

Continued from previous page

tractor, both the pto and high-low clutch needed repair work so I rebuilt them. The pto now works fine, but the clutch still slips whenever the hydraulic oil is warm.”

Charlie Brown, Port Orchard, Wash.: “My **Bad Boy** zero-turn riding mower is easy to operate and does a great job. Works much better than our old Sears mower.”

Robert Moulder, Cheboygan, Mich.: Robert’s “worst buy ever” is his 2013 **Mahindra** 2525 4-WD tractor, which he bought used in 2016 with 370 hrs. on it. “In 2017 at 525 hrs. the fuel injector pump failed. My mechanic went online and found this tractor has a history of fuel injector problems, and that my pump couldn’t be repaired or even replaced with an American-made one. As a result I had to spend \$1,800 for a new pump, plus labor, at a total cost of more than \$2,400. The pump’s 90-day warranty had expired so the company wouldn’t help.

“The next year at 684 hrs., the new pump failed and the company sent another one, but right out of the box it didn’t work so I returned it and they sent another pump which does work. However, I had to pay for the shipping.

“I went back to the dealer who sold me the tractor and told him about all these problems. I was sure he would tell me he didn’t want my tractor back on his lot again, but he didn’t. Instead, he made me a very fair offer on a trade-in and I got a used Deere tractor with fewer than 300 hrs. on it.”

“In 1,700 hrs., all I’ve had to do is replace one hydraulic hose.”

Bruce Sly, Bagley, Minn.: “It has excellent power, always starts right up, and is easy on fuel,” says Bruce about his 2002 **Kubota** M6800 front-wheel assist loader tractor. “In 1,700 hrs. all I’ve had to do is replace one hydraulic hose. I use this tractor to do some farming, brush cutting, and logging work since we heat our home with wood. It still has the original battery.”

Lyndon Miller, Shipshewana, Ind.: “I couldn’t get my Lincoln 180 welder to do a good job, so at my uncle’s suggestion I bought a new **Millermatic** 211 MIG welder. I liked it so much that I ended up trading the Lincoln for another used Millermatic 211.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 2017 **Troy-Bilt** rear tine tiller. “After we bought a new place we needed a rototiller for our garden, so I paid \$700 for this reverse tine tiller. However, it didn’t work well in our sandy soil as I had to push the tiller forward just to keep it from getting stuck. I ended up selling it a year later for \$150.”

Bob Schmidt, Holdingford, Minn.: A cow-calf operator, Bob is pleased with his 1994 **New Holland** 783 skid loader. “I wanted a skid loader to make my work easier, and chose this model because of its long wheelbase and high lift boom. It’s a really tough machine with about 5,300 hrs. on it, but has been back to the dealer only once because of a hydraulic leak. I can use it with 11 different attachments.

“Three years ago I bought five 24-ft. long, free-standing steel corral panels made by **Double J Mfg.** (www.doublejmfmg.com; ph 701 485-3511). These panels are built from 2 7/8-in. pipe and 1-in. sucker rod, and are built so tough that I can use them with my skid loader to construct handling facilities and also take them down without damaging anything. I’ve since bought 2 more 24-ft.

panels as well as four 25-ft. windbreak panels. I set up the windbreak panels in my winter feeding pasture and use my skid loader to move them occasionally to spread out the manure, without ever having to get off the machine. My skid loader and these panels make a great team.”

Paul Wielfaert, Britton, Mich.: “I bought my 2017 **Deere** S680 combine and 640 D draper platform to replace a Deere 9660 combine and 35-ft. platform. The result has been a significant improvement in capacity and grain quality. The technology upgrades on this combine have also helped improve our crop yield mapping ability.”

He’s disappointed with the **Firestone** tires on the combine. “After harvesting 1,500 acres of corn, the cords on the combine’s rear tires were already showing. However, the company said the wear wasn’t bad enough to justify replacing the tires so we kept using them. Fortunately, our tire dealer stepped in and made things right.

“The **Lankota** stalk stompers we use on this combine work great and are easy to install and adjust (www.lankota.com; ph 866 526-5682).”

Mark Moltzen, Chippewa Falls, Wis.: “I use my **Polaris** General 4 utility vehicle every day for work or play. The **Boss** snow blade I installed on it also works great (www.bosspow.com).”

Joe M. Yoder, J.M. Sales and Service, Wilton, Wis.: “I’m a small engine mechanic, and the most troublesome engines that come to my shop for repairs are **Harbor Freight** Predator engines. By the time they need to be repaired, components such as the gas tank and air cleaner are either cracked or broken and replacing them gets expensive. These engines perform well and are relatively cheap to buy. But financially, you’re better off not taking them in for repair work. Just buy a new engine and keep the old one for parts.”



Levi Fisher, Narvon, Penn.: “I really like the **Ultimate EZ Milker** (www.udderlyez.com) from EZ Animal Products. I have 2 Jersey cows for milk for the family. The Ultimate EZ Milker sure beat milking by hand.

“Due to health problems, I couldn’t use the hand-powered milker, so I started with the powered milker with bottles. When the company came out with the 2 1/2-gal. bucket, I made the transition.

“The bucket is faster as you don’t have to worry about the bottles filling and having to empty them into a jug.

