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corroding and the paint kept peeling off until the sides disintegrated. Now the steering gear and the rear axle are falling off due to corrosion.”

Cecil J. Nix, North Bend, Oregon: “My **New Holland** 570 baler is dependable and always makes a nice bale.”

Steve Faber, Tiffin, Ohio: Steve says his **Rockwell JawHorse** portable workstation is well made (ph 866 955-4175; www.rockwelltools.com). “This is a 3-legged, sawhorse-wise combination that lets you



get your projects up off the ground to a comfortable working height. The vise is closed by pumping a foot pedal, freeing both hands for positioning and clamping. It's made of solid steel and, according to the company, it has 10 times the clamping power of a regular vise.

“The 3-legged design makes it stable anywhere so it works great outdoors. It's heavy enough to stay in place with reasonable loads, and it folds up for storage. I liked it so well that I bought 3 more as gifts for my kids. Its only weakness is that it should have a better transport wheel.”

On the “worst buy” side he lists **Nite Guard Solar** lights. A flashing red light turns on automatically at dusk and off at full daylight to deter deer and other varmints.



Eugene Glock, Rising City, Neb.: “My best buy is my 1958 **Chevrolet** Apache pickup with more than half a million miles on it. It has been in continuous use since we bought it. Our 3 children and 5 grandchildren all learned to drive in it. It has a hoist on the box and a hydraulic valve on the side. It still goes where other newer pickups can't, thanks to its extra weight and narrow wheels.

“Another best buy is my 1960 **Pontiac** Bonneville with 328,000 miles and no overhaul.

“My dad bought a **Farmall H** in 1942. The neighbors said the Babbitt bearings would never hold up to the high-speed 1,500-rpm motor. Of course, it has been overhauled twice, and the magneto was replaced with a distributor, but it is still a good loader tractor.

“Although it is considerably newer,

“When I saw this unit featured in **FARM SHOW** I thought it seemed pricey just for some blinking LED's. Then I inherited a set of four **Nite Guards** when my dad passed away. I set them up exactly as recommended in order to keep deer out of my orchard. However, the deer obviously hadn't read the literature because the damage to my orchard was as bad or worse than it had been before.”

Steve Belcher, Russell, Penn.: “My **Stihl KM 55R** Kombi string trimmer is the best trimmer I've ever owned. It starts right up every time and the trimmer head never gets tangled with long grass and weeds. The best part is that the shaft comes apart in the middle so that it can be used with other attachments. I have the brush cutter, pole saw and mini rototiller attachments. It's a great tool to have on the farm.”

He nominates his **Swisher 44-in. Rough-Cut Trail Cutter** as his “worst buy”. “The air-filled tires on this brush cutter got punctured on the first use, so I replaced them with flat-free wheelbarrow tires. The unit comes with a remote console assembly to start and stop the blades. It's supposed to go on your ATV. However, the cable wasn't long enough to reach up to my large ATV and stay put while turning so I had to rig the console assembly to fit on the brush cutter itself, which is very dangerous.

“The brush cutter's main shaft bearing

“The brush cutter's main shaft bearing failed on the first use.”

failed on the first use; the belt pulley didn't line up correctly from the factory and had to be adjusted in order for the belt to engage the cutter; the towing hitch is made of cheap steel that can't hold up to normal use and vibration, as the welds crack and the bolt holes enlarge. I had to replace the complete tow hitch and bar and now have it rigged up with extra bolts and welds just to keep it going.”

our 1978 1460 **IH** rotary combine was an awfully good buy as well. When my son was asked why we still use it, he said, “It's paid for.”

“Other good buys made in 1978 and still used today include a 706 **IH** and a **GMC** tandem axle truck. We made a lot of money in 1977 and '78, but the 1980's were rough.

“I'm 84, and my son is 54, and we farm as much for fun as making a profit. We do as much as we can to be efficient, but we don't have the latest equipment. My dad taught me that oil is cheaper than steel. He said to keep fresh oil in engines, keep them serviced, and they'll treat you right.

“My son says our old, but good machinery will last him until he is ready to quit farming. “I told him I wanted to be buried in the Apache, but he replied, “No way. I'm keeping it.”

“Worst Buy” 2016 Kioti Tractor

“I was thrilled in March when I purchased a 2016 **Kioti CK4010** tractor. Initially, it was a ‘best buy’ with all the features I wanted such as a front-end loader, diesel engine, 4-WD, power steering, hydrostatic transmission, and locking differential, all at a very good price,” says John Gunter, Marion, Ill. “However, early this summer, while spot spraying weeds in tall grass on some of my CRP acreage, my elation turned into disappointment and utter frustration. Grass wrapped around the tractor's unshielded MFWD driveshaft so tightly that it blew out the rear oil seal. Removing the grass from the driveshaft took upwards of 2 1/2 hrs. This design flaw would have been a deal breaker if I had known about it when I purchased the tractor because I bought it primarily to mow CRP grass as required after August 10 each year, when the grass is typically quite long.

“The general manager and the service manager at the dealership where I purchased

the tractor were as surprised as I was to learn that some of the 2016 Kioti tractors they were selling had an unshielded MFWD driveshaft. They showed me an older model Kioti where the MFWD driveshaft was properly shielded. The dealership replaced the oil seal under warranty and provided excellent customer service.

