

Continued from previous page

four-wheeler was worth new. The other was a liquid-cooled two-stroke that was scary fast, but the coolant tank cracked more than once, and the part was no longer available, so I could only get a used tank. It was a blessing the day I sold both of these junk four-wheelers. Buy a Honda or Yamaha.”

Patrick Tyrrell, Wadsworth, Ill.: “I bought my **Mahindra 1533** tractor with hydrostatic drive in 2015. It runs like a charm—no problems whatsoever. The only improvement would be to add 2 in. between the brake pedals and the hydrostatic drive pedal, since I have size 13 feet and, with bulky winter boots, the extra room would be helpful. A larger toolbox would also be helpful.”

Blithe Colgate, Houston, Texas: “I was able to buy a tire rim at a lower price from an auto parts dealer in Canada with high reviews. It fits great, was exactly what I needed, and works perfectly.

“I bought grow lights from overseas. I had to throw them away when a recall was issued for a possible fire risk.”

John Leyzorek, W.Va.: “In 1979, for \$375, I bought a 1931 **Farmall** Regular tractor from a sharp dealer in Flemington, N.J. The clutch barely disengaged, and the transmission was noisy. Because the tractor has a separate frame, removing the clutch and the mouse nests it was packed with was easy.

“In the 46 years I’ve owned and used it hard, I’ve replaced the carburetor’s float, converted it to a spin-on oil filter, ground the valves once, and added automatic oiling to the rocker arms. It starts (by hand crank) at zero degrees and below. It’s the most reliable machine I’ve ever owned.

“It’s the most reliable machine I’ve ever owned.”

“My wife has a recent **Honda Pilot**, and the 4-WD won’t work without a new OEM gas cap.”

Dominick Montesano, Burlington Flats, N.Y.: “I had a bad experience with the **Producer’s Pride** Poultry Pen I bought at Tractor Supply. ‘It’s made from durable steel to keep out the strongest of predators,’ says the product description on the Tractor Supply website. It kept my chickens inside, but it didn’t keep a weasel out. The openings are too large. I lost my entire flock.”

Tom Poelman, Surrey, B.C.: “My 2002 **Kubota 7800** is just a great all-around 4x4 tractor.”

Kenneth Cook, Whitewater, Kan.: “I bought a 1978 **Sears GT** with a loader. I never realized how much I needed a loader like this. I run it all season. I’ve used a significant number of implements with it. I love it. It does everything asked of it and more. I’d love to find a set of duals to go with it for the back.”

Kenneth was disappointed with his **FloTool 13-qt.** extender drain pan. “I used it once and liked how it caught the oil during a vehicle oil change. There’s a lot of wind here, and it can blow the oil around when draining, so this prevents that. On the second use, the bottom had already worn through and was leaking. I don’t abuse things; I couldn’t believe it.”

Greg Flum, Oregonia, Ohio: “Several years ago, I bought a 2005 **Yamaha Rhino 660** from a friend in West Virginia (this friend also introduced me to FARM SHOW). The machine had been totaled, so he gave me an

exceptional deal. We brought it home, fixed the mechanical issues, and are still using it today.”

Nick Bugg, Napinka, Manitoba: “The best tractor I’ve owned is a 1977 **Deutz D 10006**. It may be old and rough around the edges, but it’s been reliable for the past 10 years I’ve owned it. It pulls more than a 100-hp tractor should and doesn’t break a sweat. It’s the most fuel-efficient tractor I’ve ever seen. It can run three days on the little 15-gal. tank when running the baler.

“My worst buy would have to be my **Massey Ferguson 1085**. We bought the tractor at an auction in the spring of 2021. We thought it ran well and had a nice Leon loader. We put it on the haybine for a couple of days that summer. Then we tried it on the baler, made two rounds, and blew the head gasket. We got a shop to fix it, had it home for two weeks doing loader work, and the clutch went out. Back to the shop for a new clutch. After we got it back again, we thought we would put it on the swather and cut some sloughs with it. It ran one day, and the power steering pump failed.”

John Sugg, Holgate, Ohio: “My 2022 **Deere 2025R** with a loader is a very good tractor. It’s easy to operate and runs a 54-in. tiller with ease.”

Steve, Richland, Pa.: “My best buy is a 1941 **Ford 9N**. It looked scary, and I put tons of money into it, but it was well worth it. It still runs like a champ.”

Steve didn’t have a positive experience with a 1953 **Ford Jubilee**. “I overpaid for a non-running tractor. I sent it to my retired farmer father-in-law, and then we found out the fire deck was warped, so we got another engine. Dad got that running, and the throttle stuck, throwing a rod through the block. So we went back and machined the original, and after paying more than double the quoted price, we got it in and running. We paid a guy to set the timing and such. A week later, we took it home only to find out it couldn’t drive up a hill.”

