Farmers Nominate Best & Worst Buys

bought a 5-ft. snowblower for it. However, that winter we had 143 in. of snow and I put more than 60 hrs. on the tractor just blowing snow. The tractor's pto lever broke off the second time I used it, but the dealer was able to fix it promptly."

Joe McGuire, Boston, Ky.: Joe recently bought a Hercules stainless steel hose (www. buyherculeshose.com; ph 800 842-1952). "This is a tough hose that you don't have to baby. It resists deterioration from sunlight, is surprisingly lightweight, and easy to store. I highly recommend it."

"An excellent tractor in all respects, except that it has an uncomfortable seat and an accelerator pedal that's often in the way."

William R. Gardiner, Montross, Va.: "My 2012 Deere 4005 is an excellent tractor in all respects, except that it has an uncomfortable seat and an accelerator pedal that's often in the way when I try to apply the brakes."

Earl Witchey, Webster, S. Dak.: "I'm well satisfied with all my DR machines. I bought my first DR brush and lawn mower in 1999 and my second one in 2008; a stump grinder in 2011; a self-propelled string mower in 2002; and a 3-pt. mounted string mower in 2014. Both string mowers can be used with the company's new quick-lock trimmer head attachment, which makes it easy to change the cord. I also own a DR 12-in. cordless chainsaw pruner. All of these tools start easy and run good. A parts list comes with each machine, and there's a toll-free number for help or parts. Fortunately, I've had to buy very few parts."

Duane Johnson, Lohrville, Iowa: "I like my LockNLube grease gun coupler (www. locknlube.com; ph 603 795-2298). It fits onto most standard grease guns and comes with a sliding sleeve that's activated by a thumb lever. The unit has 4 spring-steel jaws that lock onto the grease zerk, creating a leak-proof seal that prevents the coupler from coming loose and breaking the seal. Activating the trigger releases the coupler from the zerk. It leaves me with one hand free to hang onto something else in difficult-to-reach places."

Charles Whitman, Bennington, Vt.: "My worst buy was my Worx 56-volt cordless leaf blower. I could get it to run only about 5 to 6 min. on the high setting. However, when I contacted the company they said that's all I could expect. I asked if I could return the unit, but they said the 90-day deadline to return it had passed - even though I had purchased the blower in November and didn't take it out of the box until April. When I asked about a battery replacement, they said the warranty didn't cover batteries."

Glenn M. Flesher, Reedy, W. Va.: "My 2016 Kawasaki Mule 610 4-WD utility vehicle will go about anywhere it's safe to go. I use it to haul tools, rocks, weed trimmers, and so forth. It's easy to get in and out of, and when I'm working in the field it provides a good place to sit and rest a bit. It saves a lot of walking."

Emil R. Helmuth, Rushsylvania, Ohio: "After retiring I decided to repair and rebuild old Maytag wringer washers. I use **DeWalt** 20-volt cordless tools to do the repair work including impact drivers, a hammer drill, a 4 1/2-in. angle grinder, a reciprocating saw,

and a string trimmer for our yard. I like all of them. The cordless trimmer isn't as powerful as a gas-powered model, but it's adequate for our needs."

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "I was literally blown away when I tried out the cordless Turbine 56V Blower from WORX.



It only weighs 8 lbs, but with its 56V battery, it puts out up to 465 cfm with an air speed of up to 125 mph. Set it down while it's running and it will blow itself across the floor.

"The blower is only 18 in. long, while the detachable nozzles add another 20 in. Location of the battery at the very end of the power unit provides excellent balance for easy carrying.

"I used it on a wood beam that we are restoring to blow away dust and dirt and then attacked a hay loft floor. The blower cleared a large swath in seconds.

"Aimed at floor joists in the lower part of the barn, dust and cobwebs flew. Windowsills covered with last year's bugs were swept clear, as was dirt and debris above the beams.

"I took the blower back outside and cleared and dried a tarp that had been pock-marked with rain water. I only wish I had had it to use on our half-built house after the last rain left puddles in the then open-to-the-sky living room.

"The blower was equally effective clearing away entry carpet and prepping concrete cracks for patching. The multiple speed settings make it easy to control volume and air speed.

"According to a company spokesman, the blower is especially appreciated by combine operators. The light and compact unit can sit in the cab until needed to clear away chaff and residue around engines, exhaust systems and other components.

"The 56V battery powered the blower for a full 10 min. or more at the highest "turbo" setting. It has a charging time of about 90 min.

"The battery is priced at \$129, but can be used on a number of other WORX tools from weed trimmers to a chainsaw.

"The blower with battery is \$199.96 or \$89.99 if you already have a battery. Check them out at www.worx.com."

