

**Mark Johnson, Park Rapids, Minn.:** Mark's satisfied with his 2017 **Honda WX10T** water pump. "I use it to push water up 60 vertical ft. from a nearby lake to my lawn and trees. It starts and runs perfect, is fuel efficient, and easy to prime and pump. I'm impressed with the amount of water this little pump can move."

**Herman Borgelt, Ottawa, Ohio:** "It does a great job and leaves a fine seedbed," says Herman about his 2014 **Great Plains Turbomax 15-ft.** vertical tillage tool.

"My 2016 **Echo** chainsaw equipped with a 20-in. bar is a great saw. It always starts right up."

He likes his 1967 **Ford 4000** loader tractor equipped with a 3-cyl. gas engine, and says his 1941 **Massey Harris 101 Jr.** tractor equipped with a 4-cyl. Continental engine "runs like a top."

**Dennis Helmus, White Cloud, Mich.:** He's happy with his 2012 **Kubota L3650** 4-WD loader tractor equipped with an HST Plus shift-on-the-go transmission. "This tractor is the perfect size for woodlot management, and I really like being able to shift gears without stopping. I use the company's **FrostBite** grapple fork with the tractor to pick up brush and logs.

"I like the **Stihl 2-in.-1** filing guide system that I use to sharpen the chain on my **Stihl** chainsaw. The guide files the chain teeth and takes down rakers at the same time. It leaves the chain razor sharp."

**Clarence F. Wisenbaker, Humble, Texas:** "I own a 2000 **Ford Victoria** and recently discovered that to change a fitting that connects the heater hose to the intake manifold, you have to replace the entire manifold. Outrageous.

"I recently learned that to replace the transmission on new Ford pickups, you have to first remove the cab. I need a new 1-ton pickup, but it won't be a Ford."

**Doug Hochstedler, Wakarusa, Ind.:** "I like my **Porter Cable** 18-volt cordless tool set which includes a drill, sawzall, circular saw, and flashlight. All these tools are powerful and operate on long-lasting batteries. I also bought a **Porter Cable** screw gun that operates on 2 batteries. All these tools are quality built and reasonably priced."

**Paul W. Gates, Jr., Barney, Ga.:** "When the engine on my **TroyBilt** walk-behind rototiller finally wore out, I replaced it with a 6 1/2 hp. **Harbor Freight** Predator engine that cost only \$99. It always starts right up after just one or two pulls and works great. I also replaced the hard-to-start engine on my **TroyBilt** pressure washer with a Predator. I had to drill a couple of mounting holes for it, but now the pressure washer is easy to start even after sitting idle for months at a time. I only use non-ethanol gas in both engines."

**John Isgreen, Jr., Soda Springs, Calif.:** John says **Blue Devil Hydraulic Stop Leak**, which he bought at Napa Auto, is his "best buy" ([www.napaonline.com](http://www.napaonline.com); ph 800 538-6272). "The bucket cylinder on my **Deere 544D** front-end loader had a persistent seal leak, so about a year ago I added **Blue Devil** to the tractor's hydraulic system according to the instructions. I started using the loader,

**"Within 10 min. the leak sealed right up, as did a few other smaller leaks."**

and within 10 min. the leak sealed right up, as did a few other smaller leaks. Impressive."

**George Hammond, Pittsville, Md.:**

"I've harvested thousands of acres of corn and beans with my 1980 **AGCO** Gleaner M2 combine, yet over all those years it has needed only minor repairs."

**Lloyd Conover, Bedford, Ind.:** Lloyd likes his **Husqvarna** cordless 36-volt tools which include a chainsaw, weed eater, and leaf blower. "These tools all use the same interchangeable batteries which is really handy. At my advanced age I find it very difficult to rope-start gas-powered tools. With cordless tools I can just drop in the battery and flip the switch. Nothing could be easier."

**Daniel Considine, Rathdrum, Idaho:** "It eliminates deep bending when picking up firewood and makes moving, throwing or stacking it an easier job," says Daniel, who invented and sells the **Pinch A Log** firewood pickup tool ([www.northwindtools.com](http://www.northwindtools.com); ph 208 215-4090). The one-handed firewood gripper can handle wood from 6 to 26 in. and comes with a main carrying handle, a front "drive and release" handle, and 2 jaws. The carrying handle attaches to the main frame, which pivots to cause a closing action on the jaws.

"You can easily move most firewood with just one hand," says Considine.

**Eugene L. Olson, Lytle, Texas:** "I use my 2018 **Ryobi** 2,800 psi power washer to clean mildew and algae off sidewalks, to remove oil spots on my carport's floor, and to wash oil and dirt off the engines on my tractor and lawn mower. Easy to start and operate."

