

5.7 V-8 engine. It has more power than any of the other 1/2-ton Chevy, Ford or Dodge trucks I've had. It easily pulls my 28-ft. stock trailer holding 10 to 12 cows. Whether empty or pulling the trailer, it's a very comfortable drive.

"While my Tundra is a best buy, I did have a big issue with it. At only 15,000 miles, my tires were worn out. The dealer told me they were 80,000-mile tires and would do anything I asked. When I contacted Bridgestone Tire Mfg., they told me my Tundra's P-rated tires have no warranty. Toyota refused to acknowledge this issue. I bought LT tires and haven't had any issues."

Dr. Karl Spees, Port Angeles, Wash.: "I've found three different adhesives handy to have on hand. **J-B Weld** is extremely versatile. It forms strong bonds and fills gaps. **Titebond II** is great for both wood and paper projects. **Superglue** bonds skin and seals cracks."

Doug Lucas, Central City, Iowa: "My **Echo 225** string trimmer is lightweight, always starts and runs great.

"It was frustrating that my **Sifely** keypad lock didn't come with written assembly and programming instructions. I needed to take a picture with my phone and read the QR code to get the instructions. Then I had to register and give a credit card number."

Michael Myers, Kirbyville, Texas: Michael had a negative experience with **Cooper Tires**. "These were 25,000 mile tires, but three went bad within 100 miles. The fourth might have been bad, too, but I told them to throw it away. I was pulling a fifth-wheel camper. The rear driver-side tire blew out and tore up the fender and rim. Two others were separating inside. I found out Cooper sold out to Goodyear.

"AAA insurance said they were on their way to fix the tire five times. We sat on I-10 for 4 hrs. They never came. We finally called a wrecker on our own."

Andy J. Yoder, Fort Plain, N.Y.: "My best buy is **Cen-Pe-Co** lubricants and fuel treatment, especially their grease (www.cen-pe-co.com; ph 800-553-1891). It has staying power and will remain greasy long after others have dried up. Add **Power Flo Klenz** to the tank to prevent diesel fuel from gelling. For problems, add **Super Diesel Klenz** or **Atomic Powered**. For gas motors, try **Gas-O-Klenz**."



James Genova, Pueblo, Colo.: "My **Frigidaire** upright freezer quit three times in 2 years. It quit for the first time about 2 mos. after purchase. A manufacturing defect tech provided the service. He put a strip of foam on the air duct. The second time, it was a circuit board problem. I replaced it with a **Midea** that worked from day one."

Doug Owens, Oxford, Iowa: "My son and I have four **Deere 430s** (1985, 1986 and two 1991s). We mow a lot of grass, and these beasts never disappoint us. They're easy on fuel and a joy to run. They all have 4-in. chrome stacks and bar tires for the big tractor look. We would buy another one if we could find one."

Richard B. Weygandt, Hartstown, Penn.: Richard is the satisfied owner of a **Stihl MS 251 C Easy2Start™** chainsaw. "I've run 23 gals. of gas through it in 2 years

of cutting firewood and brush. I'm 78 years old with bad shoulders. I'd recommend it to anyone."

Harold Walker, Mayetta, Kan.: "I repair farm machinery and, occasionally, heavy equipment. My **Milwaukee M18 3/8-in., 1/2-in. and 3/4-in. impact wrenches** have incredible torque and excellent battery life. I previously owned **Snap-On** and **DeWalt** cordless tools. The 'redheads' are superior."

Pete Johnson, Prineville, Ore.: "In the century game of life, I've entered the fourth quarter, but I still want to update my pickup. My 1999 **Ford F-350** with 253,000 miles is making it hard to justify dumping it for anything produced today. I made a big mistake in 1983 when I bought a **Dodge Ram**. It wasn't long before I had a 1984 **Ford F-250**. I won't ever waste my money on any Chrysler product."