“When the company came out with the EZ Power Pak, I got that too. It lets me use a cordless tool battery to power the milker. It makes the milker completely portable. We can milk in different parts of the barn or even take it to the pasture if we want.

“My wife and I wanted milk cows for the children’s sake so they could learn about animals. They bring them in, muck out the stall each day, and take extra milk to the calves. With the Ultimate EZ Milker, they can fill in if I can’t milk. It’s easy for my wife to use as well.”

Justin Meduri, Jefferson, Ore.: “I’ve tried every kind of pest bird abatement, and nothing works as well as the **AgriLaser Autonomic**. I have 9 units covering 170 acres of blueberries plus a high-density pie cherry orchard. It is 100 percent effective.

“Effectiveness is important because a flock of starlings can devastate blueberries. A big

Shotgun Adapters Shoot Other Calibers

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Three years ago I interviewed Ray Banister about adapters for shotguns that let you shoot other calibers (Vol. 40, Issue 3). With various inserts, a shotgun can shoot a .22, 9 mm, 45 Colt, 410, or .38 special ammunition.

I decided to test out the .38 special adapter and ordered the 8-in. rifled Pathfinder model from Gun Adapters in Miles City, Mont. The adapter is heavy and well made with 2 O-rings. It slips easily into a 12-gauge shotgun barrel, and the .38 special bullets load and eject like a shotgun shell.

Though I didn’t have a shotgun with a scope, I was able to consistently hit the target. I didn’t try a 100-yard shot because I didn’t have a scope. But I’m confident that shots would have been accurate - definitely more accurate than when shooting a pistol. There was no kick, and the shotgun with the adapter also seemed a little quieter than a pistol.

The adapter worked as promised and it seems to be a great way for a person on a limited budget to expand caliber options. For



Rifled adapters that fit into shotgun barrels make it possible to shoot smaller caliber ammo with the same gun.

the best accuracy, it would be helpful to have a shotgun with rails to mount a scope.

Less expensive rifled adapters start around \$40, but they are shorter (3-in.) and less accurate. Smooth bore versions start at \$25.

All the adapters are small enough to carry when hunting with a shotgun so you can be ready for a variety of game.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gun Adapters, 506 Ponderosa Dr., Miles City, Mont. 59301 (ph 406 234-4878; www.gunadapters.com).



growing can lose a quarter million pounds very easily. Any farmer who grows berries will tell you how bad it can be.

“I’ve used falcons and they work very well. I have a lot of respect for what they do, but their cost margin has gone up. For my operation, it isn’t feasible anymore.

“The **AgriLaser** is also very reliable. I can program it exactly as I want. The laser produces erratic patterns using light and color that the birds can’t get used to.

“It’s also very cost effective. The return on investment the first year covers a good percentage of the initial cost, and operating costs are minimal.

“I like things that work, and **AgriLaser** is bulletproof. It can take the rigors of farming. If there is a problem, the company has an amazing sales force to help with troubleshooting.

“Environmental concerns are important in our industry, and as far as biodynamics, this technology is a more gentle approach. It redirects birds for the short window when we need to protect the commodity.”



Fred Burchett, Winchester, Ky.: Fred likes **Stopngo** tubeless tire pluggers (www.stopngo.com; ph 800 747-0238). It’s a spring-loaded gun that “drives” the plug into the hole, and the shaft of the plug then expands under pressure to fill the puncture. “It allows for ‘on the wheel’ repair to virtually any tubeless tire, sealing the puncture from

the inside,” says Fred. “I’ve used it on 2 different tires, with no leaks so far.”

Jim and Nancy Gillaspay, Everton, Mo.: “Our 2012 **Mahindra** 8560 loader tractor has unbelievably good hydraulics. We use bale spikes and a grapple fork with the loader and they’re easy to attach. The tractor’s shuttle shift transmission makes it easy to shift to forward or reverse.”

Mark Vroman, Saint Onge, S. Dak.: “My 2011 **JCB** 225 skid loader has adequate power and good weight distribution, and I like being able to hook up and release attachments with just the push of a button (www.jcbequip.com). But the best part is there’s a boom arm on the right side of the machine only, and a huge door on the left side. No matter where the bucket level is I can get out safely with just one step to the ground, without having to climb over anything.”

Mark Rohrbacher, Turner, Oregon: “My **Cyclone Rake** leaf vacuum is well-designed. I particularly like that it comes with a great owner’s manual (www.cyclonerake.com; ph 888 531-7253). It has a canvas-covered hopper on an aluminum strut frame that mounts on a 2-caster wheeled trailer. Works as good as advertised.

“My consumer model **Greenworks** cordless pole saw uses way too much bar oil. Even worse, after just a few hours of use the sprocket bearing gets so worn that the chain will come off the bar. The company sent 3 new saws over a period of several months, but all had the same problem.”

Albert Hempel, Eldridge, Mo.: “My 2016 **Tajfun** 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven logging winch works great (www.tajfun.com; ph



360 224-1589). I looked at other brands first, but this one has more steel and better workmanship yet is competitively priced. It can bring in a much bigger load than my 70 hp., 4-WD tractor can pull, and it has 240-ft. of cable so I can use it in some pretty hard-to-reach places. It even works good for pulling out stuck equipment.”

Greg Kropf, Westphalia, Kansas: Greg says his 2018 **Kubota** SSV65 skid loader has great hydraulics and power and is easy to