

bought two of these gates to use at the end of my exit alleys, and they work exactly as advertised. The gate always stays open for cows that are coming out, but closes if they try to go the wrong way out the exit alley. It comes with curved metal fingers for cow safety. The gate is built heavy and can be made to any length to fit your facility."

Doug Schultz, Nicollet, Minn.: Doug nominates his 1994 **Ford New Holland** 8670 Genesis series tractor as his "best buy". "It's the most user friendly tractor I've ever owned. It's equipped with a SuperSteer front wheel drive axle that lets me make tight turns without having to use the brakes. The 2-door cab is large and comfortable, and the 3-pt. hitch on back is the best in its class. This is a fuel efficient and dependable tractor."

Kenneth Kirby, Albany, Ohio: Ken's impressed with **Arnicare** topical gel designed to relieve joint pain, swelling, stiffness and bruising (www.arnicare.com). "After suffering from tendonitis in my knee joints I was barely able to stand for several days. Then a friend recommended Arnicare gel, and after just one application my pain was gone after only about 90 min. I can't believe how well it works. It's the best \$8 I've ever spent."

R. Nelson, Rankin, Ill.: "I'm a forklift operator and safety council member at Rantoul Foods, where we process more than 6,000 hogs per day. The slick floors caused by blood, water and ice represent a serious safety concern, and my forklift often can't get enough traction to carry loads up metal ramps onto trailers.

"**Shurfoot** non-slip floor absorbent has virtually eliminated slick floor problems. It's sold in 50-lb. bags or 48-lb. boxes. It also works good for absorbing any oil on the floor in our maintenance bay (www.shurfoot.net; ph 785 484-3342)."

Alton Eliason, Northford, Conn.: "The COB-LED collapsible lantern from WCI, Inc. is the most amazing little lantern on the market. I ordered mine after our power went out one evening.



"My wife and I were watching TV when the power went out, leaving us in total darkness. With both of us over 100 years of age and living on our own, I experienced panic as never before in my life. We had no source of light within reach. Luckily the power came back on in a few minutes.

"The next day I found the collapsible lantern online and ordered one from Sporty's Tool Shop. When open, it is about 7 1/2 in. high, 4 in. dia., and provides about 600 lumens. When collapsed the height drops to about 5 in. To turn it on, you just pull on the handles, which you can use to carry it or hang it in place.

"A few nights after we got one (\$9.95 plus S&H), the power went out again. I reached down for the lantern and pulled the top up, flooding the room with light.

"We now keep one by the couch in our living room and one by our bed. I like the little lantern so much that I've ordered more. I give them out to friends and relatives. I even sent 2 to FARM SHOW. I tell people it is my parting gift. At my age, it may be."

David Garber, Salem, Ind.: David's

impressed with his 2013 **Scag V Ride** stand-on lawn mower (www.scag.com). "I bought this mower as a demonstration model with 85 hrs. on it. It's simple and easy to operate and cuts an hour off my mowing time. I think it's the best mower on the market.

"I think **BCS America** makes the best rototiller (www.bcsamerica.com; ph 800 543-1040)."

Jim Fagerness, Lake Mills, Iowa: Jim owns a 2004 **Buick LeSabre Limited** that he bought used with about 65,000 miles, and it recently turned over 200,000 miles. "There are a lot of LeSabres still around northern Iowa and southern Minnesota, and during the winter I see a lot of them in south Texas. Our car has the original alternator, starter, water pump, and muffler. Most of our driving is on the highway so there's little chance of the car rusting out. We've had to replace only the tires and batteries. It uses a quart of oil between oil changes.

"In 2009 I bought a used 1990 **Murray** riding mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton 12-hp. industrial engine and 38-in. deck. It has required only routine maintenance. I change the oil twice a year.

"In 2008 I bought a used 2002 **Saturn** SL2 with about 83,000 miles, and now it has about 179,000 miles. It got a new water pump and serpentine belt at 95,000 miles, and a transmission flush at 95,000 miles and 159,000 miles since I tow it behind new Winnebago motorhomes that I deliver around the U.S. to their dealers. The car still has the original exhaust and muffler and uses a quart of oil between oil changes.

"I bought two automatic battery maintainers at **Harbor Freight** for \$4.99 apiece. I use one on my riding mower and the other on the Saturn, since both machines sit in the garage all winter long while we're in Texas. They work well."

Ivan Reiff, Leola, Penn.: "My 1995 **Kubota L3450 4-WD** tractor has a snappy engine and pulls like a horse."

Mary Macek, Taylorville, Ill.: "My 2015 **Kotula's** rolling garden seat has allowed me to do garden work again (www.kotulas.com; ph 800 685-4845). You sit on an old-fashioned tractor-style seat that's adjustable up to 18 in. high and swivels in any direction. It rides on four 10-in. pneumatic tires and has a short handle on front to steer. The front wheels also swivel. It's rated for 300 lbs. which is much more than I weigh, but after only a couple months of use the weld that attached the seat to the adjusting screw failed. Fortunately, a local welder was able to repair it better than ever."

Harley Willett, Dallas, Texas: "My fuel dealer has been making ethanol-free gas available to commercial customers for the last 2 years. I think that gas without ethanol is the only way to go. Small engines and 2-cycle products love it. It helps prevent fuel system problems and keeps well. Some customers are seeing a 10 to 15 percent improvement in fuel efficiency in their vehicles.

"One month after I bought my 2017 **Ford F-150** pickup we were caught in a heavy rain. Water leaked through the cowl and soaked the body control module inside the cab,

"Water leaked through the cowl and soaked the body control module inside the cab."

causing everything electrical to immediately shut down. My pickup sat at the dealer for 1 1/2 weeks waiting for parts. Fortunately, the repair cost was covered by the warranty."

