

amps, 12-volt DC, 100 watts), controller, and deep cell battery. I increased storage capacity by adding 3 batteries. With all 4 batteries in parallel I have yet to run out of power.”

William Schaeffer, Myerstown, Penn.: “I’m well satisfied with my 2000 **Kubota L3010HST** compact loader tractor. I really like having hydrostatic drive because I can use my foot to control ground speed and forward and reverse, leaving my hands free to steer and operate the loader.”

On the negative side, he lists his 2011 **LG** heat pump. “It was installed by a licensed installer, but now the coil is leaking and I can’t get it repaired or replaced. I paid a local contractor \$144 to tell me they can’t do anything to help. Considering the money I saved on heating oil, I probably broke even on it. But it wasn’t worth the cost.”

Bill Hamner, Winnsboro, Texas: “I bought my 2013 **Cub Cadet LTX 1050** 50-in. riding mower based on my misguided perception of the company’s history. Unfortunately, this mower has several design problems. For example, sticks get drawn in on top of the mower deck, knocking the belt off the pulleys. It’s a 3-hr. job to replace the belt because the deck has to be removed and there’s a heavy spring that overlaps the belt. It’s a difficult job, especially at 71 years old.

“After only 4 1/2 hrs. of use the drive belt had to be replaced for \$54.99. At 6 1/2 hrs. the mower made a loud growling noise, so I took it to an authorized dealer 35 miles away who discovered a sweet-gum ball was hung up in the mower housing. At 12 1/2 hrs. the belt broke again and had to be replaced. At 21 hrs. the blades were replaced at a cost of \$60, and at 31 hrs. the belt broke again. Also, a loose spindle bolt caused the idler pulley to rotate out of shape. I paid \$1,999 for this piece of junk, and I’d gladly sell it for half price just to get rid of it.”

Donald Martin, Clayton, N.C.: “It starts on the first or second pull every time and does a great job,” reports Donald about his **Snapper** self-propelled mower. “I really like the variable speed self-propelled system.

“My **Homelite** Super 2 chainsaw works great. I’m just 14 years old but can use this saw to fell trees and cut firewood with ease.”

Barry Williams, Humboldt, Ill.: “We’ve already put about 25,000 miles on our 2014 **Toyota** Highlander. Over the years we’ve owned 7 different Toyota vehicles with no problems on any of them. My little 2004 **Toyota** Tacoma pickup still runs great, too.”

Stephen Provo, Remington, Ind.: “I was born in the fall of 1947. In 1948 my parents bought a **Frigidaire** refrigerator. Eight kids later, in the late 1960’s, they bought a new **Sears Kenmore** and the ‘Old Faithful’ Frigidaire became a backup in our basement. Last week it finally passed slowly but peacefully to ice box heaven. I think my sister hugged it and cried, and our whole family is now in mourning. Meanwhile, the Kenmore is still chuggin’ along. Both refrigerators are best buys.”

Don Cross, New Castle, Ind.: “My 2010 **Bobcat** T870 skid loader had some problems, but the dealer promptly took care of them.

“My 2014 **Caterpillar** mini excavator has about 300 trouble-free hours on it. It’s an excellent machine.”

On the negative side, he lists 3 **New Holland** tractors, all bought new. “My T8010 model has a transmission fault on the computer screen that no one has been able to fix. The pto shaft literally fell out last fall while I was using the tractor on a grain cart.

“My T7.235 was delivered without working lights. I have to depress the brake pedals all the way to the floor before they’ll work, and if I press on them too hard they make a grinding noise that sounds like metal

on metal. The company says this is normal.

“I’ve also had problems with my T5.115 equipped with a self-leveling front-end loader. I couldn’t control the electric-over-hydraulic pilot lever for the loader, which made it dangerous to use. Also, the air conditioner didn’t work. The dealer brought out a T4.95 so that I could mow roadsides. It had only 3 hrs. on it, but at 9 hrs. the pto went out. They ended up replacing the T5.115 with a new one, but it had the same loader and the same problems. The dealer doesn’t get any help from the company.”