Claude Vershure, Custer, S.D.: "My **TYM T433** tractor works well with no problems after 6 years. It has a loader, backhoe, forklift, six-way blade and snow blower."

Roy David Fricker, DeValls Bluff, Ark.: "In 2018, I bought a new **Bad Boy** mower with a 27-hp. Kohler. You need their biggest motor, so if you get in the mud, you push your handles forward and have the extra horsepower to get out."

"My best buy of all time is **FARM SHOW Magazine**."

Curtis Lacy, Barney, Ga.: "My **Honda 2000** gas generator is easy to start and will run for 10 to 12 hrs., even when exposed to the elements. It's an excellent buy."

"My **Toro 5000** zero-turn mower is easy to maintain and runs well for hours. The only negative is the muffler baffles rusted out."

Pat Bryson, Canaan, N.H.: "My best buy is my 1998 **Bobcat 453** with a grapple. It's been a great helper in pushing round 4 by 4 bales down a 5-ft. feed alley that's 60 ft. long. I've used it to pick up downed cows, dig out the alley for building the milking parlor and clean out calf pens. It lifts net wrap into the back of the **Deere** baler and lifts caught bales out of the round baler. It's a wonderful machine."

"My **Deere 5065E** tractor has been my worst purchase ever. At 91 hrs., the fuel filter in the bottom of the tank clogged. It's located under the skid panel. Either draining the tank or removing the filter and cleaning it to fix it is required. Then, at 97 hrs., it did the same thing. I demanded an inline filter where I could get it, and I'm leery of taking it anywhere to do anything."

John Bowers, Selma, Ind.: "Work shorts always seem to be a worst buy these days. I've tried **Wrangler**, **George Blue Mountain**, and **Levi Strauss**; they all use short zippers. With these zippers, you need to take off your clothes to go to the bathroom, even out in the field. Why are these companies using shorter zippers? They can't be saving that much money."

Terry A. Wickham, Nowata, Okla.: Terry is unhappy with his **Polaris Ranger Crew 570**. "The breather gets its air in front of the rear tire. It pulls so much dirt and dust that the air filter needs to be blown out every few days. The air filter housing is under the bed and hard to get to and open. It's a very poor design."

Max McCaw, Coal Valley, Ill.: "In 1994, I bought a Mexican-built 120-hp. diesel **Deere 4235** tractor. My tractor has needed very few repairs. It starts well in winter and runs all hay-making equipment without effort, as well as tillage. At \$10,000, it's my best buy."

Dewey Harper, Martinez, Ga.: Dewey nominates his 4-year-old **Kobalt 24V** lithium 4Ah 1/2-in. impact wrench as a best buy. "I

Shoe Chains Best Buy

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: "Walking on ice has never been easier or safer than with **Yaktrax** shoe chains (www.yaktrax.com; ph 919-544-7900 or toll-free 866-925-8729). Since first covered in **FARM SHOW** (Vol. 26, No. 6), the company has introduced a variety of styles for walking, hiking, and even running on ice. Key features include a light weight (they slip in a pocket when not needed), the ability to fit any winter boot or shoe, and easy-on, easy-off mounting.

"I've used Yaktrax for years, and they're amazing. They slip on easily and grab the ice like nothing else I've tried. Like walking on a gravel road, I can stride across the slickest, hardest ice."

"The original ice grabbers were 1.4 mm stainless-steel coils on rubber straps that stretched across the bottom of the heel and sole. With the **Walk Traction Device** (which is most like the original version), the coils are still held in place by elastic straps over the heel and toe of the boot."

"The coils are replaced with various ice-grabbing systems on other models. The **Spikes Traction Device** adds rubber lugs for added traction on packed snow and carbide spikes instead of the coils for stability on ice. The **Traverse** has 13 stainless steel spikes mounted in chains across the heel and sole of boots. **Diamond Grip** models feature self-clearing, case-hardened steel beads strung on steel aircraft cable."

