

roller handle, and use it almost every day to pull items back to the tailgate area. It saves climbing into the bed and is also handy to lock items in place. Works great to clean up the bed after hauling mulch.”

**Darren Keppy, Walcott, Iowa:** He likes his **Micro Mouse** trap ([www.micro-mousetrap.com](http://www.micro-mousetrap.com); ph 563 505-7740). The trap comes with either a power module or a battery pack. The mouse breaks an invisible beam of light when it enters to check out the bait, and then a microprocessor acting on a solenoid trips the trap. According to the company, the trap can even catch mice that are too small to trip a conventional snap trap.

“This trap is easy to set up and empty out. I bought it at a local hardware store, but it’s also available on Amazon and on the company website,” says Darren.

**Eugene Edelman, Sabetha, Kan.:** “In 2017 I bought a used 2006 **Subaru** 4-WD Outback SUV with about 70,000 miles. I use it as a farm ‘runabout’ but also to go on long trips. With 4-WD it goes right through mud. I love it.”

**Lee Gardner, Hartsville, S.C.:** “I tried using **Flex Seal** spray on my house gutters to keep them from leaking, but it turned out to be a total waste of money and effort. I thoroughly cleaned the gutter joints, and applied the product in multiple layers according to the directions. However, it didn’t help at all.”

**Garry Philips, Stockport, Iowa:** “The 1968 **Deere** 4020 diesel tractor I bought used in 1980 has been trouble-free.”

**Edward Foster, Richmond, Texas:** He’s impressed with **DeoxIT** aerosol contact cleaner from GC Electronics ([www.oaktreeproducts.com](http://www.oaktreeproducts.com); ph 636 530-1664). The oil-based aerosol lubricates and protects against corrosion on metal connectors, contacts, and other metal surfaces.

“I use a variety of trailers, and often I couldn’t figure out why the trailer lights didn’t work,” says Edward. “This product does a good job of cleaning up corrosion on electrical contacts, and now it’s the first thing I use whenever anything electrical ‘goes on the blink’. DeoxIT works.”

**Andy Nelson, Cut Bank, Mont.:** He’s had problems with the Integrated Wheel End (IWE) system on his 2014 **Ford** F-150 4-WD pickup. The IWE system is designed to lock and unlock the front hubs when the driver changes back and forth between 2-WD and 4-WD.

“However, if there is the slightest leak in the IWE system there’s not enough vacuum to fully disengage the 4-WD. That results in the actuator gears stripping, and then the hubs won’t disengage or engage properly. It’s a very bad system,” says Andy. “The company offers a kit to fix the problem but it costs \$150. My advice is, don’t buy a Ford pickup equipped with the IWE system.”

**Tim Affield, Marengo, Ill.:** “We’ve put about 332,000 miles on our 2005 **Honda** Accord equipped with a 4-cyl. engine, and the only major component we’ve replaced is the starter. The car has no rust and still runs like new. Unreal.”

“My 2000 **Chevrolet** 3500 1-ton pickup equipped with a Monroe hoist flatbed was a nightmare to operate. We had problems with the fuel pump, starter, alternator, and fuel tank. If I could go a week without this pickup leaving me stranded on the road, I was happy. Within 5 years, the bed literally crumbled away due to rust.”

**John Lee Downey, Pikeville, Tenn.:** “I bought a used 2002 **Dodge** 1500 pickup equipped with a 4.7-liter engine with about 140,000 miles on it. My granddaughter used

the pickup to drive to school and to her place of work. No major problems until at about 240,000 miles when the engine failed. I replaced it with a **Jasper** rebuilt engine ([www.jasperengines.com](http://www.jasperengines.com); ph 855 795-3464). My granddaughter loved this pickup and now that I have it back, so do I.”

**Stephen Zonies, Waitsfield, Vt.:** “I nominate my **Sears** Kenmore top-loading washing machine as my worst buy in over 60 years. From day one this machine didn’t work right. I’m not an engineer, but I do know that clothes have to be wet in order to be washed clean.

“After two visits from repair technicians the machine still didn’t work right, so I rolled



it away and started using our old model again. Because I was so busy in those days, I didn’t have time to sit and wait for more technicians to show up. By the time they did make another call, the washing machine’s warranty had expired. So I loaded it up in my pickup and placed a sign on it voicing my displeasure, and then took photos of the pickup parked in front of several local big box stores. I even sent the photos to corporate headquarters and explained my problem in a letter, but the company did nothing to help.

“I then tried to give this shiny, brand spanking new machine to a local charity, informing them of the machine’s needed repairs, but they wouldn’t accept it. So I delivered the machine to our local salvage yard and watched their huge claw-type crane grab, crush, and toss it onto a pile of rusty junk. Good riddance.”

## “This tractor has way more power than the 340 hp. advertised.”

**James Rundus, Munden, Kan.:** James likes his 2011 **Versatile** 340 tractor. “This tractor has way more power than the 340 hp. advertised. I pull a 60 ft. seeder with ease. I love the 12-speed transmission and the Cummins engine is really fuel-efficient. It handles my 49-ft. Fallow Master well.

