

is clean with no tears. I use this pickup to pull a tri-axle trailer loaded with either a skid loader or a tractor no problem.”

On the negative side, he lists his 2005 **Ford** 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a 6-liter diesel engine and automatic transmission. “At about 75,000 miles the engine had to be repaired at a cost of \$1,700. The rotors and calipers have been replaced twice, the brake and transmission lines had to be replaced because of rust, and the rocker panels and wheel wells also rusted out. The front seat had to be replaced because of ripped seams, and the pickup’s pollution control equipment needed major work.

“The second set of tires was almost worn out when I finally traded this \$40,000 pickup for just \$7,000. It was only the second Ford I’ve owned in 50 years. I wonder why?”

**Russell S. Smith, Waco, Texas:** “My 2014 **Echo CS-352** 16-in. chainsaw is easy to start and easy to use. All I do is keep the chain sharp and go cut wood. I love this saw.”

## “If you put dirty clothes in, you’ll get dirty clothes out.”

His 2016 **Amana** high efficiency washing machine is a “worst buy”. “If you work for a living and get dirty doing it, you don’t want this washing machine. If you put clean clothes in, you’ll get clean clothes out. But if you put dirty clothes in, you’ll get dirty clothes out. No amount of laundry soap seems to make any difference.”

**Dean Potts, Woodsfield, Ohio:** “My 1990 **Kubota** L&G tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission, and 48-in. mower deck has about 1,300 hrs. on it but still works great. We use it to mow about 2 1/2 acres of hilly, rough lawn and it’s now on its third set of blades. I’ve had to replace only a universal joint and the tires. I’d be hard pressed to replace this tractor with any other brand, or maybe even with a Kubota because their new models have too much plastic and fiberglass.

“For more than 35 years I’ve used only **Sears Craftsman** shop tools including saws, planers, drill presses, sanders, and routers. I can’t say enough good things about these tools. It’s a shame the company sold this brand.”

**Robert Travis, Chanute, Kansas:** Robert nominates his **Polaris Sportsman 570** 4-wheeler as his “worst buy”. “At 15 mos., the bearings in the gearbox started making sounds like there was gravel inside. The machine was in the shop for about 100 days. They ordered the wrong parts several times, and when we brought the 4-wheeler home the seat was ruined. Fortunately the extended warranty and the dealer covered all expenses, but both the service and the product are terrible.”

**Paul Carr, Pioneer, Ohio:** “My 2015 **LS 3037** compact loader tractor starts right up and has controls that are easy to access ([www.LStractorUSA.com](http://www.LStractorUSA.com); ph 252 984-0700). The cab has an air conditioner, heater, cruise control, power steering, windshield wipers front and back, and all kinds of lights and turn signals. I use this tractor to plow snow in winter, to pull trailers, and to do loader work.

“My 2017 **Troy-Bilt** Pony ES electric start, walk-behind rototiller doesn’t work as advertised. It doesn’t do a good job in heavy soil, because as soon as it hits hard spots it jumps right out of the ground and takes off.

I have to really work hard to hold it back so it’ll dig in, which is too strenuous for an older person like me. We finally bought a smaller rototiller to use in our small backyard garden.”

**Charles Hanshaw, Bronson, Mich.:** “Our 2016 **Toyota Prius** is the best car we’ve ever owned. Great mileage.

“Our 2015 **Cub Cadet** zero-turn riding mower doesn’t have wheels on back so it tends to scalp the grass.”

**Vickie Peterson, Bellevue, Mich.:** “I like my 2016 **DR** cordless string trimmer. It’s powered by a 24-volt lithium-ion battery that I can also use to operate four other cordless yard tools. This trimmer replaces the **Black & Decker** cordless trimmer I had been using for many years. The DR trimmer is lighter in weight, and its one battery pack will outlast four **Black & Decker** battery packs. The battery charges in less than an hour. I highly recommend this trimmer.

“I also recently ordered the company’s chainsaw pruner, which also uses the same battery as the trimmer. I can’t wait to try it out.”

