

the condenser and a new condenser wasn't available. The dealer gave me different stories and tried to blame me for the problem. After I made many phone calls and emails to the company, the problem was finally resolved and covered under warranty. Horrible customer service."

August Knop, East Jordan, Mich.: "My worst buy is my U.S. Stove Co. pellet stove. Three augers have sheared off so far, and now the auger motor has burned out. The stove came with a one-year warranty which has already expired. They told me I used the wrong pellets, but I tried using pellets from 4 different suppliers and nothing helped."

Chuck Sedlacek, West Branch, Mich.: "I bought my 2013 Sears Kenmore Coldspot refrigerator to replace an old, noisy unit. However, the new refrigerator is noisier than the one it replaced. It makes odd noises that sound like angry elephants, but according to the repairman these sounds are normal. It also freezes food in the refrigerator, yet food in the freezer is barely frozen."

William E. Filipp, Danbury, Texas: William's the owner of a 2014 Kubota M6060 4-WD tractor equipped with a Kubota 1154 front-end loader. "It's a nice tractor with plenty of power to operate my

"It engages so hard that it often shears the pins on my 6-ft. shredder."

balers. The only real problem is with the electronic pto - it engages so hard that it often shears the pins on my 6-ft. shredder. Yet the company told my dealer nothing can be done about it."

Steve Anderson, Denver, Colo.: "I bought my 1981 Toro Groundsmaster 325-D riding mower used many years ago. This mower is virtually indestructible and does a good job cutting everything from brush and small trees to fine bluegrass."

Randy Dinsmore, Kawkaulia, Mich.: Randy's happy with his 2003 Chevrolet pickup equipped with a 4.3-liter V-6 engine. "I've replaced only the brakes and tires. There's some rust in the wheel wells and hail damage on the cab, but it always starts right up. It's my best pickup ever."

"My Haier dehumidifier ran okay for about 9 months, but then it kept running and wouldn't shut off because it wasn't collecting any water."

Paul Schaefer, Hager City, Wis.: "It's the best piece of equipment I've ever owned," says Paul about his 1995 Deere LX175 riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck and Kawasaki 14 hp engine. "I use this mower every week to cut more than an acre of lawn, some of it quite rough. It has required only routine maintenance and doesn't use any oil."

Donald T. Chunn, Columbia, Tenn.: "My 1993 Stihl FS106 brush cutter/trimmer has a reliable engine with plenty of power to operate various blades and cutting heads. When I'm done using it I empty out any fuel that's still in the gas tank and then start the engine to burn any gas still in the carburetor."

"My IH Farmall 1456 tractor is an all-time best buy."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists those products made in China. "Whether it's water garden hoses or air compressor hoses, they rapidly break down. Within a year cracks develop in the rubber and the hose starts leaking."

Reggie Medlin, Albemarle, N.C.: "We use our 2007 Deere Gator TS utility vehicle every day to 'trot' our dog about 5 miles per day, and to do various other jobs. It still has the original drive belt and spark plug. I finally replaced the rear tires this year. It has about 2,600 hrs. and starts right up no matter the weather. It's a real workhorse."

Ralph Muecke, Gladstone, N. Dak.: "Our 2012 Deere X300 riding mower is a pleasure to operate. We bought new blades for it, but otherwise it has required only routine maintenance. It's built with Deere quality that really shines through. I wouldn't hesitate to buy another one."

"We bought a set of 4 Nokian Vattiiva SUV tires, but after only about 6,000 miles 2 of the tires blew out just 3 days apart. Fortunately, we weren't driving at a high speed. The dealer told us no warranty is available on these tires, but said they'd had good luck with them. You sure couldn't prove it by us. We ended up spending more than \$800 on another set of tires - a different brand, of course."

Brandon Keehn, Rolling Prairie, Ind.: "A head gasket went bad on my 1970 Case 1070 tractor so I rebuilt the engine and turbocharged it at the same time. It cut fuel consumption in half and also resulted in a slight power boost."

"My 2007 Chevrolet Colorado pickup gets only 20 to 22 mpg compared to 28 mpg for my old Chevrolet S10. It starts hard in cold weather, and sensors keep going out. The S10 had about 350,000 miles on it and was a much better pickup than the Colorado. Maybe I just happened to buy a lemon?"

Jan and Howie Feeler, Soldiers Grove, Wis.: "We find Ryobi battery-operated power tools are convenient and easy to use. They do a good job, and as long as you remember to keep the batteries charged, they work every time."

"Our Whirlpool washing machine with no center post doesn't clean well, and it gets out of balance almost every time we use it unless we're washing a tiny load."

"I don't like glass-top electric stoves because they get hot, and if anything boils over the stove top it's hard to clean. The glass scratches if you use cast iron pots and pans and, if a pan isn't perfectly flat, it'll spin on the burner which forces you to use 2 hands to stir."

Mike Slezewski, Pulaski, Wis.: "Right from the start I had problems with my Deere 6190R tractor, and most of them never ended. Very disappointing for a Deere. I finally traded for an IH Magnum."

Ronald L. Van Genderen, Monroe, Iowa: "I like Meg-Mo Systems cutting discs for riding lawn mowers (www.meg-mo.com; ph 877 625-0125). The system consists of a central steel disc with four 'fold-back' cutting blades attached. When the blades wear out you keep the disk and replace only the knives, which last considerably longer than conventional blades."

