

car dealer to the tire dealer and get new tires installed. Most manufacturers put cheap tires on cars at the factory. Replacements will last 2-3 times longer."

**Tom Wessman, Albert City, Iowa:** "I bought a used **Deere 2750** utility tractor with a **Deere 240** loader about 30 years ago. It has scooped up thousands of loads of manure over the years and done many more chores around my place. The loader is self-leveling, which is nice for big loads of manure. The hour meter shows 8,600 hrs. and all I've had to do over the years is replace the clutch, and diesel injector pump, and do a couple other small repairs. Very pleased with how it has performed.

"About 8 years ago, I purchased a used **Ford New Holland 4030** utility tractor with a loader. It's a good tractor, but when I started using it like my old 2750, the loader brackets broke and had to be reinforced. However, it's built low to the ground and easy to get up on, which is nice when you're getting on and off several times a day."

**John G. Ruff, Logan, Kan.:** "I bought a **Snapper XD** electric push mower with an electric motor made by Briggs & Stratton. One big advantage is safety because if you have to stop to pick up trash or unplug the discharge chute, it just turns off. You don't have to worry about restarting a gas engine. If you have to turn the mower on its side, oil or gas doesn't leak out.

"Replacing the batteries is a lot easier than refueling the engine and changing the oil. Getting the mower ready in the spring is no longer a major job.

"The lack of vibration makes it a more pleasant mower to use than a gas mower. The motor has two power ranges and it switches off if overloaded. Good engineering.

"The negatives are that it takes twice as long to charge the battery as it does to run it down. You have to plan for that. And the batteries are a bit tricky to put in and take out. Better instructions are needed. But overall, I like this mower better than the last gas mower I had, which I used for more than 20 years."

**David Westerfeld, Crawford, Texas:** "We love the convenience of our cordless **Milwaukee** impact wrenches. They're powerful and reliable.

"We bought our **Deere 2680H** high-speed disk in 2020. We chose Deere specifically because we thought Deere would stand behind their product. It had so many problems that I would consider it an unusable implement. Major bushings had to be replaced each season, bearings in rollers (\$600 each) went out the first season, rollers ball up with wet dirt (it only works well when very dry), cylinders leaked the first year, and disk hangers move on the bar. There were several other problems as well. Our local dealer helped us out, but Deere wouldn't do anything."

**Jim Harkness, Laingsburg, Mich.:** "My best buy is my **Cub Cadet 32-hp** turbo diesel compact tractor. With 1,100 hrs. on it, the only problem has been a flat tire.

"My worst buy was **Nano** hearing aids. I paid \$400 plus postage to keep sending back ones that didn't work (7 of them), and I still don't have working hearing aids."



**Paul F. Falco, Easton, Conn.:** "My 2019 **Manitou 625-75 H** telehandler works

circles around my 3 and 4-yard payloaders. It handles mulch and firewood, plus it's much more versatile. No ramps are needed to load large trucks, and you can enter the cab without a ladder. Used with a Buffalo turbine blower, it eliminates the hand work of cleaning up around my tub grinder, and now I clean up several acres of leaves while sitting in a cab."

**Mike Fallin, Willard, Mo.:** "My worst buy is **Superzilla** penetrating lubricant. When I bought it, they said it was guaranteed to work on any rusty bolt and nut. When it didn't work, I called to see about the guarantee. All I got was a lot of excuses and no guarantee."

**Doug Ripka, Rebersburg, Penn.:** "My **Ryobi One+** rechargeable tools have been best buys. I have purchased over a dozen in the last decade. The ones I use the most are the 1/2-in. drill, impact driver, 18-ga. pin nailer, sander, and trim router. I like that I can buy a cordless tool and know that the battery will still be available next year. Over the years, I've had a trunk full of cordless tools with dead batteries that can't be replaced. The One+ series goes back to the 1990's, and the old tools will take the new batteries. I've made adapters for some of my orphan 18-volt tools to take the One+ batteries."

**Mark E. Overly, Punxsutawney, Penn.:** "I've purchased **Stihl** weed eaters for years. They're very dependable machines."

**John Yoder, Wilton, Wis.:** "At only \$27, my **GearWrench** seven-piece ratcheting wrench set is one of the best investments I've made in the last few years. They work flawlessly and save lots of time versus regular wrenches ([www.gearwrench.com](http://www.gearwrench.com); ph 800-688-8949).

"**Powerbuilt** ratcheting wrenches are cheap in quality. After not much use, these wrenches lock up when turning hard on nuts. Also, they don't have rounded edges and they hurt your hands while using them."

**Mark Schwengel, Bowler, Wis.:** "My **Stihl MS 180C MiniBoss** chainsaw is by far a best buy. It's cut scores of cords of wood for my wood bank. Easy to start with a quick pull. I replaced the bar once in 6 years. It takes two fingers to start it. My shoulder is much happier now."

