees."

The unit quickly attaches to any skid loader or newer tractor equipped with a skid steer-style mount and comes with jaws made of 3/8-in. thick steel. A built-in pipe is used to push T-posts into the ground. According

to the company, the unit can be used to pull everything from wooden hedge posts to T-posts, metal pipe posts, and small to medium-sized trees.

Roger W. Meihak, Forest Lake, Minn.: Roger likes his **Storm Shield** garage door threshold weather seal, which he bought at Menards (ph 361 906-0863; www.elitegaragefloors.com/garage-thresholds-door-seals). According to the company, it creates a tight seal between the bottom of the garage door and the floor, closing any gaps left by uneven concrete or the garage door's rubber seal. The seal is designed to block wind-driven rain, snow, dirt, sand, and leaves and to keep rodents out.

"Ever since our garage was new a driving rainstorm would send water under the door which would form pools on the floor. Storm Shield stopped the problem totally," says Meihak.

Michael Mayer, Smithshire, Ill.: "The last set of **Sears Craftsman** wrenches I bought were made in China and now claim to have a 'lifetime guarantee' instead of 'guaranteed forever'. What exactly does 'lifetime guarantee' mean anyway?"

Bob Gouninlock, Attica, N.Y.: "Our **Kubota** 4610 loader tractor is dependable and always starts no matter how cold the weather. We use it several times a week to haul cordwood, pull a 6-ft. mower, and remove snow from our 1/4-mile driveway."

Luke Miller, Fairgrove, Mo.: "I bought my 2006 **Chevrolet** 1500 Silverado 4-WD, 1/2-ton pickup used with about 42,000 miles, and it now has about 340,000 miles. I've used it to haul many tons of feed. It's powered by a 4.8-liter, V-6 engine which now needs work on the lifters. Otherwise, this pickup has required only routine maintenance."