**Bart Clark, Warren, Ct.:** “I use my **Anbo Attachments** 60-in. bucket rock rake on my **AGCO ST34A** tractor and it works great ([www.anbomanufacturing.com](http://www.anbomanufacturing.com); ph 866 684-3330). I use it to move rocks, brush, logs, loose hay bedding and other bulky items easily and quickly. It’s built strong. I’ve used it to carry logs and rocks as heavy as the tractor can lift without any damage to the rake. If you can’t afford a grapple fork, this is a great alternative.”

**Norman Swartzentruber, Utica, Ohio:** Norman bought his 2014 **DeWalt 9 hp.** gas engine from **Georgetown Hydraulics** in Christiana, Penn. (ph 610 593-2753). He uses it almost every day to operate a jet water pump. “It starts easy, usually on the first pull, and I haven’t seen anything comparable that can outperform it. All I’ve done is change one spark plug.”

**Harold Estes, St. Johnsville, N.Y.:** “My **Kubota GR2120** is a great lawn tractor, but the company’s **GR2707** front-mounted snowblower that I use with it is a piece of junk. It’s a nightmare to install and seems to shear a pin about every hour.”

**John D’Amour, Minot, Maine:** “It does a great job in thick weeds, tall grass and small brush,” says John about his 2014 **DR** field and brush mower equipped with a 14 1/2 hp. engine. “This machine is unstoppable in any terrain. I can adjust power to both wheels equally so the machine doesn’t spin the wheels on sidehills. The controls are user friendly and the engine always starts right up, even after sitting idle all winter.”

**Franklin Christner, Clay Center, Kansas:** Franklin’s impressed with his 2000 **Honda Rancher 350** 4-wheeler. “My brother-in-law bought it used with about 24,000 miles and sold it to me. Now it has almost 35,000 miles but has required only routine maintenance. I use it hard all year long.

“I like my **Yeti 30-oz.** stainless steel insulated tumbler ([www.yeti.com/rambler-30](http://www.yeti.com/rambler-30)). It has double-wall vacuum insulation and a slider lid that uses magnets to keep your water or drink on lock. By putting a straw in the drink hole and setting the cup on my work bench, I can get a drink even if I have dirty hands. My drink stays cold all day long.

“My 2007 **Polaris Ranger 500** utility vehicle wouldn’t start in warm weather. The dealer recommended replacing the carburetor at a cost of \$400, but it didn’t do any good. Finally one day I took the engine’s top end apart and adjusted the valves. Everything looked good, but it still wouldn’t start.

## New Tires Solved Compaction Problem

By **Lorn Manthey**,  
Contributing Editor

The **Goodyear Low Sidewall (LSW)** tires that I installed on my planter tractor this year eliminated the pinch row compaction I’d experienced with rear duals. I replaced the **R20/8046** rear duals on my **Deere 8220** with single **LSW 900/50R46** tires and the single **320/85R34** fronts with single **LSW 710/60R30**’s. This setup provides 80 percent more flotation for the front of the tractor and about 20 percent more for the rear.

A row of corn or beans is planted directly into the center of each rear tractor tire track, but I couldn’t detect any emergence issues with either crop. I used a penetrometer to check the compaction 2 in. from the center of the planted rows behind the new tires. The reading was about 10 to 15 percent less than what I had when planting between the dual wheels.

The new tires raised the tractor profile about 4 in., so I had to adjust the planter hitch to make it level. The tractor weighed 22,450 lbs. with the LSW’s installed, with 65 percent of the weight on the rears and 35 percent on the fronts. Air pressure was set at 9 lbs. for all 4 tires.

Driving with the super-sized tires is easy and the guidance system had no problem maintaining perfectly straight rows. The tire lugs are 2.2 inches high on the rears and



**Lorn Manthey replaced the original R20/8046 rear duals on his Deere 8220 planter tractor (left) with new single LSW 900/50R46 tires. Even though he now plants directly into the tire tracks, there’s less compaction than there was before in the “pinch row” between tires.**

2.44 inches high on the fronts, so there’s plenty of traction. I also noticed that the ride was smoother at road speed and there wasn’t any tire hop.

