

so when it breaks, the wire unwinds a long way. Poly braid wire, on the other hand, is tightly braided in a way that it doesn't catch on stuff and doesn't break.

"Here's an idea we use for handling fence wire. We roll it up on a garden hose reel. It holds much more than the rolls the wire comes on."

Gene Pontious, Girard, Kan.: "I sent some turn-out drill batteries to **Great Lakes Batteries** to be rebuilt and they came back better than new (www.greatlakesbatteriesllc.com; ph 231 723-4948). It cost less to rebuild than to buy new and they had more power

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than originally. Great people to deal with, too. Highly recommended."

Stephen Zonies, Waitsfield, Vt.: "Digging 2 dozen post holes with a conventional post hole digger took me more than 3 hrs. of blood, sweat and tears and when I was done my back and arms said 'Don't do that'. So I bought a Predator gas-powered earth auger from **Harbor Freight**. It worked great. I dug the same amount of holes in just about 20 min. The only thing to watch out for is rocks. They will definitely 'shake, rattle and roll' you."

Jake Buit, Marshall, Va.: "One or



two issues ago, FARM SHOW featured a company called **Glue Tread** that sells a kit for fixing cuts on tractor tire sidewalls. I had several severe cracks and splits up to 4 in. long on a tractor. So I called and was delighted at the 2-day turnaround. Since I applied the strips to the tires, I've pulled a heavy disk for 8 to 10 hrs. and baled 160 bales and everything seems fine so far (www.GlueTread.com; 800 238-9791).

"Another company I read about in FARM SHOW, **Great Lakes Batteries** rebuilds ni-cad batteries for old and out-of-date cordless power tools. They do an excellent job. The 'new' batteries last longer and have plenty of power. Great company (www.greatlakesbatteriesllc.com; ph 231 723-4948)."

Roy Miller, Jr., Patriot, Ohio: "The best and cheapest hand cleaner for greasy hands that I've found is **Suave Ocean Breeze** shampoo infused with sea algae extract. Really gets the job done."

Bill Springan, Gold Canyon, Ariz.: "My 1999 **Ford Ranger** 3-liter V-6 5-speed has 236,000 miles on it. It doesn't use any oil if I change it regularly and gets about 19 mpg. The only major repair was to replace the clutch. Still runs great."

Mark Johnson, Moose Lake, Minn.: Mark's best buy is his **Makita LXT 2020** battery-powered chain saw. "It came with 4 batteries, and when they're worn out, so am I. No gas cans to mess with, lightweight, and no pull starting. It does a great job cutting."

Kevin Klosterman, Greeley, Iowa:

Kevin's happy with his 2019 **Milwaukee** 1/2 in. 18-volt impact wrench. "It has 1,400 ft. lbs. of torque to take off lug nuts, and it slows up once the nut has broken loose. It's a great tool."

Eugene Yoder, Goshen Ind.: "My 1973 **Deere** 110 garden tractor and **Hustler TrimStar** 48-in. walk-behind mower are best buys. My 13-year-old son overhauled the Deere 110 engine. It's a very tough tractor and we have only done routine maintenance on it. On the Hustler walk-behind we have only changed oil and spark plugs. We have had it for 12 years with no problems. It's very heavy-duty.

"We purchased our 2001 **Bobcat** 773 skid steer with 5,100 hrs. on it and we replaced the engine, wheel bearings and seals. Now the seals are leaking again and the skid steer is jerky when turning on asphalt. Overall, though, it has still been a decent machine."

Roger Bennett, Huntsville, Mo.: "I have 12 **Ryobi** 18-volt tools, some over 10 years old. Three of my large batteries are over 5 years old and are still going strong."

David Martin, Brockport, N.Y.: "I purchased a 30-ft. Speedtiller **Powerflex** by **K-Line** (www.K-lineag.com). The machine does an excellent job when soil conditions are right. Like any tillage tool, it's not to be used under wet conditions."

Robert Howard, Wichita, Kan.: Robert has been happy with his Craftsman commercial weedeater on wheels made by **Husqvarna**. "I've had this for two years. I did the one year maintenance and have had no problems. Our Husqvarna dealer is helpful. I also have a rider from them and it's super."

Brad Brothers, Dix, Neb.: "I installed a set of **Motive Gear** differential gears in a 2002 Dodge Dakota for a friend. They lasted 20 miles then started to howl. We removed the gears, double-checking that everything had stayed as it was initially set and replaced them with a USA standard gear ring and pinion set. Motive Gear gave a 40 percent refund with no explanation why the gears had failed. I have been turning wrenches in the Army, on the farm, and as a professional mechanic, for over 25 years. These are what we call chocolate gears. They look nice but they sure get squishy when you try to use them."

Jack Culpepper, Trenton Fla.: Jack is happy with his **Deere** 5103 tractor with front end loader. "I have had no problems with it. I only have 367 hrs. on it, mostly to do a lot of odd jobs such as clearing new ground and moving trees that have fallen on fences. It saves a lot of chainsaw work. It's the best small tractor I've ever used."