Kurt Kocher, Glasco, Kansas: "My **Deere** 6150R tractor is a pleasure to operate. It had an electrical problem but the dealer promptly took care of it."

Mike Tauber, Backus, Minn.: "I heard about SealLube seal expander from a neighbor, who read about it in FARM SHOW (www.seallube.com; ph 800 434-9192). It's designed to stop any rubber seal oil leaks in engines, transmissions, power steering and hydraulic systems. It solves oil leaks of all kinds and transmission slip.

"I had some small hydraulic leaks in my Ford 1900 tractor so I poured an 8-oz. bottle of SealLube into the hydraulic reservoir. It took care of about 90 percent of the problem, and if I would have had another bottle it might have been 100 percent.

"I'm disappointed with **Sportsman's Guide** boots and pants. I bought three pairs of



Instead of using his Limbinator hydraulic saw on a loader bucket, Verlis Smith mounted it on back of a Kubota backhoe bucket that he uses on his Arkansas farm.

Backhoe-Mounted Limbinator

Verlis Smith bought a Limbinator hydraulic saw to remove the high limbs on trees around his pasture (www.northerntool. com). But instead of mounting it on a tractor bucket, he attached it to the back of a Kubota backhoe bucket that he uses for all kinds of jobs on his McCrory, Ark., farm.

"I can cut limbs almost 30 ft. off the ground," Smith says.

He admits the dealership where he bought the backhoe was surprised by his request to come up with a bracket to mount the Limbinator on the new KX71 Kubota rubber-tracked excavator Smith ordered.

The dealership split the \$500 cost of the modification because they were eager to try it, Smith says. The mechanic replaced the two hydraulic hoses with a two-way valve on the boom of the excavator and hooked it up to couplings.

"I just flip the valve and the backhoe thumb runs the saw," Smith says. "It runs fast at 5,000 rpm's. It cuts a 10-in. limb in about 20 seconds. It stays sharp because there is no dirt or rocks up there."

The backhoe-mounted Limbinator got its trial run at the dealership where a mechanic tested it cutting limbs around the shop. Smith's first job with it was clearing out an

"I can use it to cut tree limbs almost 30 ft. off the ground," says Smith.

area where he planned to dig a pond.

"I'm very well pleased with it," Smith says, noting it would also be handy on a skidsteer or tractor as it is intended to be used. "I just wanted to reach higher."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Verlis Smith, 2108 Woodruff 775, McCrory, Arkansas 72101 (ph 870 347-2667; verlis@centurytel.net).

their Guide Gear, 2,400-gram swamper-type boots, and all of them crumbled in the toe flex zone within 6 mos. I'm also disappointed with their Reebok side-zip boots. Material covering the toe of the boots flaked off, and stitching in the toe area came loose under almost no-stress conditions."

Gary Moffett, Connersville, Ind.: "I like my 2014 Royal Enfield C-5 Classic motorcycle equipped with a 500 cc 1-cyl. engine. It's very dependable, fun to ride, and averages more than 80 miles per gal. A lot of people give me compliments on it." On the minus side, he lists the 2016 RedStone ash vacuum cleaner he bought at Tractor Supply Co. "The hose on it broke, and the filter plugs up long before I can get the stove clean. It does have a lot of power, until it plugs up."

Lee deVries, Crawfordsville, Oregon: Lee has had success with Gopher Hawk gopher and mole traps (www.gopherhawk. com, ph 805 486-8225). These traps let you catch gophers or moles from above ground without ever having to dig out the tunnels.

"We take pride in having a nice lawn, but every spring when our sprinkler system is activated, in come the moles. This trap does a good job of catching either moles or gophers and is easy on our lawn. And it's easy to set except in shallow tunnels. My wife made a couple of sand bags about the size of a 5-lb. sack of sugar, which we put around the base of the trap to hold it upright. That works very wall?"

Daryl W. Wiegand, Drakesville, Iowa: "I like my 2014 Case IH 330 turbo disc, true tandem vertical tillage machine. It's easy to adjust and does a nice, level job. I wish I would have had this implement 20 years ago. It's really well built."

Kenneth Kaufman, West Union, Ohio: Kenneth's impressed with his 2016 Hustler TrimStar 54-in. walk-behind mower. "The steering system on it works almost like a zero-turn riding mower, which makes it easy to drive and steer. I can easily adjust the cutting height using one handle. I don't get to use this mower a lot because our children like driving it so much."

Thomas Tucker Bach, Vancleve, Ky.: "I love my 2014 Kubota B2320 4-WD loader tractor. I've worked this tractor hard, but the only problem after two years was that front 4-WD seals started leaking. The warranty covered it and there have been no more problems since."