“I don’t know how they stay in business.”

“Once New Holland gets your money, you’re on your own. I’ve contacted different people in the company, but no one seems to care about my problems. It’s the worst company I’ve ever dealt with. I don’t know how they stay in business.”

William Garrett, Arkadelphia, Ark.: “I’ve got about 410 hrs. on my 2005 **Cub Cadet LT1050** riding mower and have only had to replace the battery and drive belt. I had a lot of problems with the spindles until I learned about **Oregon** replacement spindles, which I bought from www.baileysonline.com. These spindles come with a limited lifetime warranty and work great. A data sheet on the spindles is available for download at http://www.oregonproducts.com/pro/pdf/OREGON_Spindles.pdf.

“Other than the spindle problem, this mower has been trouble-free. It sits all winter but starts right up in the spring.

“My 2000 **Nissan** Altima has about 228,000 miles on it. I’ve kept a detailed expense spread sheet on it since new, and to date have spent exactly \$1,843 on parts and labor, not counting oil and filters. I plan to keep this car until it dies. I love it.”

Hank Edwards, Lucedale, Miss.: “I own a 2012 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup equipped with a 5.0-liter engine. It rides great and is reasonably fuel efficient.

“My **Kubota** 30H 4-WD loader tractor is a real workhorse.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 2007 **Honda** Odyssey minivan. “I had problems with the brakes locking up on the highway, and with the brake lights. But the biggest problem was an electrical one. Without warning, the battery would suddenly go completely dead. Three batteries later I finally traded this vehicle.”

Ervin Miller, McLeansboro, Ill.: “I wish all products were built as well as my 2014 **DeWalt** 20-volt Max impact hammer drill. No problems.”

Bob Schudel, Halfway, Ore.: “My 1991 **Husqvarna** 129R trimmer/brush cutter works great.”

Dale Orman, Maywood, Neb.: Dale’s impressed with his 2002 **Chevrolet** Duramax quad cab 4-WD diesel pickup equipped with a 6 1/2-ft. bed with hardbed cover. “It has about 243,000 miles on it, but all I’ve had to replace was a front wheel bearing, alternator, front brake pads, battery, and tires. I change the oil every 25,000 miles. I still see no signs of age on this vehicle, inside or out.

“My **Bosch** 12-volt drill/driver is lightweight, has great battery life, and plenty of power.

“My **Husqvarna** straight shaft line weed trimmer starts easy and will idle indefinitely. The head is easy to reload, and the line this company sells is the best.

“My **Poulan** Pro 18-in. chainsaw was hard

“Cover Crop Drill” Proves Its Versatility

The InterSeeder grain drill was developed by Penn State University for planting cover crops into standing crops. It’s marketed by InterSeeder Technologies in Woodward, Penn.

But Bruce Brunk bought a 6-row InterSeeder for more than just cover crops. He first used the versatile machine to solid seed 60 acres of soybeans. He also planted some into 30-in. rows and later interseeded them with cover crops. When he interseeded his corn, he also side-dressed with liquid nitrogen and could have applied herbicide from a second tank. This fall he plans to solid seed winter wheat with it.

“It’s basically a high profile drill,” says Brunk. “A large acre operator may need a bigger machine, but it’s just right for my 300 acres, and my 140 hp tractor handles it easily.”

Brunk ordered it to avoid planting cover crops by air or after harvest. He notes that too often cover crops struggle to get established before winter sets in. That won’t be a problem this year.

“We interseeded our corn June 20 and two days later the cover crops were sprouting,” says Brunk. “We interseeded our beans when they were almost hip high and the weather was dry. It took about 2 weeks, but after a rain, they were coming up.”

Now he expects the cover crops to sit until the crops dry down and they are again exposed to light. “I expect they are doing their thing under ground and will shoot back up this fall,” he says. “The turns in the mix should do my fall tillage for me.”

