

pockets so whenever I pull my sunglasses out, stuff falls on the ground.

"I have problems with my **Quickie Bulldozer** 18-in. split fiber push broom. It's equipped with stiff inner fibers to sweep concrete, asphalt and wood, and soft outer fibers that are supposed to sweep fine dirt and dust. However, I don't think the outer fibers do much good."

**Jens Rusch, Lefaivre, Ontario:** "I think these lights could be helpful for anyone with high electrical bills," says Jens about the **AgriLux LED Spectrum** light bulbs he bought for his poultry barn ([www.agrilux.ca](http://www.agrilux.ca); ph 519 621-2524). The company offers 7 and 11-watt bulbs custom designed for poultry farms and says they result in a 90 percent energy savings compared to incandescent bulbs, as well as increased egg production. The lights are dimmable from 100 to 5 percent without loss of spectrum output, and they don't flicker. The bulbs are waterproof and dustproof and have a life expectancy of 40,000 hours or more.

**Jerry Hon, Florence, Ind.:** "My **Kobalt** cordless 40-volt chainsaw equipped with a 12-in. bar is lightweight and reliable ([www.kobalttools.com](http://www.kobalttools.com)). Works great."

On the minus side, "I've had problems with my two **Deere** Buck 4-wheelers. One machine dies whenever the engine heats up, then 30 min. later it'll start again and run a little longer before the engine quits again. I had two reliable repair shops look at it but they can't solve the problem. The other 4-wheeler locks in second gear, and I'm told repairing it will cost \$2,000."

**Bruce Short, New Portland, Maine:** "The 2002 **Ford** F-250 diesel pickup I bought used in 2010 still starts and runs like new. No problems even in the coldest weather.

"I've put about 100,000 miles on the 2010 **Ford** Escape I bought used three years ago. It's very dependable."

**Tommy Blackston, Mauk, Ga.:** "In 2002 I bought a used 1994 **Mercury** Marquis with about 104,000 miles on it for \$2,500. I drove the car until last year and never had any problems. With about 305,000 miles on it I finally sold the car to my brother who is still driving it. This old car has outlasted many other cars that my friends and family bought new."

**Thomas Weekley, Guysville, Ohio:** "The 1993 **E-Z-Go** golf cart I bought used for doing chores around our farm is built tough and is very dependable."

**Roger Ward, Wetumpka, Ala.:** "My **Exmark** Quest 50-in. zero-turn riding mower is a great, low-maintenance machine. It came with a 3-year warranty that includes the belts.

"The belts on my **Troy-Bilt** 42-in. riding mower come off too easily, and the deck metal is too soft. It has holes in it caused by flying debris."

**Allan Lassey, Cartwright, N. Dak.:** "Our **Deere** Gator 825i utility vehicle works great for doing chores around our farm, and my wife and I also like going on joy rides with it."

**Luther Newman, Clinton, Okla.:** Luther's satisfied with his **DeWalt** cordless 40-volt leaf blower. "I use it to blow leaves and grass off our driveway. The battery holds a charge for a long time, and I like not having to pull a starter rope."

**Chad Travis, Drasco, Ark.:** "My **Miller** Bobcat 250 engine-driven welder works great for stick welding."

**James Swanson, Russell, Penn.:** A **New Holland** 4-105 tractor purchased new rates as James's "worst buy". "I had used the tractor for only about 4 hrs. when the rear end went out because the factory didn't install the main pin for the main gear. I tore the rear end all

up. It took three weeks to fix, and then after a few days the pto clutch went out because there were steel filings in the clutch.

"After the dealer fixed the tractor I tried using it to mow hay, but I was able to go around the field only 1 1/2 times before the pto went out again. This time they gave me a loaner tractor to use while mine was in the shop for more than two weeks. The mechanic told me I could expect problems with this tractor for as long as I owned it. I told the dealer I wanted a new tractor, but the company refused and the dealer wouldn't help. They wanted me to pay \$7,500 to have the tractor replaced. In the end I paid \$3,250."