The 4 new LSW tires cost about the same as 4 sets of duals. That cost included custom color-matched rims to fit the tractor’s bolt patterns and installation by the local dealer. The used tires and rims were traded in as part of the deal.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Lorn Manthey, Northfield, Minn. 55057 ([redoakridge@mac.com](mailto:redoakridge@mac.com)).

This time the dealer suggested installing a camshaft at a cost of \$375, but I didn’t do that. Instead I adjusted the valves by feel, not according to factory specifications. From then on the engine ran good. However, the belt-driven clutches on it continued to fail every year.”

**Keith Brum, Marietta, Ohio:** Keith’s the satisfied owner of a **Kubota L3010** 4-WD diesel tractor. “I’ve used it to clear 25 acres of neglected pasture, and with a tiller and box blade to regrade several back yards after septic leach fields had been installed. I also use it to do other odd jobs around our place. It works perfect and never needs any new parts.”

**G.F. Donk, Clyde, N.Y.:** “My 2014 **Chevrolet Silverado Crewcab** pickup has about 50,000 miles on it while requiring only routine maintenance. After I bought new tires for it at 45,000 miles I had the front alignment checked, but no adjustment was needed. Two minor repairs were made, one to replace an ignition coil and the other for a rattling noise inside the dash.”

**Gary Spohn, Tampa, Kansas:** “My 2015 **Kubota RTV 400** 4-WD utility vehicle pulls anything I put behind it and has been trouble-free. With 4-WD it really works good for moving snow. Its top speed is 25 mph, and I haven’t wanted to go any faster.”

**Robert Decker, East Worcester, N.Y.:** Robert’s disappointed that his 2017 **Toyota Corolla iM** compact car only gets 29 mpg. “I traded in a 2015 Corolla that got 38 to 39 mpg. I’m not very happy with Toyota.”

**Vernon Patty, Farmland, Ind.:** Vernon owns a 2016 **Deere 1025 R** compact utility tractor equipped with an H120 front-end loader. “This tractor is well built and easy to operate. It has a lot of power.”

**Wayne Hamel, Hopwood, Penn.:** “This car has exceeded all my expectations,” says Wayne about his 2010 **Ford Flex** equipped with an **Ecoboost** twin turbo V-6 engine. “It has a lot of power and can tow my 4,000-lb. trailer up long grades in fifth gear at 2,500 rpm’s while going 70 mph. A non-turbo would be at redline in third gear in the same

situation.”

**Roger Gutschmidt, Gackle, N.Dak. (shopdoc@drtel.net; ph 701 269-0537):** Roger is one of the most prolific and inventive contributors ever to **FARM SHOW**. He recently retired from farming but is more active than ever buying, selling, and repairing farm machinery, among other activities. He recently told us about his favorite seed company, **REA Hybrids**, headquartered in Aberdeen, S. Dak. ([www.rea-hybrids.com](http://www.rea-hybrids.com)).



“**REA Hybrids** has been my best buy for corn and soybean seed for the past decade. REA was started in the 1970’s by Wendell Rea whose motto was, ‘Good People, Good Products’ and that’s how the company still operates. What’s not to like about top yields, competitive prices and people who stand behind what they sell? Wendell sold the company to Monsanto in 2007 but the company stayed personal – like a family. When I retired from farming in 2016, I was asked by the company to come on board and it has been a privilege to be able to sell their great products. If you farm in North or South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana, or Nebraska, you definitely should check out this company.”

**Keith Sperlich, Parkston, S. Dak.:** “I used my **Kwik Kleen 5-tube**, hydraulic-operated grain cleaner on some weedy winter wheat and am satisfied with the job it did ([www.norwoodsales.com](http://www.norwoodsales.com); ph 800 446-0316). At first the wheat had over 15 percent dockage, which resulted in more than a \$1 per bu. discount. But after making some

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