

rewinding the hose an easy job. I paid \$100 for it.”

Jery Wyatt, Eureka, Mont.: Jery likes his **Pet Safe** in-ground invisible fence (www.petsafe.net; ph 866 738-4379). It lets you set your pet's boundaries by burying wires in your yard.

“We use this invisible fence on 2 acres around our house, and our dog has respected the boundaries completely,” says Jery. “It came with good instructions and reliable components and was easy to install.”

Glenn Bowman, West Gardiner, Maine: “My 2016 **Woodland Mills FP160** firewood processor is extremely well built and was ready to use after about one day of assembly (www.woodlandmills.ca; ph 855 476-6455). I paid \$5,999 for it plus \$250 shipping and handling, which I think was very reasonable considering all the work this machine can do.”

John Wulfekuhle, Holy Cross, Iowa: John's disappointed with the carbide-tipped chainsaw chains he bought from **Rapco Industries**. “I've read several great reviews on these chains in FARM SHOW so I ordered one. The carbide-tipped chain cost about 10 times more than a regular chain, but I figured it would be worth it because the company promised a much longer chain life. However, mine lasted less than a half hour before it had to be resharpened whereas my conventional chain lasts about 1 1/2 hrs.

“I returned the chain to the company but they said it was beyond repair. They did offer me another chain at half price but I turned them down. No more carbide-tipped chains for me.”



Paul Tierney, Bloomington, Minn.: “My **Red Wing ComfortPro** work shoes are the most comfortable shoes I've ever owned (www.redwingshoes.com). So I was bummed when the sole cracked open after several years of use. I decided to fix them myself.

“I found a piece of rubber stair tread and cut pieces to fit the sole and heel of the shoe. I used Vulkem poly sealant to attach the rubber pieces to the bottom of the shoes, placing them right over the old heel and sole. Then I let the shoes sit for a month so the Vulkem would cure.

“After the repair, the shoes are just as comfortable as ever and they have a better grip, thanks to the pattern on the stair tread. I saved some money and I'm even a little taller now.”

Gary Redeker, Hartford, Kan.: “I bought a 2001 **Dodge 2500** pickup equipped with a 5.9-liter Cummins diesel engine, and then installed a bale bed on it along with a fifth wheel hitch so I can pull a 22-ft. livestock trailer. I use the bale bed to feed big bales to my cow-calf herd. This pickup has been driven in deep snow and mud and has

generally been abused. It now has about 336,000 miles on it, but I'm still not afraid to drive it cross country.”

Harold E. Thompson, Hartselle, Ala.: Harold's “best buy” is his 1993 **Deere LX188** riding mower equipped with a Kawasaki 17 hp., 2-cyl. engine and 48-in. deck. “Up until a couple years ago I used this mower every year to mow 2 acres per week. I still use it to mow small plots, and to pull my Cyclone leaf mulcher.

“My 2015 **Hustler X-One** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a Kawasaki 23 hp. engine and 60-in. deck is a best buy.”

Ken Arnold, Shallowater, Texas: “My 2015 **Milwaukee 18-volt** brushless, 1/2-in. impact wrench has unbelievable torque and can remove almost anything. I don't know how I ever got along without this tool. When we have work to do, it's the first tool we grab.”

Dale Dunbar, Akron, Colo.: “I'm well pleased with my 2014 **Milwaukee** power tool combo kit which includes a cordless drill, impact wrench, circular saw, and sabre saw. The tools have good power and the batteries last a long time. I like this kit better than Ryobi's because of the battery life. It's very aggravating to be out in the middle of a field or pasture 5 miles from electricity, and watch the batteries go dead after only a few minutes of work. One time I even drove 190 miles round trip to an authorized Ryobi repair center where they replaced both the batteries and the charger, but it didn't help.”

Bob Klinkkammer, Anamosa, Iowa: “Since 1967 I've owned 12 **Chrysler** vehicles including 4 cars, 4 vans, and 4 trucks and have had good luck with all of them. I can't say that for the GM vehicles I've owned.”

Sandra Miley, Florence, Miss.: “I bought a **Panasonic 1,250-watt** microwave in November 2016 and it wasn't long before it quit working. I bought another one the following month and it quit working 2 mos. and 11 days later. The warranty on this microwave isn't worth the paper it's printed on.”

Charles J. Alloway, Coolville, Ohio: “I've found that **Stuart's Pain Formula** helps relieve my muscle pain (www.stuartlaboratories.com; ph 507 493-5585). It penetrates the skin rapidly.”

Martha Downing, Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.: “I love the **Liberty** silverware we received as a wedding gift (www.libertytabletop.com; ph 844 386-2338). This high-quality, stainless steel silverware is available in a variety of patterns and prices. As far as I know, it's the only silverware made in the U.S.”

Jim Ellinger, Hanna, Ind.: “Over the last 30 years I've owned at least a dozen **DeWalt** power tools and they've never let me down.

“I like my 2002 **Deere GT245** tractor and also my 2001 **Deere 4100 HST** tractor, which is equipped with a quick-tach front-end loader. Both tractors are great little work horses.

“I bought a **LockNLube** grease coupler after reading about it in FARM SHOW. Now I no longer have to prime my grease gun.”

