

tractors in the past including a B, two A's, and a 2-cyl. diesel. My dealer tried to help but had no luck."

Billy Blackwood, Chapel Hill, N.C.: "The best machine I ever bought is my 2006 **Cub Cadet** Big Country 2-WD utility vehicle equipped with an 18 hp, 2-cyl. Kohler engine

"It has a trouble-free engine that doesn't use any oil and is easy on gas."

and electric push button transmission. I paid \$9,000 for it and still use it every day.

"It has a trouble-free engine that doesn't use any oil and is easy on gas, and it always starts right up. The push button transmission also works great. I use this machine to check on our cows and to do fencing work and so forth. It's light enough that I can drive across fields after heavy rains without leaving deep ruts, and the differential lock axle on it works great for getting around in snow.

"The machine sets low to the ground so it's easy to get on and off. I wouldn't change a single thing about this utility vehicle. It cost less than a Deere Gator or Bush Hog, and it handles better and is less noisy.

"I like my two **Kubota** M108S 4-WD tractors, both equipped with 4-cyl., 108 hp diesel engines and 16-speed transmissions. The 2011 model has a cab and front-end loader and has about 800 hours on it. The 2010 model has no cab and about 590 hours. I use these tractors mainly for haying work such as operating balers and haybines. I also use them to operate a 3-pt. mounted 200-gal. sprayer, a harrow, and a big field cultivator.

"Both tractors are excellent on fuel. They're short and easy to maneuver, and they start well in winter. The cab model has a front-end loader which I use for handling round bales and feeding livestock. It's amazing how efficient these tractors are and how well they operate."

Alice Goll, Nunica, Mich.: Alice is the satisfied owner of a 2010 **Montana** 45 hp diesel tractor with cab, air conditioner and



heater. "This tractor is great in every way. It handles really nice and is easy on fuel, and the cab is comfortable enough to work all day long."

Lyle Oakes, Montrose, Penn.: "It's by far the best mower I've ever owned," says Lyle about his 2013 **Country Clipper** 60-in. zero turn riding mower. "It operates with a single joystick, and I like how the deck flips straight up to clean. Also, it mows fast."

Dale Ridenhour, Nowata, Okla.: "The 1966 **Allis Chalmers** B10 garden tractor I bought used last year for \$250 equipped with a 42-in. mower deck is my best buy. I call it my 'Little Allis'. Mechanically, the tractor was in good shape when I bought it. I replaced the points, plugs, and starter generator, changed the fluids, repainted the tractor, added stickers, installed new blades

on the deck and added new tires and a new seat. The rear tires are 10 1/2 in. wide, which helps reduce wheel ruts. The tractor still has the original 10 hp Briggs & Stratton 1-cyl. engine."

Keith Martin, Alexandria, Minn.: "My wife and I looked at many different nut crackers, trying to decide which worked best. We wanted primarily to crack black walnuts, which are really tough. We found several nut crackers designed just for black walnuts, but they were expensive.

"We were leery of trying a product we had never seen before, but all the research we did on the **Goody Getter**, including watching videos on their website and communicating with the inventor, convinced us to give it a try (www.grandpasgoodygetter.com; ph 417 833-2421). It cost less than \$90, including shipping, and has worked flawlessly. We have to keep it oiled and greased periodically, but it'll crack any nut with ease. It comes with 2 different rams which self-adjust as the machine is operated, allowing us to crack nuts very quickly. The rams cut rings around the top and bottom of the nut, causing the nut's shell to fall away and expose the meat.



Jack Jacobson, Iron River, Mich.: "I've owned several **Ford** F-150 pickups during the last 30 years, and all of them have been trouble-free.

"My 2012 **Deere** 2320 tractor has been nothing but trouble. The 3-pt. hitch locked up twice, and whenever the engine is idling it sounds like it's going to fall apart."

Robert Marshall, Somers, Mass.: "I think **Kroil** penetrating lubricant is the best on the market (www.kanolabs.com; ph 800 311-3374). You can buy it in an aerosol can or by the gallon. It never lets me down. Wherever there's corrosion, this oil will work through it."

Richard K. Hess, Covington, Ohio: "My 1962 **Deere** 2010 loader tractor constantly had problems with the points, but a **Pertronics** electronic ignition made all those problems go away (www.pertronix.com; ph 909 599-5955). I use this tractor every day on my cattle farm."

David Voges, Terre Haute, Ind.: "I own several **Ridgid** cordless tools and they all last a long time and recharge fast. Both the tool and the battery come with a lifetime warranty."

Trudy Zalewa, Floyd, Va.: "My **Udderly EZ** helps me milk my goats quicker and keeps the milk contained so it stays cleaner (www.udderlyez.com; ph 800 287-4791). It's available either as a hand-pumped milker or with an electric pump to milk two teats at a time, and it works on cows, goats and sheep.