**Leon Holbrook, Enid, Okla.:** "I bought a 1985 **Kubota 3-cyl.** diesel tractor in 2002. It's still running, and I've had no troubles with it in all these years. It has a bucket and a box blade and is very reliable."

**Harry M. Roy, Middlebury, Ind.:** "I just bought a 20-volt **DeWalt** pole saw that breaks down into three sections in seconds. It's so much better than my gas-powered pole saw - I can't believe it. I can keep it in my Gator all the time. Great investment."

**William Watner, St. Mary's, Kan.:** "I highly recommend **McMaster-Carr** ([www.mcmaster.com](http://www.mcmaster.com); ph 630-830-0300). It's the best website for industrial supplies that I know of. It's logically laid out and efficient to use. They carry a good tool selection of very high quality such as the laser level I recently bought.

"Another excellent recent purchase was an American-made bottle jack from **U.S. Jack** ([www.usjack.com](http://www.usjack.com); ph 800-535-2257). When a cheap bottle jack stops working, I throw it away because I can't find parts. I hope U.S. Jack can supply parts for their jacks. I haven't needed to ask yet. I just bought my second jack for use in my welding business.

"Another best buy is **Estwing** ballpeen hammers ([www.estwing.com](http://www.estwing.com); ph 815-397-9558). At the welding shop, we accidentally left one on a grain cart and it got caught in the auger and it bent in a half circle. After the farmer pried it out, I pressed the handle out straight and it works just fine."

## LockJaw Pliers A Best Buy

**Reid Allaway, Quebec:** "The **LockJaw** pliers and clamps I own from **CH Hanson** beat the famous original vice-grips in every regard. They automatically adjust to material thickness and clamp to your force setting, which is adjustable by a thumbscrew, for any thickness from maximum opening to closed. My CH Hanson units are built tough enough for constant use and have held up to significant abuse on all types of projects. I'm most fond of the large body C-clamp style, which is fantastic for welding and assembly work. I also have needle-nose and curved-jaw models which work great. It's hard to imagine living without robust, one-hand clamping devices like these once you've experienced how easy and effective, they are to use. I believe the CH Hanson models



**CH Hanson tools are available online at Amazon and Grainger as well as other major retailers.**

are sold under different brand names in the EU and Australia. My Irwin and other knock-off vice-grips sit idle unless I run out of LockJaws."

## He Likes Zep For Stuck Nuts, Bolts

**Jim Deardorff, Chillicothe, Mo.:** "**Zep 45** Dual Force Multi-Purpose Lubricant and Penetrant is the best product I've found yet for removing rusted parts. I've been removing rusty nuts and bolts for years and tried lots of different products.

"Steve Crawford, the shop foreman at Jim's Welding, gave me a can. They repair farm equipment and erect grain bins.

"I took it home and tried it on some rusty lug bolts, and it worked great. Since then, I've used it a lot, including on an old church bell I've been working on. I spray a heavy coat on problem parts at the end of the day and then a light coat again in the morning. I find I can easily remove nuts with a wrench, and some come off by hand alone.

"Zep has a long list of lubricants and penetrants on their website, and I've tried to contact them for more information without



**Deardorff likes Zep 45 to remove rusted parts.**

luck. That's frustrating, but I still think it deserves to be a **FARM SHOW** Best Buy. It's not the least costly product out there, but people learn that price isn't the only consideration."



**Adam Bissell has been using the Weed Zapper on his crops to control weeds for 2 years with good results.**

## "Best Buy" Weed Zapper

**Adam Bissell, St. Louis, Mich.:** "I love the **Weed Zapper** (Vol. 42, No. 6) that kills tall-growing weeds with electricity. It's a great tool on our 2,800-acre organic farm. I have friends who are using it on their conventional farms to fight herbicide-resistant weeds. Some of them do custom work to help recover the cost faster.

"Until we bought the Weed Zapper, getting late-season weed control in our fields was increasingly difficult. Our only option was manual labor, and it was challenging to get enough help to get across our acres.

"Conventional guys could spray 500 to 700 acres a day, but I was relying on guys to walk ours. Even with a good crew, if we had bad weather, we couldn't always get across the fields fast enough.

"We raise mostly corn, soybeans, black

beans and pinto beans, as well as butternut squash. On everything except the corn, I go in with the Weed Zapper right after the crop canopies and get the weeds that stick above them. It works great on broadleaves like lambsquarters and even sets back foxtail in some cases. It'll brown the foxtail and keep it under control.

"It keeps the fields clean and kills off the weeds before they go to seed. We haven't had any problems. We brought it home and mounted it on the tractor and went to work. When we have questions or need parts, the company has been very supportive. They answer the call and walk you through the issue. They are phenomenal about parts delivery right to the farm.

"We've used it for 2 years, and it's been a blessing."