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well maintained. It had primarily been used to haul a fifth wheel camper, so the miles had accumulated without a lot of abuse. The engine is quiet and only leaks a little. The pickup is built solid but had a totally rotted-out bed, which I replaced. Apparently the engine has a good reputation. We'll see."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists his **Pat's Easy Change** 3-pt. hitch system. The unit mounts on a tractor's 3-pt. lift arms and turns them into quick hitches, making it easy to attach heavy 3-pt. implements without any lifting. The 3-pt. top link is still able to flex and float, and your 3-pt. can be used normally.

"I suppose that in some situations this hitch system might save time and be convenient to use. However, by the time I get done setting it up, adjusting it, and screwing around trying to get it to work right, I might as well have hooked up the implement the normal way. Another problem was that my finish mower didn't seem to float correctly. I finally gave the hitch to someone else."

Jerry Schulz, Watertown, S. Dak.: Jerry likes **Hydrotex** Essentialube lubricant and M33 grease (www.hydrotexlube.com; ph 800 527-9439). Essentialube can be used as a fuel additive and to do other jobs such as to free rusted parts, loosen dirt, dissolve grease, grime, tar and adhesive, and lubricate moving parts.

"I've been using these products for more than 40 years. Essentialube reduces harmful deposits in engines and causes diesels to start easier," says Schulz.

"My 2014 **Ford** Escape rides nice and is fuel efficient."

Darrel Smith, Port Washington, Ohio: Darrel's impressed with his 1999 **Snapper** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 61-in. deck. "I have arthritis in both hips, which kept me off regular riding mowers for a couple of years. But with my Snapper it's like walking up and sitting down in a large, comfortable chair. I used it for the first time to mow a field that hadn't been touched in two years. I put the mower on its highest setting and was able to cut through waist-high grass, weeds and hundreds of small trees up to 1 in. in diameter with no problem."

Roger Elmore, Denison, Texas: "When the 5 hp Briggs & Stratton engine on my 20-in. rototiller wore out, I replaced it with a 212cc **Predator** engine that I bought for \$100. It was cheaper than having a valve job done on the Briggs & Stratton. The mounting holes were an exact fit as was the crankshaft. Although the crankshaft on the new engine was slightly longer, it came with a key stock that solved the problem. This cheap little engine starts and runs effortlessly."

Coy Woodall, Calvin, Okla.: "No problems with my 2008 **Chevrolet** 1-ton pickup equipped with a 6.0-liter gas engine. It gets about 17 mpg on the highway and has surprising power. It'll pull a 27-ft. trailer with ease while still getting decent fuel economy. Also, this pickup has a nice looking front end and hood."

He's disappointed with his 2012 **Branson** 8050 tractor equipped with a Kukje diesel engine. "This engine is supposed to have 78 hp., but in reality it's probably closer to 60 hp. Also, the engine overheats when I'm baling hay. The cab windows won't defrost during the winter, making the tractor almost useless for feeding cattle. The engine leaks oil, and parts are constantly falling off the tractor. Sometimes the parking brake will come on and stop the tractor wherever I happen to be, which isn't a good thing when I'm going down the highway. I wouldn't recommend this tractor to anyone."

David S. Freiberg, Woodville, Wis.: David likes his **Simplicity** D17 garden tractor. "I've used Simplicity garden tractors for more than 25 years and they've all been excellent machines. The most trouble I've had with this one was a worn out belt and blades.

"My **Deere** 2510 was a bad tractor. Anything that could go wrong with it, did."

"It has enormous capacity, and only about one bale out of 500 doesn't get tied."

Alexander Thomson, Woodbury, Ct.: "This baler has exceeded all my expectations," says Alexander about his 2014 **Case IH** 541 small square baler equipped with a belt-style bale thrower. "It has enormous capacity, and only about one bale out of 500 doesn't get tied. Usually if there's a problem it's because the bale hits the wagon's back gate too hard, causing the string to break.

"I was concerned at first about the baler's 10-ft. transport width but it hasn't been a problem, even on narrow back roads. The bale thrower places bales in our wagon much more accurately than the pan-style thrower on our previous two Deere balers. The hydraulic bale tensioning unit works quite well.

"I wish the company designed the drawbar on back of the baler so the wagon would follow squarely behind the baler during road transport, like with Deere balers. Also, why is it that a road light kit ordered through parts costs \$1,070? That's obscene."

Lareth May, Timberville, Va.: "Last spring Lareth bought 15 **Nite Guard** solar lights to protect his sheep and lambs against coyote predation. A flashing red light turns on automatically at dusk and off at full daylight to deter deer and other varmints.

"These solar lights replaced battery-operated lights that I had been using. In one field, I placed Nite Guards around the fence perimeter at gates and areas near where lambs had been killed. There were no more kills the rest of the summer.

"Later on I rotated the flock to a larger field and placed Nite Guards around the perimeter and also at points within. There was no predation for 2 mo., but then there were three kills in three nights. I think the coyotes found a way in around the Nite Guards, so I moved the lambs back to the first field and had no more kills.

"I believe my Nite Guards are very effective against coyotes, but you need overlapping coverage for them to be effective. I might not have used enough Nite Guards so I plan to add more next year.

"I also tried using Nite Guards to keep deer out of our garden, but they didn't work very well for that."

Ronny Davis, Minden, Neb.: "I just sold my wife's 2005 **Toyota** Corolla with more than 216,000 miles on it. All I ever replaced was a belt and a set of spark plugs. It still was getting 32 to 34 miles per gallon in everyday driving."