**Cad Tyler, Hillsboro, W. Va.:** Cad's impressed with his **Delta Hook Rapid Hitch System**, designed to let you hook up 3-pt. implements from your tractor seat ([www.deltahook.com](http://www.deltahook.com); ph 864 232-2448). A control plate mounts to the tractor's 3-pt. hitch, and a receiver plate attaches to the implement. The triangular design allows the operator to back into position and automatically slide the control plate up and into the receiver plate, regardless of how out of alignment the two are. A cable release is used to release the latch and quickly disconnect from the implement.

"There's no need to get off the tractor when changing implements except to hook up the pto. It's safe, fast, and company service is great," says Cad.

**Ed Roy, Concord, N.C.:** "My **DeWalt** 1/2 and 3/8-in. drive cordless impact wrenches are easy to use and have a lot of power. The 3/8-in. model has been rebuilt twice due to normal wear and tear. The company stands behind its products, and I won't hesitate to buy from them again."

**John Slater, Olin, Iowa:** John's the satisfied owner of a **Bad Boy** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 28 hp. diesel engine ([www.badboymowers.com](http://www.badboymowers.com)). "This mower is designed on the KISS principle - keep it simple, stupid. It's easy to service and built tough. If you can get material under the deck it'll mow it. We use it to mow about 5 acres of grass on rough ground and to mow around buildings, grain bins, feedlots, and so forth. This mower is very dependable and should last a long time."



**Glenn C. Bowman, West Gardiner, Maine:** Glenn's impressed with his **Woodland Mills** ATV dump trailer that's designed to be towed behind an ATV, UTV or tractor ([www.woodlandmills.com](http://www.woodlandmills.com); ph 855 476-6455). It's equipped with a telescopic straight boom equipped with a winch and a removable tailgate. Cranking the winch raises the front end of the box for dumping. Capacity is 2,000 lbs.

"I use the box mainly to haul firewood, but the machine can easily be converted to a log hauling trailer by removing the box and inserting uprights into stake pockets. It's a great unit.

"I also bought the company's firewood processor, which is designed to cut logs into firewood length and split them. I use the elevator on it to dump the split wood into my trailer. Works fantastic."

**Joe Johnson, Meridian, Miss.:** "I installed a **Hurst** universal column shift-to-floor conversion kit on my 1983 **Chevrolet** C10 pickup ([www.hurst-shifters.com](http://www.hurst-shifters.com); ph 707

## Hydraulic-Powered Hitch Adapter

**Rodney Tollefson, Greenbush, Minn.:**

"The **Eterra** 3-Pt. Skid Steer Adapter has been an important tool for me and my business, Double XL Trophy Whitetails.

"With its pto drive, it lets me use my snowblower on my T650 Bobcat compact track loader. Front mounted, the snowblower works better than it ever did mounted to my 3720 Deere. Even with front mounts on the tractor, I wouldn't have the tilt control I do with the Bobcat.

"The adapter has a 55 hp. hydraulic motor with integrated 1 3/8-in. pto shaft. The lift arms can be equipped with Cat 0, I or II 3-pt. links.

"We get a lot of snow, and it builds up in the deer pens. I have to go around the inside perimeter to blow the snow away or I start to lose the height of the fence. Also, the deer will pack down the snow walking the perimeter. With the adapter, I can tip the blower blades down to cut into the hard stuff or slide over the top of the ground. I can also get in closer to the fence than I could backing up with the tractor.

"We have trophy hunting into January, and we need to cut trails through the hunting preserve. The adapter lets me lift the blower up to go part way through 6-ft. drifts, then back up, lower it and do the rest. I couldn't cut trails as well with my tractor.

"I've also used it with my spin spreader



**Eterra 3-pt. Skid Steer Adapter comes with a 55 hp. hydraulic motor and an integrated pto shaft.**

for spreading seed and fertilizer inside the deer pens. With it out in front, it pushes the material into the dirt.

"Switching between pto-driven attachments is easy. The hydraulic motor on the adapter has adjustable brackets. You can loosen it up and vary the position to line up the pto shaft without any sharp angles.