Kits Return Cab To "Like New"

Denny Skaro, Dennison, Minn.: "The cab interior on our 30-year-old Allis was in really tough shape and the duct tape wasn't holding the seams anymore, so I bought a new cab liner kit from **Fehr Cab Interiors** (www.fehrcab.com; ph 815 692-3355). The kit had every part cut to fit and included the adhesive to hold it in place. The toughest part of the work was removing all of the old vinyl and foam insulation, which was glued to the metal walls. I wore a mask because of the dust and used a steel brush to clean the walls. After I vacuumed up all the crumbs the new pieces fit in exactly as shown on the directions. The headliner also fit really well, with holes already cut for the radio and speakers. When I was done the cab looked like it was brand new!"

Skaro also replaced the cab interior on a neighbor's 1970's model **Deere 4230**, which still had the original liner. "The vinyl covering was coming apart in several places and the foam was rotten, so it came out real easy. The new pieces from Fehr fit



right in without a problem. It's amazing how much quieter the cab is with the new liner installed," Skaro says.

Adam Fehr, manager of **Fehr Cab Interiors**, says their company has been building replacement interiors since 1988. They started by re-upholstering cabs for area farmers, then expanded to pre-cut kits with parts made from OEM templates. Now the company sells "Anyone Can Install It Kits" that fit that name to a tee. They also offer pre-cut floor mats, cab door and window seal kits, and custom-cut parts. Fehr says their products are available for sprayers, windrowers, combines, construction equipment and "just about anything with a cab".

Carmen Sowers, Murdock, Kan.: "I'm writing in response to Russell Smith of Waco, Texas (Vol. 41, No. 5) who nominated his 2016 **Amana** high efficiency washing machine as a 'worst buy'. I have a **Whirlpool** energy efficient washing machine and, like his, it won't clean dirty clothes either. I can only wash two of my husband's jeans at a time. If they have any noticeable dirt or grease on them, I have to scrub those areas with **Fels Naptha** soap before putting them in the machine. I also use the hottest water setting, highest soil level setting, presoak setting, deep water setting, and extra rinse settings on the machine.

"To do a good job I have to keep the loads small. Of course, the extra usage means the machine probably isn't all that energy efficient any more. I'm beginning to wonder if there's a washing machine out there any more that can do a good job cleaning dirty clothes."

Homer Riffey, Garnett, Kan.: "I like my 2015 **Black & Decker** 20-volt MAX Lithium string trimmer/edger. It isn't a heavy-duty trimmer, but it does a good job.

"Our 2012 **Country Clipper** Jazee Pro SR350 zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 48-in. deck has required only routine maintenance."

Leete Etheridge, Columbus, Texas: "The pto clutch on my 2007 **Deere 5403** loader tractor failed about 100 hrs. after I bought the machine. I had the clutch fixed, but less than 200 hrs. later the same thing happened again. The engine started leaking coolant and the transmission and 3-cyl. engine started sounding bad, so I traded the machine under warranty."

Richard Durham, Geddes, S. Dak.: "The **Yardsport** 2-WD gas-powered utility vehicle I bought at Menards 8 years ago has been trouble-free. So has the 2000 **GM 2500** pickup I bought used 14 years ago."

Walter Benning, Dillsboro, Ind.: "I had to get an overgrown 110-ft. long hedge under control so I bought a new **Black & Decker** electric hedge trimmer. After only about 5 ft. of trimming the plastic gears on it stripped. I sent the trimmer back to the company and after several months received a new model with metal gears. Unfortunately, I was able to cut only a few more feet of hedge before the motor burned up.

"So I went to Harbor Freight and bought a **Portland** 22-in. electric hedge trimmer and finished the job. I paid only \$32 with coupon,

which was less than half the price of the **Black & Decker** trimmer. I was able to trim back into 5/8-in. dia. branches with no problem. My hedge looks good again."

Gary Schomburg, Aledo, R.I.: "In 2000 we bought a **Simonton** sliding door that leads outside to our deck (www.simonton.com; ph 800 746-6686). About 10 years ago moisture developed between the door's layers of glass. After we made one phone call to the company a new replacement glass arrived at no charge, even for shipping. Then last year the outside sliding screen on the door quit working and the company came through again. We're very impressed.

"I'm frustrated with all the gas cans equipped with government-mandated spouts. They don't work, they spill more, and they're unhandy. Is there a gas can spout that works every time to fill small engines?"

Dave Adams, Kellerton, Iowa: "Over time cattle work loose and often break fences. **Reel-Tite** fence tighteners make mending the fences a simple and fast job (www.reeltite.com; ph 844 863-5475). They install on the fence wire and work like ratchets to tighten it up. You leave them in place until the wire again needs tightening."

On the "worst buy" side, "We really like our 2014 **Case IH** Farmall 115 tractor, but it has had electrical problems. It would blow a fuse when we tried to start it. The dealer fixed that problem, but he couldn't solve a 'low battery code' problem even though he installed a new alternator. Now the tractor is out of warranty and it still has the problem. I wish tractor manufacturers would release the schematics that we need to do our own trouble shooting."

Kenneth Preston, Wheatland, Ind.: A 2005 **Hustler** Fastrak zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 20-hp. Honda engine rates as Kenneth's "best buy". "I sharpen the blades and also change the oil and filter twice a year. That's it. No problems. I did install a new battery last year. It does a good job of mowing and is easy to operate."

Richard Debenbusch, Zenda, Kan.: "I like my **3M** WorkTunes wireless hearing protector with Bluetooth technology and AM/FM digital radio (www.3m.com). The radio works even inside steel buildings and tractor cabs and on riding mowers. It's an excellent radio."