Brian Turner, Paige, Texas: "I bought **CBS Performance Automotive** electronic points to convert my 1941 Ford 9N tractor to an electronic breakerless ignition system (ph 800 685-1492 or 719 687-8393; www.cbsperformance.com). It improved the tractor's fuel economy but, best of all, the tractor now starts right up every time and there are no points that require constant tune-up."

Cad Tyler, Hillsboro, W. Va.: "It allows me to change attachments safely and quickly,"

"Best Buy" Spray Can Handle

"I've bought a lot of worthless gimmick tools over the years but this one really works," says FARM SHOW contributing editor Lorn Manthey. "My Ace Hardware store manager told me about this so I shelled out \$5.99 and took it home."

"I attached it to a brand new can of silver Krylon paint. The big squeeze trigger fit my hand nicely and when I squeezed the handle, paint flowed out of the nozzle in a fine mist.

"As someone who's probably painted my pointer finger with 50 different colors over the years, I love using the Can Gun. It's impossible to paint your finger and the paint comes out in an even band with no back spray. Better yet, the trigger is connected to a sturdy black handle that allowed me to paint like a pro using even strokes up and down or side-to-side. I've used airless sprayers for bigger projects in the past, and the Can Gun gives a pressurized can all the qualities of those way-more-expensive power sprayers,



Spray can handle lets you make smooth even strokes up and down or side-to-side.

with smooth, splotch-free results."

It's available in stores, at Amazon, or you can go to www.cangun1.com.

says Cad about the self-aligning **Delta Hook Rapid Hitch System** he uses with his tractor's 3-pt. hitch (www.deltahook.com; ph 864 232-2448). A control plate mounts on the 3-pt. and a receiver plate attaches to the implement. The triangular design allows the operator to back into position and slide the control plate up and into the receiver plate, regardless how out of alignment the two are. Once in place the control plate locks to the receiver plate. A cable release allows the operator to release the latch quickly to disconnect from the implement.

"It's built simple and strong. I wish I'd had it 50 years ago," says Cad.

Tim West, Quincy, Calif.: "We've had very few problems with our 2005 **Dodge** diesel 3500 truck except for the back door wiring that controls the door locks, windows, and speakers. The problem is that the wires are way too small and continue to break at the door hinges. I wonder how many others have had the same problem with this truck."

Ernest Weaver, Plato, Mo.: Ernest says his **Keyhole** raised bed garden kit makes it easy to set up and maintain a raised garden (www.keyholefarm.com; ph 254 652-9483). The kit includes an exterior



steel tube framework and an interior lining of polycarbonate roofing panels. When put together, you have a raised bed about 29 in. high with a perimeter of about 26 ft. and a diameter of about 6 ft.

"Keyhole gardens are usually built in a round shape with a notch removed for easy access to the center. A 1-ft. wire mesh cage is placed at the center of the bed and at the end of the notch. The basket is used for composting kitchen scraps as well as lawn and garden clippings.

"This 29-in. tall garden is hard to fill up. But once you do, the yields are fantastic," says Ernest. "I now have two of these gardens, and apart from adding compost and soil to top it off, no other maintenance is necessary. I slit swimming pool 'noodles' and put them over the sides so melons can hang down."

Karl Zimmerman, Mason City, Iowa:

"More than a year ago I bought a **Best Mouse Trap Ever** live mouse trap. I baited it like the instructions call for but never caught a single mouse."

Harry Khyre, Starbuck, Minn.: "Back in 1958 I bought a used 1957 **Deere** 720 diesel tractor at a farm sale and still use it almost every day. The Firestone high wall tires on it have never gone flat or been removed for any reason. The lugs are still good, but the tire is showing its age and now has a few cracks in it."

Charles Edwards, Jr., Dallas, N.C.: "My 2016 **Stihl** FS 90R weed trimmer is a beast that cuts weeds on an industrial level. I used it last summer with no problems. It starts on the first pull every time, is fuel efficient, and easy to carry even without using a shoulder strap. Changing the string on it is an easy job. I can cut acres of weeds with this tool."

Berk Palmer, Ridgeway, S.C.: "I've purchased several **Harbor Freight** generators and pressure washers and the engines on all of them have worked flawlessly. These engines appear to be a "knock off" of Honda engines. They run great and are easy on fuel."

Seth Becker, Springtown, Texas: "As a knife enthusiast who uses knives a lot, I've used many different knife sharpeners over the years. But I'll never use any of them again now that I have my 2016 **Edge Pro** Apex 4 knife sharpener (www.edgeproinc.com; ph 541 387-2222). I emailed the company with some questions before purchasing it, and the owner himself replied and helped me figure out which model to buy. It lets me put a mirror-polished edge on the most exotic steels in less than 20 min., and touch them up easily when needed. It can sharpen a big tanto fighting knife just as easily as a tiny folding blade.

"One of my most used tools is my **Cold Steel** Code 4 folding knife (ph 800 255-4716; www.coldsteel.com). I love it. It has a 3 1/2-in. blade that locks open with an ambidextrous Tri-Ad lock, and the handle is made of anodized aluminum for thinness and strength. What I like best, though, is that the blade is made of CTS-XHP - a premium stainless steel that is used on knives costing well more than \$500. But this one sells for about \$80 at many online retailers.

"A while back in FARM SHOW someone recommended using **Xtreme Green** oil stabilizer as a way to stop oil blow-by in worn engines, so I gave it a try (ph 949 529-5080; www.xgglobal.com). It cost about three times more than similar products available at Wal-Mart, but then again similarly advertised