“However, I’ve been disappointed with parts of my 2015 **Orthman** Fallow Master. I’ve always owned Flex-King Quinstar implements but since Orthman took over Quinstar tillage products, the quality doesn’t seem as good. The picker wheels on the treader seem like they were hardened too much. Just one rock or anything will break

## Broken Cast Iron Radiator Welded Back Together

“I accidentally dropped the cast iron radiator tank for an old tractor I’m restoring on the cement floor of my shop, and a piece of the casting broke off. It was a bad break, because one side of the piece that broke off is a gasketed surface, and therefore any repair had to be clean enough to keep the radiator from leaking at the gasket. Also, the break was complicated by the fact that it went through one of the holes for the bolts that secure the tank to the radiator frame and compresses the gasket,” says John Ottem, Broomfield, Colo.

“Due to these complications, when I first saw the break I thought I might just as well start searching the Internet to find another tank. However, I remembered reading an article in FARM SHOW about **Magna 770** rod for welding cast iron ([www.breckocorp.com](http://www.breckocorp.com); ph 800 720-2887), so I contacted a professional welder and sent him photos of the broken pieces, as well as information about this new kind of rod. He wasn’t sure he could successfully weld the pieces together, but said he would like to try out the new rod.

“I called the company and ordered five rods. A couple of weeks later, the welder returned the tank with the weld completed. I was able to grind the weld down to match the flat gasket surface and drill the weld out of the hole with very little effort. I then clamped the tank to the radiator frame and filled the radiator with water. No leaks, so I’m a believer in the Magna 770 rod.

“As stated in the article, Magna 770 rod isn’t cheap. I spent \$50 for five rods. However, based on problems with broken cast iron I’ve experienced in the past, with welds that usually don’t hold, this seems to be a big breakthrough. I spoke with Jimmy Morris at Brecko when ordering the welding



John Ottem had a professional weld this broken cast iron radiator back together, using Magna 770 rod for welding cast iron. He then drilled a hole through the weld.



rods and he was very helpful, offering a lot of advice for preparing the surfaces and completing the weld.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Ottem, 1016 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Circle, Broomfield, Colo. 80020 (ph 303 882-9622; [jottem@q.com](mailto:jottem@q.com)).

teeth. I replaced the broken treader teeth with teeth from Western Tillage of Hayes, Kan. The bearings also seem poor. I have two 49-ft. machines. My older one has a harrow instead of a treader. I prefer the treader.”

**Tim Harbaugh, Jonesboro, Texas:** “My 2018 **John Deere** 3025E tractor has performed without any problems or issues. Plenty of power and it has a nice loader.”

**Wayne Miller, Readlyn, Iowa:** Wayne has a 2018 **Hustler** 52-in. ZTR with a 23-hp. Kawasaki motor. “This mower is built solid and does a smooth job of mowing with plenty of power. We’ve mowed for 1 1/2 hrs. every week for two summers and no problems or complaints.”

**Dave Koenegestein, Walnut Hill, Ill.:** Dave likes his 2018 **Kubota** RTV 1000. “It can carry wood up to the roof with no effort in 2 or 4-wheel drive with the heat or air on. It makes no difference if I have to climb a hill with the unit loaded. You can also use it to pull a rake when cutting hay.”

**John Demaree, Merlin, Ore.:** John likes his **Rigid** 18-volt Stealth Force Brushless hammer drill and 1/2-in. drill combo. “It came with 2 batteries, charger, carry case, and lifetime warranty. About a week after I purchased it, the charger stopped working. I called Rigid and they sent me a new one at no charge. I got it within a week and did not have to send the old one back.”

**Lloyd Nanney, Union Mills, N.C.:** “My best buy pickup is a 2003 **Dodge** dually with 77,000 miles, bought new. It came with 14 free oil changes and it’s only been back to the dealer once to repair a loose fuel line. We live on the edge of the mountains. I regularly tow

20,000 lbs. up the mountain with no problem.

“My 2017 **Honda** Ridgeline pickup has been trouble-free, rides like a car, and has a good interior. Not the biggest or heaviest truck, but it does what it’s supposed to.

“I had trouble from day one with my 2016 **Chevy** Colorado pickup. The AC compressor locked up at 800 miles and was in the shop for 3 days. The repair lasted 5 miles. The glue-on trim refused to stay on. The 4-WD would not disengage properly. I traded it in at 2,300 miles.”

**Ronald Baker, Lancaster, S.C.:** Ronald’s best buy is a 13-hp. **Harbor Freight** horizontal shaft engine. “I repowered a Simplicity Powermax tractor that originally had an Onan 19 1/2-hp. engine. The Harbor Freight engine had to be inverted to allow the pulleys to turn in the right direction. Once I was able to get everything lined up, it performed great. It has plenty of power for hydraulics.”

**Ward Conger, Ellensburg, Wash.:** “My 2017 **Ford** F-150 with V-6 and 10-speed runs well and is quiet and comfortable for longer trips. It can tow about 10,000 lbs.

“I have a couple of **Homelite** machines, a chainsaw super XL and a rototiller. They’re both over 40 years old but still useful. Parts are available on the internet if you are persistent.”

**Jake Meyer, Loganville, Wis.:** “My 2005 **New Holland** TC-40 is a handy little tractor. It’s small enough to fit in tight spots but also has good power. It’s equipped with 3-pt. loader, 4-WD, and dual hydraulics.

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