

Continued from previous page

Michael E. Lonzinski, Great Bend, Penn.: "It rides like a high-priced car and has all the bells and whistles I'll ever need," says Michael, happy with his 2018 GM Canyon Denali pickup. "It's equipped with a 4-cyl.

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turbocharged diesel engine that gets 25 to 30 mpg and is rated to tow up to 7,700 lbs., so it can tow my car trailer with ease. With 181 hp. and 275 lbs to ft. of torque, this pickup should last a long time."

Michael Kisse, Nancy, Ky.: Michael likes his Buckwild hay spear ring mover (www.buckwildinnovations.com; ph 615 273-2825). It moves both round bales and feeders with one attachment that fits on a 3-pt. hitch or front-end loader. Two hooks catch the top of the hay ring.

"It allows me to set down round bales of hay, then place the ring over the bale without getting off the tractor," says Kisse.

"My Exmark Radius zero-turn riding mower is a best buy (www.exmark.com)."



Scott Krueger, Honeoye Falls, N.Y.: "My Neat Farms bucket-mounted manure fork works great for moving manure, tree limbs, and brush piles (www.neatfarms.com; ph 800 717-3540). It attaches to my loader bucket with chains and turnbuckles and is easy to put on or take off, and also very secure. It's a great time saver and enjoyable to use."

Lonnie Fast, Fairmont, W. Va.: Lonnie's 2-wheeled Hay Baby is designed to pull



behind your 4-wheeler and can load and unload round bales weighing up to 1,200 lbs. with the push of a button (www.fasthaymovers.com; ph 304 282-1210). The unit attaches with a ball or receiver hitch and uses a bale spear, along with a small winch and pulleys, to lift and carry 4 by 4 and 4 by 5 bales.

Fast says he has used his own Hay Baby to transport more than 1,000 round bales. "It's far more economical than using a large tractor because of better fuel economy and reduced maintenance. Also, it rides on turf friendly wheels that don't make deep ruts typically caused by tractor tires," he says.

He also offers 3-pt. mounted models designed for compact tractors. The Hay Mama can move bales as large as 5 by 5 ft., and the Hay Papa as large as 6 by 5 ft. It can even haul big square bales.

Bill Coleman, Denver, Colo.: "If you're disappointed with the selection of ratchet straps found at big box stores, check out the full range of custom-made, heavy-duty tent and cargo straps available from Lodi Metals (www.lodimetals.com; ph 800 807-5634). The company offers a variety of ratchet straps, tie-down straps, and tow straps. They sell tent and cargo ratchet straps rated at 6,600 lbs., with abrasion and sunlight resistant polyester webbing. Straps are thick and available up to 4 in. wide.

"The company also offers a variety of cambuckles, rings, and hooks in many different sizes and colors. Their prices are very reasonable, and they shipped my straps priority mail for fast delivery."



Edward Stanley, Parker, Texas: "Lining up my tractor pto is easy with my Porter pto alignment tool (porterprotools@aol.com; ph 972 742-0147). It comes with a 4 1/2-in. long pipe handle that has a sharply curved hook welded onto one end to grab a spline. I use this tool every time I hook up to a pto-driven implement. Sells for \$16.50 plus S&H."

Gary Swensen, Yankton, S. Dak.: "For the last 25 years I've used Lucas Transmission Fix and Engine Oil Stop Leak in all my vehicle transmissions (www.lucasoil.com; ph 800 342-2512). A great local transmission mechanic named Syd Hansen, who ran his own transmission repair shop for decades, turned me onto Transmission Fix. Syd called it 'Magic in a Bottle'. I used this product on two cars that each ended up going about 276,000 miles without needing any transmission repairs. I changed the transmission fluid every 20,000 to 30,000 miles.

"Transmission Fix also makes shifting gears much smoother and stops minor leaks. It comes very thick out of the bottle, so in cold weather it takes a long time to pour out. To solve the problem, I pre-mix the product with transmission fluid and then shake it up real good so that it pours faster."

Nick Petragani, Cheyney, Penn.: "The original transmission on our 2002 Ford Explorer XLT was replaced at the company's expense. However, afterward we had to pay to have two more transmissions put in. Then last September at about 167,000 miles the fourth transmission failed, resulting in an average of only 41,750 miles per transmission. Instead of paying for another transmission I decided to buy a used Jeep."

Melvin Thies, Jacksonville, Ill.: "The 2015 Kubota X1100C 4-WD utility vehicle I bought used two years ago is nicer to use than a riding mower, goes a lot faster, and has a nice heated cab. It's also easier to get in and out of and has more power.

