

J-hook bee hive tool I bought from **Dadant's Beekeeping Supply** has a much improved design over traditional hive tools (ph 217 847-3324; www.dadant.com). The J-hook end of the tool is handy for lifting out frames for hive inspection, and the tool is reasonably priced at about \$10."

He's disappointed with his **Stihl 170** chainsaw. "This saw might work alright for someone who uses it only once or twice a year, but I found it won't hold up to even moderate use. Older Stihl saws were some of the best ever made, though."

Ray Hochstetler, Middlefield, Ohio: "I like my 2019 **Maxx D 5** by 10-ft. dump trailer (ph 844 416-2993; www.maxxdtrailer.com). Even with heavy loads of gravel the hydraulics have no problem lifting the bed. This trailer is built like a tank. Other trailers on the market may cost less, but I'm glad I bought this one."

Ralph Decker, Delton, Mich.: "I own several **Milwaukee 18-volt** cordless tools including a string trimmer, leaf blower, and 1/2-in. drive impact wrench, and they all work excellent. The impact wrench works so well that I don't even use my air impact wrench anymore. In fact, these cordless tools have replaced almost all my air-powered tools."

Mike Stauffer, Leonardtown, Md.: Mike uses **Acti Joint** supplement from Swanson Health Products to help with his knee problems (www.swansonvitamins.com; ph 800 437-4148). "I had surgery 18 mos. apart on both knees for torn meniscus, and was told by the surgeon that I would need knee replacements. I wanted to avoid knee replacements so I started searching for a supplement that has the combination of Glucosamine, Chondroitin, and Hyaluronic acid, a combination that works well with horses. I started using Acti Joint 15 years ago after the second surgery, and to this day I rarely have any knee pain. And I haven't had any knee replacements."

Al Bartel, Hinckley, Minn.: "I bought a used **Belarus 525** front wheel assist tractor which I really like. It's built like an AK-47 assault rifle - simple, crude and effective. It's easy to work on and has a simple design. No problems."

John Daugherty, Gray, Ga.: John likes his 2018 **Hoss Tools 8-mil** drip tape irrigation kit (www.hosstools.com; ph 888 672-5536). "I had trouble watering my garden uniformly. With this kit I can just turn on the faucet, then come back later and turn it off when my cell phone alarm goes off. The drip tape places the water where I want it - on the ground and not on the plant leaves. It saves water and also helps reduce plant disease."

"I also bought a wheel hoe and some hand tools from the company. Their tools are a little more expensive, but they're built to last and you get what you pay for. Hoss Tools makes the kind of stuff you can some day hand down to your kids."

Larry Stalter, Woodland, Mich.: "In 1995 I bought a used **Deere 425** riding mower with 167 hrs. on it. I traded in my **Deere 318** riding mower but kept the snowplow that I had used with it. The snowplow's frame didn't fit the new machine, so I made an adapter bracket for it. I also added a shut-off valve so I can operate both the snowplow and the mower deck without having to take either one off. This mower has more than 4,000 hrs. on it now but is still going strong."

Donald L. Chapman, Billings, Mo.: "In 2007 I bought a used 2004 **Farm Pro 2420** tractor, which performed well at first. However, before long the lights, hour meter, and other stuff on the dash quit working, and the fuel injectors also failed. After the

injectors were repaired, I was using the tractor one day to operate a brush cutter. I got off the tractor to eat lunch, and it wouldn't start when I got back on and it never ran again. I tried a lot of different things to get it running, but nothing helped. I finally got rid of it."

Wesley J. Bradley, Thornton, W. Va.: "My worst buy in 80 years of farming is my **New Holland BR740** round baler. A bearing gave out, and I found that in order to replace it I would have to buy an entire new assembly for \$600. Also, the company changes part numbers without notifying the dealer, and if the wrong part comes in to the dealer the company doesn't want to take it back. I think the company's customer service department needs an overhaul."

"I've had nothing but trouble with my **Stihl MS 180c** chainsaw. After I used the saw a little, some parts of the oiler fell out. However, I own 2 other Stihl chainsaws that do run good."

Robert Burns, Center Point, Iowa: "We had a 2018 **Fujitsu** mini-split heating and cooling system installed in November 2018, in a living room addition that formerly served as a 2-stall attached garage (www.fujitsugeneral.com; ph 888 888-3424). The system has heated and cooled without fail in bitterly cold weather and in extreme heat. I'm very happy with its performance. It's quiet, too."

On the minus side, "My **Cub Cadet RZT S** zero-turn riding mower, equipped with 4-wheel steering and a 23-hp. engine, gets stuck while driving up the slightest incline. Once that happens I have to push the mower by hand onto flat ground so that I can get it moving it again. Also, whenever I turn too far the mower stops moving completely. Another problem is that every time I back up the blades stop, and then I have to turn off the pto and then re-engage it or else the blades won't start turning again. This year I was able to drive the machine for only about 2 min. before it got stuck, right in my front yard. It's for sale now."

Jerry Demuth, Charlotte, Mich.: "My 1969 **Massey Ferguson 135** tractor always starts and still doesn't leak anything anywhere. It's very dependable."

Kenneth Harrison, Schellsburg, Penn.: "I own a dump trailer that was built from the back half of a Ford F-350 dump truck. The hoist cylinder on it always leaked oil. But after I added **Seal Lube 12** to 18 mos. ago the leaking stopped and I haven't had to add any oil since then. A great product."