"On a small scale, our drill-powered **Power Plucker** saves us time on the days when we butcher (www.powerplucker.com; ph 417 423-0385). It works fast and will pluck a scalded chicken in 90 seconds or less."

Delfina Castillo, Post, Texas: "It's a great tractor with a lot of power, but it has some problems," says Delfina about their 2013 **Deere** 5100E. "The front end is too high to see the rows in the field, and the steps are too high to climb. Also, the door on the cab is difficult to open.

"My **Deere** 3038E utility tractor works great, but whenever I use it to shred weeds or operate a tiller I wish it had a cab."

High Praise For Weighted Valves

Former Utah dairyman Garry Brown invented and perfected a simple valve for controlling the water level in stock tanks (see Vol. 39, No. 4). Here are a few "best buy" comments we've received since our original article.

Washington dairyman Steve DeRuyter was so impressed with the simplicity of the Brown weight valve when he first saw it that he bought 4 of them. That was in 2011, and DeRuyter says 5 years later those valves have never had a problem. "They're the best product I've ever bought at an ag trade show. They've saved me many times over their cost by reducing repairs due to frozen valves or damage by livestock. DeRuyter says he's never needed to repair one of his weight valves because they work on such a simple principle and are so durable.

Frank Konyon of Escondido, Calif. purchased Brown weight valves in 2013 at the World Ag Expo. Says Konyon, "At first I didn't really appreciate how simple and good they were until I used them myself. They just work and work and work. We have dirty water and, with just a socket and a pliers, I can take them apart and clean



Weighted valves control water level in stock tanks. They're designed to reduce repairs due to frozen valves or damage by livestock.

them. We never have any troughs running over making wet corrals. I even keep extras on hand to replace other failed float valves."

Kevin Kroes, who operates Northwest Dairy Service in Oregon, says he first saw a Brown weight valve at a local dairy farm and liked its simplicity. A few months later, he became a dealer. Kroes says the product sells itself because once a farmer gets one, it isn't long before he calls and orders a lot more.



Gopher Hawk trap simply pushes down into the tunnel. No digging required. Once it's tripped, just pull the dead gopher or mole out of the ground and dispose of it.

"Best Buy" Gopher, Mole Traps

"I recently bought some new Gopher Hawk traps for catching gophers, ground squirrels and moles. I read about them in the last issue of FARM SHOW," says John Slater, Olin, Iowa.

"With the help of my grandson, Ethan, we caught 3 ground squirrels within the first 24 hrs. It's easy to use and deadly. I look forward to ridding our hayfields of gophers and ground squirrels while spending some

quality time with my grandson."

The new-style traps let you catch gophers from above ground without ever having to dig out the tunnels. They consist of 3 components - a 2-part wedge and probe tool (the probe fits inside the wedge handle for storage) and a spring-loaded, cylinder-shaped trap that's designed to be placed in the ground vertically. (www.gopherhawk.com; ph 805 486-8225)

Herbert Paul Gradney, Perris, Calif.: "The 1953 **Ford** 9N tractor I bought used in 1992 is my best buy ever. It always starts and mostly has required only routine maintenance. I've replaced the front tires and radiator as well as spark plugs and plug wires. I've owned other tractors over the years, but none of them could ever replace my little Ford 9N."

Garry Elliott, Haverhill, N.H.: "I love my 2012 **New Holland** Boomer 40 loader tractor. No problems. I use it to plow snow and even in the coldest weather it always starts. I have yet to use the block heater. During summer I use this tractor with a small backhoe, a 5-ft. bush hog, a 2-bottom plow, hay rake and hay forks. It handles 900-lb. round bales with ease. I highly recommend this tractor."

Dale Larsen, Greenville, Mich.: "My 2006 **Cub Cadet** 1046 garden tractor never fails to run whether I'm mowing grass or blowing snow.

"My 2005 **Chevrolet** Colorado pickup equipped with an in-line, 5-cyl. engine runs great. It averages about 25 mpg on the highway."

Dave Allers, South Haven, Mich.: "I recently went to Sam's Club and bought six 4-ft. LED shop lights made by **Honeywell**. These lights use 42 watts each and produce 4,500 lumens of light, and they have a life expectancy of about 50,000 hours. The lights cost \$36 apiece and are easy to install. They work fantastic. I like them much better than my old neon 4-ft. shop lights, which constantly needed new bulbs."

Jack Essary, Taneyville, Mo.: "I bought my **Ford** 5000 tractor used 35 years ago, and the hour meter on it broke 25 years ago at 6,700 hours. It's the best tractor we've ever owned. We use it to operate our round baler and to do lots of other dirty jobs, with no problems at all. I'd buy a new one just like it if I could."