**Carl Tiede, Britton, Mich.:** "I've never had any problems with my **Case IH 7130** tractor."

**Chadwick Owen, Livermore, Ky.:** "In 1955, my dad bought a **Ford 601** tractor, which I've owned since 1980. This tractor was overhauled in 1973 and has required only routine maintenance since then. I use the tractor regularly with a bush hog and a grader blade, and also to do other chores. It's still going strong."

**H.B. Clemmons, Dexter, N. Mex.:** He's impressed with hand tools sold by **Harbor Freight**. "I work in a commercial irrigation

**"The quality of these tools has really improved."**

pump shop where I supply my own tools. I use Pittsburgh tools almost exclusively, and they've never failed me. The quality of these tools has really improved. Harbor Freight consumables such as cutting wheels, etc., cost far less than ones sold by welding shops."

**Jim Ross, Brockway, Penn.:** Jim likes the **BatteryMINDER Plus** 12-volt charger/maintainer/desulfator system he bought at Northern Tool ([www.northerntool.com](http://www.northerntool.com); ph 800 556-7885). "In the past, I've thrown away a lot of batteries because the battery plates sulfated both from use and from storage. This unit keeps batteries charged and desulfates them over the winter while my camper, boat, tractors and other equipment sit idle. I've had tractor batteries that were almost dead after 6 years of use, but the desulfator brought them back to life. The same thing happened with 2 camper batteries.

"Desulfation of a battery is a slow process, as it can take up to 60 days to bring a full-size battery back to like-new condition."



An electric winch on the front end is used to pull logs and also "unstuck" the tractor, if needed. A battery next to the winch gives it plenty of power.

## "Made It Myself" Best Buy Tractor

David Christensen originally built his chore tractor to haul wood but in the more than 25 years since, he has also used it with a rear-mount blade and a front-mount winch. He even used it to drill a well.

"I built it using components from an old Toyota," says Christensen. "I fabricated a frame with 2-in. sq. steel tubing and laddered it with 1-in. tubing."

He made the frame narrow to make working in the woods easier. That made it necessary to narrow the Toyota rear end to fit and to respline the axles to match up.

He mounted the 1600cc motor, 4-speed transmission, clutch plate cylinder, radiator, foot pedals and more on the new frame. However, to slow down the drive speed, he needed to do significant gear reduction.

"I mounted a jackshaft with large and small sprockets on pillow block bearings alongside the driveshaft," explains Christensen. "I cut the splined end off and welded a small sprocket on the driveshaft. I ran a roller chain from it to a large sprocket on the driveshaft stub coming out of the rear end."

The combination of small to large did what he had hoped. In first gear, the tractor moves slower than a walk. The driveshaft from the transmission extends through the first small sprocket to a freewheeling bearing on the large driveshaft mounted to the rear end. If either roller chain is disconnected, the rear end is completely freewheeling.

At the front end, Christensen fabricated a steering axle using bored out strut castings from the Toyota and king pins from a Ford. He machined new spindles. A pivot in the center lets the front end articulate side to side like a regular straight axle.

"I used the Toyota steering wheel and system under the dash," says Christensen. "I put a U-joint on the steering wheel shaft so the wheel can be tilted up for easier access."

Keeping the tractor simple, Christensen skipped any rear suspension, relying on monster mud tires to cushion the ride. In order to mount them, he had to drill out the centers of their wheels to match the Toyota hub. He also fabricated his own fuel tank, body metal and rims.



To slow down the tractor's drive speed, he mounted a jackshaft with large and small sprockets alongside the driveshaft.

Headlights came from an auto parts store, as did after market oil pressure, amp and temperature gauges.

There were some temporary modifications made when he used it to drill his well.

"I wanted to drill a sandpoint well in my pasture," recalls Christensen. "My brother got a boom truck from work, and we set up an old 75-ft. tall windmill tower and hung a pulley in the top. I drilled the first bit and then put a weight on the sandpoint and ran a rope from it through the pulley to my tractor."

To get the repetitive motion necessary to drive the sandpoint, Christensen anchored his tractor and raised the rear end just off the ground. He dug a hole next to the wheel and fastened a plank to extend about 3 ft. beyond the wheel.

"We attached the rope to the plank and started the wheel moving," recalls Christensen. "Every time the plank went around, it raised the weighted sandpoint and dropped it back down into the hole. Every time we drove it 8 ft., we would add a coupling and a length of pipe and repeat the process."

Before long, the two had driven the sandpoint 30 ft. into the ground. With the help of an old Red Jacket pump Christensen rebuilt, water flowed into a stock tank with overrun into a pond.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Christensen, 6652 Eagle Lake Dr., Maple Grove, Minn. 55369 (ph 763 537-8487; [djc2@usfamily.net](mailto:djc2@usfamily.net)).