James D. Nelson, Woodville, Wis.: James's best buys are two older model **Deere** F932 commercial front-mount mowers. "Several years ago **Popular Mechanics** suggested buying a commercial mower for big lawns rather than a 'consumer' mower. So I found these two used mowers. I use one for mowing and one for snowblowing. They're built heavy with 3-cyl., 28-hp. engines, hydraulic lift, power steering, wide range hydrostatic drive, and brake-assisted steering. The one I use for snow blowing has a cab with lights, wiper, heater and a hydraulically-steered spout. These were inexpensive but still have a lot of life in them.

"My 1999 **Toyota** Camry 2.2l was purchased used with 70,000 miles on it. With regular maintenance, timing belts, a water pump, and valve cover gasket, we had over 400,000 miles on it before purchasing another Toyota."

L. D. Shumaker, Richfield, Ohio: "I bought an **Atlas** 40-volt chainsaw and weed wacker at Harbor Freight. They are less

"Best Buy" Mower Chute Blocker

Richard Streib, Fuquay-Varina N.C.: "I found a great mower chute blocker for my Deere garden tractor called the **Green Guard**. I bought it from the inventor Jeremiah Richards, co-owner of Green Boys lawn care in Topeka, Kan. It was affordable, easy to mount, and works great (www.the-green-guard.com; ph 785-249-5476)," says Streib.

The Green Guard works on most mower decks. A motorized rubber guard opens and closes over the opening and can be trimmed as needed for an exact fit. The guard is operated from a convenient handle-mounted toggle switch. The switch is set up to be handle-mounted on a zero-turn or walk-behind mower. Streib made his own pvc mounting bracket on his Deere garden tractor just ahead of the steering wheel.

The guard can be adjusted to different positions while mowing, saving the time of shutting off blades for manual adjustments. This allows for continued mowing in different conditions such as wet to dry grass or along mulch and flower beds.

The Green Guard comes with a one-year warranty and is available starting at \$239 with free shipping.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, The Green Guard, P.O. Box 67611, Topeka, Kan. 66667 (ph 785-249-5476; www.the-green-guard.com).



Motorized rubber guard opens and closes over mower chute opening. To operate the guard on his garden tractor, Streib made a pvc mounting bracket and mounted a toggle switch on it.



temperamental than the gas tools I have and lighter weight. I like that they start right up.

"The best tool I've ever owned is my **Paslode** nail gun. No farm should be without one. It's great for all kinds of construction but I especially like it for repairing wooden horse fences. It'll nail 1 by 6 oak fence boards without pre-drilling and there's no splitting. This nail gun is so handy we bought a second one. Nails for it are half price at Harbor Freight."

Victor Utley, Providence, Ky.: "I bought a **Mahindra** 750 XTV in 2017. It's a great work horse and will haul a huge load. I'm very pleased with it."

Joseph Csencits, Danielsville, Penn.: Joseph is happy with his 2012 **New Holland** 7220 discbine. "It cuts through everything - wet, dry, down, or thick. My cutting time has been cut by 2/3 compared to the New Holland 472 haybine I had before."

On the negative side, the **Victor Electronic** rat trap I purchased did not kill anything. It was 29 bucks down the rat-hole."

Christ Mast, Danville, Ohio: Christ likes his **Husqvarna** 450 Rancher chainsaw. "I've had this chainsaw for over a year now and it never causes problems. It always starts on the first or second pull. It's cheaper than some saws but it works better than some of the more expensive ones. I use it all the time to cut up trees for firewood."

Michael Antonellini, Keysville Va.: Michael's best buy is his 2010 **Toyota** Camry. "I bought it new and have put over 320,000 miles on it. Other than routine maintenance, I have not had to do any work on it. I use **Mobil** 0W-20 oil and do my own filter and oil changes every 10,000 miles."

David Heckman, Gosport, Ind.: "I'm 79 years old and mow about 3 acres twice a week with a **Hustler** FasTrak, which is the best zero-turn I have ever used. I was originally talked into getting a **Ferris** zero-turn mower, but after about 10 hrs. of mowing I traded it back in for a Hustler. It cost me about \$2,000 to make the trade, although both mowers cost about the same new. All I got was a Ferris T-shirt, which I won't wear because a friend might see me and buy a Ferris."



Rodney Rhoades, North Star, Alta.: "My tree-felling jack from **Norwood Sawmills** is a best buy. It is invaluable in helping me overcome an adverse lean in a tree and redirecting how it falls.

"The sharp teeth bite into the tree, and the hooked base digs into the ground. I just turn the crank to put pressure on the tree. It pushes the tree in the direction I want, which is important for skidding a log out without damaging other trees. It also keeps the tree from settling and binding the chainsaw bar.

"I built my own using lengths of pipe and a hydraulic jack. It was heavy and awkward. I had to carry it in by itself. The Timber Tool is only 4 ft., 4 in. long when collapsed, but extends out to 8 ft. when in use. It weighs only 36 lbs. and is easy to carry in one hand with the saw in the other.

"I spend a lot of time in the woods cutting trees in the winter. The TimberTool helps keep me safer (www.norwoodsawmills.com or 800 567-0404)."

Paul Wiens, Pine Island, Minn.: "I've owned an **Aitchison** Rancher Grasslands Drill from New Zealand for nearly 10 years and it does an outstanding job in all types of field conditions. It's a 3-point mounted model that I pull behind an International 3688 tractor for interseeding pastures and doing basins or waterways. The model I have is

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