Braun Farms, Saline, Mich.: "We own a 2008 **Simplicity** riding mower equipped with a 20 hp. engine and 50-in. mower deck, and until recently it worked fine. However, now the transmission has a hole in it and oil is leaking out. Unfortunately, the company no longer sells replacement parts for the transmission. We've learned that other people with these mowers have the same problem."

Vern Platt, Prior Lake, Minn.: Vern's impressed with the 2006 **Ditch Witch SK 650** stand-on mini skid steer he uses on his small acreage. "It has good visibility and is easy to get on and off. I use it with about 10 different attachments, including a snowblower with a homemade cab. I also use it with a rototiller, forks, 2 buckets, a grapple fork, auger bits, and a landplane."

Robert Beach, Smithfield, N. Car.: "My worst buy isn't really the fault of the manufacturer as much as it is of the federal agency that mandates regulations. I own a **Deere X750** lawn tractor equipped with a mower deck, and the blade shuts off whenever I shift into reverse. It's really aggravating. Instead of being able to easily



Adjustable plastic support rings come in a variety of sizes and snap onto a 5-ft. steel post. Herringbone ribs on post keep rings from rotating once you've locked them in place.

"Best Buy" Tomato Supports Double As Electric Fence Posts

By Jim Ruen, Contributing Editor

In 40 years of gardening, I've never seen plant supports as simple to set up and easy to adapt as the EZ Step Plant-Support System. I've also never seen more rugged and easy to place temporary fence posts.

We've used all types of tomato cages, built wooden support frames, and jury-rigged cattle panel sections. Usually, if they worked in the garden they took up too much space when stored for the off-season.

A test trial of four, 60-in. EZ Step-In posts with 3 rings each convinced my wife and I that this is the way we will go in coming years. Just step in the modified lower case "h" post and attach the plant support rings where you need them. At the end of the season we will be able to break them down and easily store them out of the way.

One of the things I like most about the EZ Step Plant-Support System is its versatility. As noted, I can place rings where I think they are needed. As the plant grows and spreads, multiple rings can be set in close proximity, but at different angles to capture a multitude of stems.

The rebar rod posts are similar in design

to traditional, electric fence rebar posts. The difference is the modified lower case "h" step anchor design which gives them more stability. Nelson made his first posts for fencing, only later realizing they would also make great plant supports.

In the meantime, exclusive to FARM SHOW, readers qualify for a discount that runs through Oct. 31, 2020. Simply email or call EZ Step Products and mention FARM SHOW. For a limited time, Nelson is offering 10-packs of posts (60-in.) for \$9.99 each (a \$3.60 per post savings), 20 posts for \$9.49 per post and a 50-pack for \$8.99 per post. Gardeners can get 2 EZ Step-In Posts and 10 EZ Rings for \$54.99, a \$5 savings.

Unfortunately, the discount is only available in the U.S. at this time. "We have established distribution in the U.S. and are working on distribution in Canada in the future," says Nelson.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, EZ Step Products, P.O. Box 7494, Rochester, Minn. 55903 (ph 507 216-7818; info@ezstepproducts.com; www.ezstepproducts.com).

mow around trees or make quick turns on corners, I have to keep circling around. There's a tiny button on the tractor that I have to stop and find, and then I have to press it before I can go backward. It would go faster if I could just turn the blade off and back up, and then turn it back on again. The dealer claims he isn't allowed to bypass the system and won't provide any information on how I could bypass it myself."

Mark Plunkett, Okolong, Miss.: "In 2019 I got a **Nebo SlydKing** changeable flashlight for Christmas (www.nebotools.com; ph 800 255-6061). One time I accidentally dropped the light 15 ft. onto frozen ground and it quit working, so I emailed the company and told them what happened but never got a reply. However, within 3 to 4 days there was a brand new flashlight in the mail. To me this shows a company that wants return business, and they will get it."

Aaron M. Miller, Orwell, Ohio: "I find that **Fluid Film** lubricant and undercoating works great as a corrosion preventive and lubricant and also helps prevent rust (www.fluid-film.com; ph 888 387-3522). I apply it underneath vehicles in the early fall in order to prevent corrosion and rust through the following winter and summer. I pressure wash the underside of the vehicle before applying it. An excellent product."

"I bought **Rust Oleum High Heat Spray Paint** at Walmart to use on outdoor grills that set over an open fire. However, the same product is sold at local hardware stores, and when I compared them I found there's

up to one third less pigment in the Walmart product. The difference is easy to see.

"I'm not impressed with my **M.T.I. 5** by 10-ft. V-nosed cargo trailer. The material used to seal the seams on this trailer must not have been ultra-violet resistant, because after one year the trailer's flat metal roof started leaking at the seams. When I rub my hand over the seams, the material just crumbles and rolls up into little pieces. Also, the joints at the bottom of the trailer should have been sealed to keep winter salt from getting between the layers of aluminum and causing corrosion."

Bill Nadeau, Warren, Maine: "My first **Toyota Prius** hybrid car was a used 2006 model that I bought in 2015, and I recently sold the car for almost as much as I paid for it. My 2009 Prius has about 275,000 miles on it, and the only repairs have been to the exhaust and some wheel bearings. Also, the battery cell had to be replaced. My 2011 Prius has about 100,000 miles on it and has some improvements over the older models. Every Prius I've owned has been super reliable."

Don Klassen, Harrisburg, S. Dak.: Don nominates his 2018 **Gravelly ZT X 52** zero-turn riding mower, equipped with a Koehler 25 hp. engine, as his "best buy". "The deck sticks out wider than the mower's left rear wheel, which lets me cut grass right up to and around a clothes washing line pole. The mower has a solid frame, and a welded-together deck that's strong enough to use as a step."