

around. All we've replaced is the drive belt. "I bought a **Grasshopper** front-mount mower equipped with a 67-in. deck and 29 hp. Briggs & Stratton engine. It does a terrific job no matter where we set the deck height, and it always stays level. The big 8-gal. gas tank allows me to mow our entire lawn without refueling.

## "I installed a grab handle to help me get on and off the mower safely."

"I'm 83 years old so I installed a grab handle to help me get on and off the mower safely. By tilting the deck up I can clean under it and also service the blades.

"I use my **Brute** 2,800 psi pressure washer equipped with a Honda engine to clean the deck. It works fast. I bought it at Menards."

**Jim Ridder, Las Lunas, New Mexico:** "I bought a 2012 **Porter Cable** 20-volt lithium ion drill kit with a drill saw, flashlight and 4 1/2-in. angle grinder for about \$200. The flashlight alone is the best I've ever had, and the angle grinder is really handy for light work. The only drawback is the batteries take a long time to charge."

**Gerald Holmbeck, Cumberland, Wis.:** "I bought a **Bushnell** red dot rifle sight for deer hunting. It was hard to sight in but finally seemed to work okay. However, after missing 2 bucks in 2 years for no reason, I clamped the sight down and found that the dot 'moved' depending on which direction the tension was used last.

"I returned the rifle sight to the company with a full explanation of what was wrong, but it came back unchanged. I returned the sight again and this time they sent a new one, but it has the same problem. I've used 14 different Bushnell optics items since 1955, but this Chinese-made one is my last."

**Terry Bruns, Pine Bluffs, Wyo.:** "I use my **Kubota** M126X loader tractor almost every day and it always starts, even at 10 degrees below zero. It does a good job and costs only about half as much as a comparable Deere or Case. The only problem is the cab is so small I hit my head on the roof a lot."

On the negative side, he lists his **Rohrer** 98E T-post driver. "I held this driver up in the air while pounding on a T-post for 10 min. I used the right amount of air pressure, but the post never even penetrated the ground. A video on the company's website shows someone sitting down on a chair while the post driver is going up and down, driving the post in. That only tells me that it takes a long time to drive each post. What a waste of \$400."

**Linwood Starnier, Gettysburg, Penn.:** "My 1987 **Toyota** 4-WD shortbed pickup had about 190,000 miles when I bought it used and now has more than 304,000 miles. Other than brake pads and a few light bulbs, tires, and exhaust parts, it has cost almost nothing to maintain. Rust took a serious toll on the bed so I replaced it with a wooden flatbed. This pickup almost always starts on the first revolution of the engine, and it gets around like a mountain goat. I love it."

**Charles Golt, Newark, Delaware:** "In 1980 I bought a used 1966 **International Harvester** 424 tractor equipped with a model 2000 front-end loader. The tractor has been very reliable and the loader is built strong. The only features it lacks are 4-WD and a forward/reverse shuttle. This tractor is worth more now than what I paid for it.

"My **Bush Hog** 3-pt. mounted, 72-in. rear discharge finish mower and 42-in. pull-type

mower both are poorly designed. The pull-type mower would only cut a 20-in. swath and just pushed the grass down on the other 22 in. of the cutting width. The finish mower came with a weak caster wheel mounting system that was poorly designed. It took a lot of bracing and welding to properly strengthen the deck."

**Jerry Martin, Sandusky, Mich.:** "My 2012 **Kuhn** GA 3200 GT hay rake makes a nice, clean sweep and its tines are stiff enough to sweep even the toughest hay. It leaves a nice, fluffy windrow."

**David Krapfl, New Vienna, Iowa:** David's impressed with his 2016 **Black & Decker** LDX120 20-volt cordless drill. "This isn't the heaviest-duty drill on the market but it's a wonderful lightweight, powerful drill. It has much better variable speed than my DeWalt model and better low-speed torque. A nice drill for \$70."

**Floyd Netterville, Smithdale, Miss.:** "My 2003 **Kubota** MX5000F utility tractor has required only routine maintenance. It has about 500 hrs. on it.

"The horizontal assist handle on my **Chicago Electric** 1/2-in. heavy-duty hammer drill broke the first time I tried to use it."

**John O'Pezio, Berne, N.Y.:** "The **Sears Kenmore** humidifier I bought 4 years ago broke down and parts for it were no longer available, so I went online and bought a new Sears model. To my disappointment, when the humidifier arrived it was identical to my

## "I paid a lot for them, but was highly disappointed."

old one, and parts for it weren't available, either. The best the company could do was offer a refund. It seems unethical for a company to sell a product for which parts aren't available."

**James L. Czarnecki, Dorsey, Ill.:** "The **Phillips** LED light bulbs I bought are holding up good. I also purchased **Feit** 60-watt LED bulbs but they didn't last even 6 mo. I paid a lot for them but was highly disappointed."

**Timothy D. Showalter, Dayton, Va.:** "I bought my **Honda** HRC 7113 48-in. commercial walk-behind mower used with only 4 hrs. on it. It's built like a tank and has required only routine maintenance. The 3-blade deck cuts nice with almost no scalping.

"My **Snapper** 8 hp., 30-in. walk-behind mower has been in the shop a lot. The drive system is the main problem, with bearings going out and belts tearing and the like. The problems may be partly due to old age. However, the engine and deck still work good when the drivetrain works."