Brunk likes the 15-ft. wide InterSeeder as is. For use in tilled ground, he just removes the no-till coulters. He can seed 3 rows at 7 1/2-in. spacing between 30-in. rows, solid seed 25 rows at 7 1/2 in. or skip every other planting unit for 15-in. rows. When interseeding corn, he can cover about 9 to 10 acres per hour, travelling at 5 mph.

Cory Dillon, InterSeeder Technologies,



Bruce Brunk uses this 6-row InterSeeder to plant cover crops in standing corn.

says the company now has customers from Maine to Oregon and south to Louisiana. “Almost all of them have the grain drill option with easy-to-remove row units,” says Dillon. “Row units are held in place with an L-shaped bolt and notched to the main toolbar. By the time they’ve done it once, 2 guys can switch over a 6-row planter in 20 to 30 min. time.”

Dillon says the InterSeeder can broadcast, surface seed or seed at various depths from 1/4 in. to 1 in. for soybeans or 1 1/2 in. for wheat.

“We will be field testing a 12-row, 30-in. row with solid seeding option model this fall,” says Dillon. “Our plan is to have it available for 2016.”

Brunk says he seeded his cover crops at 1/2 in. “It worked great,” he says. “With some custom work, I’ve done about 550 acres of interseeding. It was quite an investment for me, but I think it was worth it.”

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to start, wouldn’t idle, and quit running about 9 months after I bought it. I replaced it with a Stihl.”

Marvin Metzler, Meadville, Penn.: “It has more than 2,000 hrs. on it with no problems,” reports Marvin about his 1996 **Ford** 1220 riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck.

“A couple of issues back (Vol. 39, No. 2) Ronald Shook said he had problems with the rear tires on his MTD riding mower which kept going flat. I find that **SLIME** works well in such situations (www.slime.com). I’ve used it on everything from wheelbarrow wheels to the 16.9 by 24 tires on my Kubota tractor. It seals up thorn and nail holes as well as leaks at the bead.”

Dave Emmenegger, Woodburn, Ore.: Dave has more than 455,000 miles on his 1998 **Dodge** Ram 2500 4-WD pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. “It’s an outstanding pickup and, despite all the miles, still doesn’t make any rattling noises. The engine is original and has never been touched. I installed new fuel injectors at about 390,000 miles, and took the top side of the Bosch pump off at the same time to replace a spring.

“We use this pickup in our business, often pulling a 20-ft. utility trailer fitted with a scissors lift. I bought my first Dodge in 1994 and have owned Dodges ever since. They’re the most trouble-free vehicles we’ve owned. But I can’t say the same about **GM** pickups. Of the four GM models I’ve owned, only one wasn’t a lemon. We were always having

to repair something whether it was with the electrical system, transmission, engine, or air conditioner, and there was always lots of noise.”

Edward Moller, Walhalla, S.C.: “I used a **Forney** drain cleaning nozzle with a pressure cleaner and hose to clean out a 200-ft. long, 2-in. dia. pvc drain line (www.forneyind.com; ph 800 521-6038). The nozzle rotates under pressure, and it pulled the hose down the line with no problem. It was easy to use and is an excellent product.”

Arthur Peabody, Upton, Wyo.: Arthur’s had a problem with his MTD 20 hp, 42-in. riding mower. “The 2-cyl. Tecumseh engine only fires on the left cylinder. I’ve taken the engine apart many times trying to fix it, but with no luck. The engine has been running on only one cylinder for a full year now.”

Stanley W. Wisnoloski, Jr., Cottondale, Fla.: “I used my 2003 **Kubota** LA 211 front-end loader almost every day to haul hay and feed bags and do other chores. I’m 82 years old and couldn’t do without this loader. It saves me a mountain of work.

“I own a 2012 **Sears Craftsman** 22-in., 2-wheeled weed trimmer but don’t use it much because the plastic cutters on it continually break off. It’s not worth the trouble to replace them.”

Raube McDaniel, Philippi, W. Va.: Raube’s satisfied with his **Kubota** B7510 21 hp tractor equipped with a front-end loader and backhoe. “This machine never runs out of power and it feels like I’m using a much

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