"I welded a metal hook on a ball hitch that attaches to the vehicle's receiver tube. I use it to pull small brush out by the roots. This machine has enough power to pull out most of the brush on our farm.

"The shrub grubber I bought from Northern Tool works great to remove shallow-rooted clumps of brush (www.northernool.com). It consists of three 4-ft. long chains equipped with 1/4-in., V-shaped gripping links that are



Guard donkeys play a big part in protecting sheep and goats for Texas ranchers Perry and Joan Bushong.

"Best Buy" Guard Donkeys

"After 30 years we would not have sheep and goats if we didn't have guard donkeys," says Joan Bushong, a Texas rancher. "But they are only a tool, like a guard dog is a tool. They don't eliminate the problem of predators, but they help control it."

Joan and her husband, Perry, raise about 200 Dorper sheep and 300 Black Spanish goats in the rugged canyon country near Mountain Home, Texas. Predators became a big problem in the 80's. The breed the Bushongs use is the Jerusalem donkey, a large breed donkey with a distinct cross on its back.

"Their neck, feet and teeth are strong, and they rear up their feet and legs like a horse. They become bonded to the sheep and goats and will go after predators in defense of their flock," Bushong says.

To develop that bond the Bushongs pen one donkey with a couple dozen sheep or goats for at least two weeks before turning them out to pasture. Donkeys need companionship and become very protective of "their flock".

Over the years the Bushongs have learned to put only one donkey in a pasture, because if there are two they will hang out together and not protect the flock as well. The Bushongs are also careful not to have flocks in neighboring pastures where donkeys can hang out at the fence together.

Another thing they learned the hard way is not to use old Jacks (males). "In the past we have had Jacks, but they get mean like a

stud horse, and will kill baby lambs and kid goats," Bushong says. The Bushongs only use females (Jennys) or young castrated male Jerusalem donkeys. Young Jennys adapt the best.

Donkeys are more self-sufficient than guard dogs as they eat with the livestock, and they can't get under the fences and onto the roads where they might be killed by a car.

She stresses that donkeys are just one of the tools they use. Good fencing and predator control by trappers who are paid for by ranchers are just as important.

Then continue, to be livestock losses - especially during lambing and kidding and also when they begin to fatten up. It is an ongoing and unending problem and a very expensive problem as well.

Typically donkeys handle coyotes fairly well if the pastures are not too big, Bushong says.

Russian boars are a bigger challenge. "They can consume eight to 10 babies a night. Boars eat every part of the lamb or kid. They even consume the hooves," Bushong describes. With sharp tusks that cut like a knife, boar attacks are vicious, and she has seen cuts on her donkeys' legs.

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attached to two different size rings. You wrap the chains around the brush and through the larger ring, and then attach a pulling chain to the smaller ring.

"The company also offers a brush grubber that works great to clear small trees and brush. It comes with two rotating pads, with eight gripping teeth on each pad to make sure that its grip never slips off the tree trunk. The jaws close tighter the harder you pull."



Rob Bridges, Iowa Falls, Iowa: His Bridco kingpin adapter lets you use the fifth wheel hitch on your semi tractor or pickup to pull a gooseneck trailer (www.kingpinadapter.com; ph 641 648-2160). You just snap the adapter into the fifth wheel plate. It consists of a 2 5/16-in. ball welded to a 2-in. standard semi-tractor kingpin. Compensation rings can be used to close the gap between the kingpin bolster plate on the adapter and the fifth wheel plate. The adapter can be quickly removed for pulling a semi trailer again.

"We started building these adapters for our own use years ago when I was a building

contractor," says Bridges. "I was using pickups to pull gooseneck trailers, but the extra weight was hard on them and fuel prices were rising at the time. I had a couple of semi tractors that I wasn't using and decided they could pull the trailers more economically. I built a few adapters and sold them locally, then started marketing them on eBay and now they're being used in 45 states. I personally make each one myself."

The kingpin adapter sells for \$225 including S&H.

Tim Ojala, New Ipswich, N.H.: "I find that vinyl over-the-road quality truck tarps, available from truck equipment dealers, work great for protecting farm machinery. The tarps are sold in many different sizes.

"Today's work shirts don't have enough pockets."

They're high-priced but last for years. I recently bought a 7 by 12-ft. tarp for my log splitter and it covers it beautifully."

On the negative side, "Today's work shirts don't have enough pockets. I like to carry everything from sunglasses to pens, Sharpies, note pads, magnifiers, money clips, and matches in my shirt pockets. However, there isn't enough room for all of them in just two