“The Kioti manufacturer's representative initially denied there was a problem. Customer service at Kioti Tractor Division in North Carolina blew me off, and an e-mail to the company's North American contact in Korea went unanswered. The dealer later told me he had been told Kioti is aware of the problem and is working on a solution, but there's no time frame. In light of recent problems with Volkswagen and other foreign corporations, I can't help but have serious doubts about their intentions.”

Jesse Barley, Tyrone, Penn.: A 2015 **Ford F-350** Supercab SRW pickup equipped with a 6.7-liter diesel engine and 3:55 rear end rates as Jesse's “best buy”. “I use it to pull a 22-ft. 14,000 GVW hydraulic-tilt PJ trailer and a 16-ft. Valley livestock trailer. It has excellent power on hills and the exhaust brake works great. During winter I use it with a **Boss 8 ft. 2-in. steel V-snowplow**, which is another best buy (www.bossplow.com). I use a **Swift Hitch** portable wireless camera equipped with a magnetic base to hook up to trailers in back (www.swift hitch.com; ph 617 600-8282). Then in winter I use the same hitch to hook up to the snowplow in front. I like not having to get in and out of the pickup all the time.”

He's disappointed with the **Superwinch 9000** series winch he uses on his PJ trailer. “When I reverse the winch to roll a load off the trailer, the winch binds up by the time the load is off the trailer.”

Phillip Card, Endicott, N.Y.: “I use my 2012 **Dodge 3500** pickup to haul antique tractors to farm shows. It's equipped with a 5-speed standard shift transmission, Jake brake, and cruise control. They all work perfect together. I've driven this pickup twice to South Carolina and once to Florida, and have also made shorter trips to purchase tractors.

“My **DR** pto-operated wood chipper is advertised as a self-feeding model, but it has only a small 4-in. opening so if the limb has a knot in it, and won't go through the machine. You have to build a plunger just to cut up small limbs.”

William Watner, St. Marys, Kansas: “My 2015 **Milwaukee 8-in. metal-cutting circular saw** cuts right through 1/16-in. thick sheet metal. It'll also cut 1/8, 3/16, and 1/4-in. thick steel, but the saw's blades dull more quickly in thicker material. I get my saw blades professionally resharpened in order to save money. I think Milwaukee blades are the best on the market.”

Darrell Schaff, Solway, Minn.: Darrell's the satisfied owner of a 2014 **Toro 5060** zero turn riding mower equipped with a Kawasaki engine. “This mower has reduced my mowing time almost by half. I had to use it several times before I was comfortable enough to move the gearshift lever to high range so I could mow faster. This mower has required very little maintenance. I'd buy another one in a minute.”

James Queen, Metamora, Mich.: “My 2015 **Dodge Ram 2500** longbed diesel pickup has plenty of power to pull trailers loaded

with wood and logs. This pickup wasn't cheap, but it was worth every penny.”

W. H. Bauer, Port Lavaca, Texas: “My worst buy happened 10 years ago when I spent \$47,000 for a **Caterpillar 262 B** skid loader. Mechanically, the machine is fine. The problem is with the air conditioner. It couldn't even cool the cab. A year after I bought it the dealer said he could make it work, so I spent \$1,200 for repairs but it still doesn't work.

“I use this machine to operate a tree shear and an Ammbusher rotary brush cutter. It has very low hours since I can only use it during winter when it's cool outside. When I bought my next skid loader I didn't even consider Cat.”

Craig Madlung, Tripoli, Wis.: Craig is satisfied with his 2014 **Massey Ferguson 1736** utility tractor equipped with a front-end loader and hydrostatic drive transmission. “There were a few issues at first with the tractor's Cat. IV diesel exhaust system, but the dealer promptly took care of them. The tractor now has about 600 hrs. on it and the last 500 have been trouble-free.”

On the “worst buy” side, “My **Speeco** post hole digger equipped with a 9-in. dia. auger works okay, but finding replacement parts is a nightmare. The company doesn't respond to inquiries. I finally found a parts dealer after I spent days scouring the internet.”

Ted Johnson, Colesburg, Iowa: “My 2013 **GM 2500 HD** extended cab 4-WD pickup has never been to the dealer for any problems. It has a quiet, comfortable ride. The 6.0-liter engine has a lot of power but still gets 16 to 17 mpg.

“My **DeWalt 18-volt** cordless drill has very poor torque when drilling metal. Also, the batteries didn't last long so I constantly had to buy new ones. I finally got rid of it and bought a **Milwaukee** model. Now I have a high torque drill with batteries that will last a long time.”

Jim Wilson, Smith Creek, Mich.: Jim's impressed with his **Essential Water Solutions** system he read about in **FARM SHOW** that treats well water with hydrogen peroxide (www.essentialwater.net; ph 515 523-7013). The system injects hydrogen peroxide into the water line and leaves no smell or taste in the water.

He also likes the quick-tach front-end loader hookup system, another product from **FARM SHOW**, that he bought from **Jerry Dunn** (www.mytractortools.com; ph 715 952-8537). The design makes securing attachments fast and easy and includes a