"The **Summit Traction Device** is recom-

only use it to remove and reinstall lug nuts and loosen frozen nuts and bolts. I've charged the battery twice in 4 years. Although heavy, it's the best torque tool I've ever had."

On the negative side is a 2000 **BMW 540**. "The drive train was good, but something electric went wrong every month. I sold it despite explaining all the troubles I had with it, probably because of the low asking price. They continued to have troubles with it, too."

Donald Duellman, Marshfield, Wis.: "My **Cat** track skid steer runs great, and I use it a lot for many different jobs."

Ed Metcalf, Lakeview, Ark.: "My 2003 **Toyota 4Runner** is the most reliable vehicle I've ever owned. It only needs oil and filter changes and the usual routine maintenance."

"My worst buy was an **Amana** refrigerator that only lasted 5 years and couldn't be repaired because it was a sealed unit."

David J. Byler, Brockway, Penn.: David likes his **Milwaukee** 1/2-in. drive high-torque impact wrench with 1,800 ft. lb. torque (model 2967-20). "We have yet to find a nut this tool didn't break loose. It's a heavy tool that we use every day. With a 12Ah battery, it'll run all day without a recharge. We plug the battery in the charger overnight, and it's ready to go the next day. We've dropped it on cement several times, and you wouldn't know as it just keeps running."

On the negative side is a \$5,000 **North Star 3,000 psi 4.0 gpm** hot water with wet steam gas pressure washer (model 157310). "After 3 min., the oil alert shut the engine down. We checked the oil level, and it was full. We restarted the engine, and it ran for 3 min. again and shut down. This happened over and over again. After diagnosing the faulty oil alert, we didn't want to spend \$400 to return the machine to Northern Tool. The closest authorized service center was 200 miles away."

"As an engine mechanic, I could've done the repair, but the machine would have to be completely dismantled and the engine removed to access the crankcase to replace the oil alert. This would have required half



Pro Traction Device with removable over-the-foot strap.

mended for backcountry travel. It has 3/8-in. triangular carbon steel spikes mounted to stainless steel chain links. The segmented sole plates flex and bend to prevent snow buildup.

"While I've never had a problem with my original style Yaktrax slipping off my boots, the company has introduced a removable over-the-foot strap on several lower-end models. Other models feature a variety of retainer straps."

"Yaktrax models vary in price from \$24.99 for the simple **Walk Traction Device** to \$74.99 for the **Summit Traction Device**. They're available at a wide variety of retailers and online."

a day of labor and \$240 in unbillable hours because I can't charge myself labor, plus the \$96 for the new oil alert.

"So, we just unplugged the wires (something I advise my customers not to do). After 1 week, the burner quit working, so we just used cold water. After the 20-hr. initial oil change, I forgot to replace the fill cap. Because of the cold weather, we had the machine outside and were washing equipment inside the warm building. The oil blew out, and the engine seized up."

"After 4 years, the machine still sits in the shop's back corner. From now on, I'll buy all of my new equipment locally."

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Driskel Bros. Tree Service, Nevada, Mo.: "Our **Vermeer BC 1250** chipper and 665 stump grinder have been great machines. You feed the 1250, and it chews out chips. The 665 has been reliable. It's too bad companies don't build stuff the way it used to be."

Ron Shank, Morrison, Ill.: Ron is the proud owner of a 2019 **Simplicity** Prestige garden tractor with a 27-hp. Briggs & Stratton fuel-injected engine and 50-in. mower deck. "This is the seventh **Simplicity** mower I've owned, and I loved them all, but this one is the best. It starts and runs great with plenty of power, even with a bagger in wet leaves. It handles my 1,300-lb. roller with no problem. I don't think a mower deck on the market does a better job of mowing and stripping the lawn."

"I don't understand why Briggs & Stratton discontinued selling **Simplicity** products in the U.S. when they're such a high-quality product. I've had several with over 1,000 hrs. and a couple with 2,000 hrs. on them with only routine maintenance issues."