Richard H. Dew, Fairview, Mich.: "I use my 2013 Subaru Bulldog BD300 4 by 2 utility vehicle every day. I love it. It's easy to get into, always starts, and runs beautifully. I use it to do yard work and, in winter, I fill the box with firewood and unload it by backing it right up to the door of my house. I'm 81 years old and this machine is my legs. The only problem is that the cable on the shift lever sometimes sticks."

Harrell Cummings, Fairmont, N.C.: "I like my 2012 Graveley Z34 zero turn riding mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton engine. Black & Decker hand tools are the best I've used. I've had good luck with Homelite chainsaws and trimmers and their outdoor power equipment. I've had to make



Mark Kerkow has been using a pair of self-loading and unloading hay baskets on his dairy farm since he bought them new in the late 1980's.

Self-Loading Hay Basket Still Going Strong

Back in the late 1980's Mark Kerkow bought a couple Pro Quality self-loading and unloading hay baskets for small square bales. He's still using them today.

FARM SHOW found him demonstrating one of the 10-ft. wide, 12-ft. high hay basket at a local threshers festival. The self-loading wagon holds about 100 bales and automatically unloads itself in seconds.

"We're dairy farmers and have used these baskets to make 6,000 to 8,000 small square bales every year. We've had very few problems and have just replaced a few wheel bearings over the years," says Kerkow. "Pro Quality had just introduced these hay baskets, and we liked not having to spend the money for a bale thrower or hay racks. We paid about \$2,000. I don't know if anyone builds hay baskets like these anymore."

Bales are pushed out of the baler up

a metal slide into the basket. "When the basket is full, I pull up to an elevator, trip a lever, and the hinged back panel swings open allowing all the bales to fall out. The bales spread out on the ground but don't get all packed together like they do with a bale thrower," says Kerkow.

He says most other dairy farmers in his area chop haylage, but he chops only corn silage and bales all his hay. "We don't have the facilities for haylage," says Kerkow.

He says the hay basket's only limitation is that when it's almost full and going downhill, bales tend to roll forward and sometimes out the top of the basket. "Also, the bales exiting the metal slide can sometimes get stuck against bales already in the basket and get bent out of shape."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark Kerkow, 7750 West 195th St., Jordan, Minn. 55352 (ph 952 292-5467).

minor repairs to Briggs & Stratton engines, but I still think they're the best all around engine."

Kevin Ranette, Moyie Springs, Idaho: "My 2009 Stihl MS 310 has been through hell. One time I accidentally ran over it with

"I accidently ran over it with my 8,000-lb. skid loader."

an 8,000-lb. skid loader. I broke the handle and cracked a cover, but the saw kept on running. I've accidentally dropped this saw from trees, pulled it behind my skidder after branches caught it, and done all kinds of other things to it but it just keeps on running. It's the main saw I use for commercial logging and it has hundreds of hours on it. I've replaced at least 3 bars on it and don't know how many chains."

On the "worst buy" side, "I bought a pressurized 40-lb. sandblaster from Harbor Freight for my steel fabrication business. I put it together and tried to blast a log splitter for a customer. It worked for about 10 seconds but then would stop until someone shook it, and then it would start again. I had used media suggested by the company, so I thought there was something wrong with the blaster and returned it for a new one. However, the same problem happened again."

Marty Beam, Trion, Ga.: "My dad's 1980 Stihl 028 WB chainsaw works great. We've used it to cut firewood almost every year. The only problem was with the points back in 1996, and after that I converted it to electronic ignition."

William Short, Rapid City, S. Dak.: "We bought a used 2003 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup equipped with a Hemi engine at about 140,000 miles. We replaced all the fluids with synthetic Amsoil. We also bought a fifth wheel trailer and have put on more than

12,000 trouble-free miles towing it. We don't plan to replace this pickup soon. It now has more than 172,000 miles on it and is still going strong."

Steven Goodnow, Boscawen, N.H.: "I can't believe how light and easy to handle it is, yet how fast it cuts," says Steven about his Husqvarna 346 XPG chainsaw.

"I'm happy with my 1967 Cat 922B payloader, which I had rebuilt. Works great on our farm and also for hauling firewood during winter."

Doug White, Unity, Sask.: "I bought a used Volvo sickle-type hay mower at a pre-harvest sale this year for \$300. Over the years I've used Deere, New Holland and IH mowers - and owned other models - but none of them cut hay nearly as well as the Volvo. It has a pitman-drive system so I assume it's from the 1950's or 1960's. It shaves the hay off the ground like a safety razor and cuts clean."

"I had never heard of Volvo mowers before and really wanted a Deere model that was for sale at \$1,000, but I'm glad I bought the Volvo instead."

Ken Daniel, Welsh, La.: "I bought a used Deere 3038E 4-WD loader tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission with less than 20 hrs. on it. No problems so far. A 3-pt. quick hitch that I installed on the tractor makes it easy to switch implements, which is important to me as I'm 79 years old. I like being able to remove and install the loader right from the tractor seat. This tractor replaced a Yanmar diesel that I had used for more than 30 years with no problems."

Wayne J. Moilanen, Negaunee, Mich.: "My Case 580 Super K backhoe has more than 5,000 hrs. on it and is the best machine I've ever owned."

"I've used Husqvarna chainsaws for years, but the last 2 saws have been disappointing. They lack power, have plastic parts, and are

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