**Al Simmons, Harrisville, N.Y.:** "My **Stihl** 046 chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar is well-balanced and well-built. It has a lot of power and is easy on the fuel. I've had good luck with other Stihl products, too. The company provides great customer service."

**Ned Nice, Alpha, Ill.:** "It's the worst riding mower I've ever owned," says Ned about his **Deere** D130. "The belt jumped off every time I shut the mower down so I installed a new one. However, after using the mower 3 or 4 times, the same problem happened again. This mower turned out to be a \$2,200 piece of junk."

**James Reed, Big Pool, Md.:** James likes the **Toro** Groundsmaster 2200 riding mower he bought used equipped with a Mitsubishi diesel engine and 62-in. deck. "The engine is easy on fuel and fairly quiet. I like this



Charles Brown finishing up the last load of hay with his son.

## "Best Buy" New Holland Self-Propelled Square Baler

"It has made more than a half million bales of hay over the years. It just proves how long any machine will last with a little care," says Charles Brown, New Lebanon, N.Y., about his 1962 **New Holland** self-propelled baler.

"My dad and I bought this baler on my 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday, and both the baler and I are still going strong. This machine has

been a real prize and has required only routine maintenance. About 20 years ago we replaced the original Wisconsin VR4D engine with a 4-cyl. Deutz diesel. This has been a great baler."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Charles Brown, 35 Old Route 20, New Lebanon, N.Y. 12125 (ph 518 794-8861).

mower's tight turning radius.

"The 2 round bale feeders I bought from **J and L** in Spring Run, Penn., are built heavy and strong (ph 814 443-3173). My cattle only waste the equivalent of about one small square bale for each round bale that I feed.

"I like the 2 concrete cattle guards I bought from **Nitterhouse Concrete Products**, Chambersburg, Penn. (www.nitterhouseconcrete.com; ph 717 267-4505). "They measure 16 ft. long by 7 ft. wide and are 12 in. deep."

**Ryan Riemer, Shiocton, Wis.:** Ryan likes the **RapidAir** MaxLine compressed air piping system he bought at Northern Tool (www.northerntool.com; ph 800 221-0516). "It's designed for high-demand air tool users in large buildings. The system uses high-density polyethylene tubing with an aluminum core, which allows the tubing to be bent by hand and shaped around corners or in awkward spaces without losing its shape. As a result, you can design and install your own personalized air system any way you want.

"This system is easy to work with and makes it easy to plumb a shop for air. It comes with quality fittings and is very flexible. Well worth the money."

**Dale Grahl, Eden, Wis.:** Seven years ago Dale bought a used **New Holland** 40 1,000 rpm silo blower. "This blower will fill a 110-ft. tall silo like no other I've seen. The company doesn't make this blower any more, but I've heard another company is going to start making it again. It uses a direct drive system with no gearbox and requires a tractor with less power than other blowers on the market."

**John Handeen, Montevideo, Minn.:** At 93 years old, John nominates the **Ford** 941 diesel tractor he bought new in 1955 as his "best buy". It's equipped with a 4-speed transmission with over/under drive, a single front wheel, and wide front axle. "We used this tractor for 45 years to plant all the corn and about half the soybeans on our 454-acre farm. It won the state tractor pulling contest in 1962 and won many other pulling contests after that. We still use this tractor for mowing and snow plowing. The head has never been

off the engine. The fuel injector pump was serviced once."

**Kenton Mast, Alturas, Calif.:** Kenton's impressed with **Makita** 18-volt power tools. "We've bought dozens of their tools over the last 10 years and they just keep getting better. Unlike a lot of other brands, the company has kept one battery connection style over the years while updating the underlying technologies of their tools. As a result, when we buy new tools and batteries from them we can use the new ones right along with the older ones. We drop these tools, step on them, and sometimes even use them as hammers, but they just keep on working."

**Bob Schmidt, Holdingford, Minn.:** Bob's a fan of **Lawn and Garden Tractor Magazine** (www.lagtmag.com; ph 812 480-0194). "I collect garden tractors and started subscribing to this publication several years ago. They feature articles on all different makes and models, with a great deal of history about them. They also provide information about available attachments, and company mergers and buyouts."

**Billie Leonard, Rathdrum, Idaho:** "My 2016 **DeWalt** 20-volt drill stays charged longer than any drill I've ever owned.

"My 2016 **Harbor Freight** 4 1/2-in. grinder is a worst buy. The first time I tried to use it smoke rolled out of it, and it has never worked since."

**Thomas Parrish, Kansas City, Kansas:** "I have almost 300,000 miles on my 1997 **Dodge** 1500 pickup but it's still going strong. It has required mostly routine maintenance."

**Rex Peterson, Plano, Iowa:** "I use **Interstate** batteries in my car, pickup and tractors. In 2000 I installed a pair of their batteries in my Allis Chalmers 190 tractor, and it has always started right up ever since."

**David Nelson, Nunica, Mich.:** "When I retired in 2001 I bought a **Kubota** B7500 loader tractor. A few years ago I replaced the pitman arm on the steering linkage. The tractor is now on its second battery but is still going strong."

**Donald Halstead, Newfane, N.Y.:** Donald has been a Deere mechanic for more than

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