Richard Patrick, Cambridge, Wis.: “About 30 years ago I bought a used **Jonserud 525** chainsaw which I've used to cut firewood and also brush when making ATV trails. The recoil housing on it broke a couple years ago and because the saw is so old, replacement parts were no longer available. Fortunately, my son went online and found a company that deals in old chainsaw parts (www.chainsawr.com; ph 802 533-2928). I was able to buy what I needed for \$35 and get the saw running again.

Mechanic Frustrated With Garden Tractor Repower “Experts”

Dan Lien owns a small engine shop called Small Engine Unlimited in Northfield, Minn. “A customer with a Deere 317 garden tractor ordered a repower kit from Repower Specialists in Oregon and had it sent to me. Unfortunately, the kit components didn't fit right so the customer sent the kit back – and had to pay a restocking fee of \$250,” says Lien. “The customer got no support from the company at all. Except that they told him he would need to grind down the tractor's fenders in order to make things fit, and also swap out the valve covers every time he changed the oil.”

Then the customer read a story in FARM SHOW about repower kits available from T.H.E. Co. “The customer called the company's engineer and owner before purchasing the kit and then had it sent to me. It didn't fit right so I called the engineer about the problems and they sent a second kit, but it didn't fit, either,” says Lien.

So early last December Lien decided to haul the tractor to the T.H.E. Company's

Iowa headquarters to show them the problems with the kit. “The company salesman said he felt terrible about the entire deal, and the guys in the shop were embarrassed to be pushing a product out the door they knew wouldn't work. I have nothing but good things to say about the employees.”

Lien ended up creating a kit that makes use of a Honda engine and requires no grinding or cutting, and no modification to the tractor. “I offered to work with the company thinking they might want to sell the kit but they didn't want any part of it, I guess because it wasn't their idea.

“These companies did not do the necessary research and development work, and also don't stand behind their product. They're selling kits that aren't a true fit, and expect the customer to ‘hack’ everything together”.

Lien has no plans to put his kit on the market and no interest in doing more repowers.

“In 2002 I bought a used 1989 **Polaris 250 Trail Boss** ATV that I'm still using. I've replaced the starter and a broken motor mount, but otherwise this machine just keeps on going.

“In 1980 I bought a used **Deere 3020** diesel tractor with about 2,000 hrs. on it. I've replaced the radiator, and rebuilt the water pump once and the starter twice, but otherwise this tractor has required only routine maintenance. I think the 3020 is one of the best tractors Deere ever built.”

“Eli's 2001 Ford F-250 has more than 400,000 miles on it and is still going strong.”

Eli Wengert, Millersburg, Ohio: Eli owns a 2001 **Ford F-250 4-WD** crew cab pickup with more than 400,000 miles on it that's still going strong. It's equipped with a 7.3-liter diesel engine. “I installed a new transmission at 396,000 miles, which is the only major repair it has needed. It's a good, dependable pickup.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 2014 **Dodge Ram 3500 DRW 4-WD**, crew cab pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. “Although this was a 2014 model, it was put together with a lot of leftover 2013 parts. I had to take it back to the dealer 5 or 6 times for factory recalls. Then after the warranty expired this pickup just nicked and dimed me to death so I finally sold it. I took a beating on it, but lesson learned.”

Doran Gast, Stillwater, N.Y.: Doran's impressed with **Knee-Necks** – wrap-around chaps made from tough nylon that protect legs from knee to ankle (www.wrapchaps.com; ph 860 416-0590).



“I discovered **Knee-Necks** at a large motorcycle show. I have thin skin on my shins, and they always seem to get scratched

or scraped when I'm working in the woods or in tall weeds. They work great anywhere outdoors for shoveling snow, hunting, hiking, and so forth. They're also available in quilted nylon.”

Knee-Necks come in 6 colors: Royal Blue, Purple, Red, Forest Green, Grey, and Black, and in 5 different sizes. An adult pair sells for \$29.95 plus \$8.95 S&H. The company also makes **Wrap-Chaps**, which run from thigh to ankle.

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: “My moisture meter from **Ryobi** is a handy tool that is saving me money this winter. I just moved into a new house with a fireplace and no supply of firewood. As the fireplace is designed to heat the house, I needed dry wood to burn.

“The **Ryobi** moisture meter gives me a quick way to evaluate wood, whether purchased or cut up myself. I purchased a cord of oak firewood (12 to 14 percent) and now am cutting up grubbed and standing dead trees.”

“So far, all are well within the recommended range of 10 to 25 percent moisture. Even black walnut saplings (0 to 15-in. diameter trunks) grubbed out mid summer and cut this past week are coming in at a surprising 18 to 19 percent.

“I didn't expect to be able to use them for at least another 6 mos., but I left the branches and leaves in place after grubbing. The leaves pulled much of the moisture out as they slowly died and turned brown.



“Moisture readings don't actually show up on the **Ryobi**. The meter is a twin prong device that fits in the palm of my hand. A cable from it plugs into the phone jack on my cellphone. To get a moisture reading, I plug it in, pull up an app on my phone (downloaded from **Ryobi**) and select the type of wood.

Continued on next page