"I searched the internet for skid steer adapters and found Eterra. At about \$2,395 with no shipping in the continental U.S., the motorized skid steer adapter is a really good buy."

544-4761). The truck's original 'three on the tree' column gear shifter was worn out and constantly jammed up. Replacement parts for it weren't available. This gear shifter kit works great and was easy to install."

**Lynden Jenkins, Freedom, Wyo.:** "My best buy ever was a used 1988 **Chevrolet** 1500 shortbed pickup equipped with a 4.3-liter, V-6 engine. I paid \$1,200 for it.

"I bought a used 1952 **Deere** R loader tractor in 1980 and am still using it today. I also bought a used **Cat** D4 7U dozer at about the same time. Over the years these machines have more than paid for themselves. Good luck finding a machine today that will last as long as these have."

**Kevin Meyer, Osgood, Ind.:** "My 1939 **Ford** 8N tractor is a real workhorse. I use it to mow and to haul rabbit manure in a carry-all device that I made to go on back of the tractor. I often take this tractor for a cruise around my rural 'block' for an evening drive. Best money I ever spent. My stepdaughter helped me restore the tractor, and those hours spent with her were priceless. Now she shows Ford 2N, 8N, and 9N tractors at shows during the summer."

**Tim Bloomquist, Drayton, N. Dak.:** Tim nominates his **GSI** grain bin as his "worst buy". "The sidewalls failed the first year it was built but the company wouldn't help and just asked if I wanted to buy a replacement bin. But when the first one was no good, why would I want to buy another one just like it?"

**Howard McPeak, Eldorado Springs, Mo.:** "My 2016 **Troy-Bilt** 2246 riding mower is equipped with a 22 hp., 1-cyl. Kohler engine. During the first year the valve cover gasket leaked oil onto the muffler, which resulted in a fire. It didn't cause any real damage but an irritating repair had to be made.

"I like my 2015 **Troy-Bilt** Mustang 54-in. zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 25 hp. Briggs & Stratton V-twin engine. I'm 84 years old and have owned about a dozen different riding mowers over the years, at least five of which I bought new. This one handles easy and mows much faster than any of them. I use it to mow my 2-acre lawn,

and one summer I also used it to mow my neighbor's four acres. Yet because it mows fast it still has only about 67 hrs. on it."

**Ronald Lawfer, Kent, Ill.:** "The three **Lely** A-4 robotic milkers we installed in 2014 are very reliable. They've changed the way we farm because of the flexibility they provide. The cows get milked when they want to be milked, 24 hrs. a day, seven days a week. Herd production and health has improved dramatically.

"Our **Lely** Juno automatic feed pusher has also contributed to increased herd production."

**Joseph Polonowski, Grand Rapids, Mich.:** In 1989, he bought a 1979 **Ariens** ST350 20-in. snowblower equipped with a 3 1/2 hp. engine from a neighbor for \$120. "This machine throws snow 15 to 20 ft., always starts on the first or second try, and runs like a Swiss watch. My only repair costs have been for a new starter pull cord and a new set of drive train bearings, totaling \$106. I don't think many of today's snowblowers are built as well as this one."

**Stephen Kozerowitz, DeSoto, Wis.:** A 2010 **Mighty Mac** 12P chipper-shredder rates as Stephen's "best buy" ([www.mackissic.com](http://www.mackissic.com); ph 610 495-7181). "I use this machine every spring and fall to produce mulch that we use around trees and in our garden, sometimes mixing in compost with the mulch. I use both 1 and 1 1/2 in. dia. screens. The only downside is the chipper blades are very hard to change."

**Wendy Webb, Stilwell, Kansas:** She's pleased with her **Best Carpenter Bee Trap** (ph 256 253-2019). It's designed to be placed on corners and peaks of buildings, and consists of a small wooden house with angled sides and a flat top. The holes in the trap mimic the entrance to a carpenter bee nest, and the bees end up trapped in a 20-oz. plastic soda or water bottle. No bait or poison is needed.

"We put it up early last May and are amazed at how many bees we've been able to trap in just a few days, and they're still coming. Love this product."