Josiah Brubaker, Thorp, Wis.: “I’m pleased with my **Ariens Apex 60** lawn mower. It’s very rugged and a good all-around mower.”

Dan Ashburn, Bloomfield, N.M.: “In 1998, I bought a **Stihl 029** chainsaw. It worked flawlessly with very little maintenance from 1998 until 2019, cutting four to five cords of wood per year.

“After running the 029 for 21 years, I thought it needed a break, so I bought a **Stihl MS 291**. I ran it for five years, again cutting four to five cords of wood per year. The piston broke apart, and I had to rebuild the engine. This was a huge disappointment, especially since the 029 lasted 21 years and still runs, while the MS 291 broke in five years. I feel like Stihl has gone downhill. I bought an Echo **CS-590** to replace the broken Stihl.”

Dale Forbes, Spring Creek, Pa.: “My **Husqvarna 125B** leaf blower kept failing to start. I replaced the magneto and carburetor, and now it needs a flywheel because the key has sheared.”

Martin Lohr, Friday Harbor, Wash.: “I bought three **EGO** battery-powered tools (weed eater, blower and 18-in. chainsaw). The weed eater broke before I could even use it. It broke at the 1-in. jointer between the trigger and the carbon fiber tube. You could see the wires in the tube between the main part and the battery. The auto take-up only takes 13 ft. of string. You run it through the power head, and it’s supposed to wind up the string, but the whole thing was bent and took nothing after two uses. It only got 26 ft. of string before it broke. I had to hand-wind it and beat it with a hammer to get it to work.



“At 15 to 25 tons produced per year, depending on acres planted, it should last forever,” says Suppan.

Compact Seed Cleaner Fits Small-Scale Farm

Josh Suppan, Harrowsmith, Ontario: “We purchased the Eliminator 224 Seed Cleaner from **Commodity Traders International** (www.commoditytraders.biz; ph 217-235-4322). It was just the right size for our operation and does a great job.

“We operate a small-scale fruit, vegetable and grain farm. We raise Red Fife wheat, rye and oats for reseeding, as well as for milling and sale to the local market. We’d been taking the grain to another farm for cleaning, but he was often busy, so it was hard to schedule it when it worked for us.

“I knew we needed our own cleaner and, at first, considered the Clipper N2B. It’s a popular farm-scale cleaner. The Eliminator 224 is very similar, and new ones cost about the same as a used N2B. It’s compact, less than 8 ft. long, 48 in. wide and 54 in. high.

“We’ve cleaned about five tons of grain since buying it last fall. The cleaning rate depends on the crop’s condition, but I averaged about a ton per hour. At 15 to 25 tons produced per year, depending on acres planted, it should last forever.

“It’s a simple machine, and if I do have a problem, I expect to be able to fix it myself.

The company has been great to work with. They sell direct, but I worked with a dealer on Prince Edward Island to handle the import and shipping.

“Commodity Traders International handles equipment of all sizes for different needs. They buy used systems from across North America and refurbish them, as well as sell new equipment. They carry every possible screen size, including half sizes, with over 175 different sizes in all. It’s almost overwhelming. They aren’t cheap, but like the machine, should last forever.

“Mine came with input and output augers. My only regret is that I didn’t get a longer output auger, as mine is sized for bagging the cleaned grain. I store my grain in totes, so I needed an auger that was a little longer. If I’d realized that at the time, I’m sure they could’ve provided a longer one.

“I haven’t had the output tested, but visual inspection suggests it’s really clean. I suspect it’s about 99% perfect.

“If you don’t have an elevator you can drive to that’ll clean your grain for reseeding or sale, consider the Eliminator 224.”

I don’t do warranties; I do hammers.

“I can’t get the oil leak out of the chain oiler on the chainsaw. It throws the chain all the time and leaks constantly. Plus, it’s heavier than any other chainsaw I’ve used.

“The blower had an electronic problem, so I gave it to a neighbor. I wouldn’t recommend these tools; they’re not built to last.”

Keegan Gillilan, Jeffersonville, Vt.: “We’ve used our **Honda 500** ATV for the past two years and have been very impressed. We’ve had many other 4-wheelers, and none have lasted longer than a year.”

Keegan is unhappy with his **Kubota RTV-X900**. “We’d had good luck with them before, and we were expecting good things. We aren’t impressed with it. It had no power and couldn’t climb hills.”

Art Olive, Stacy, Minn.: Art is displeased with his **Husqvarna 42-in.** riding mower. “The owner’s manual is really poor. It’s only two pages, written in French with an English translation. The mower doesn’t have a gas gauge.”

Bob B. Wagner, Kensington, Kan.: “My best buy ever is a 1987 **Versatile 976** tractor.

It cost me nothing but batteries. It was a great, powerful tractor. I’m sorry I traded it for a Deere.

“Another great buy is my **Hustler** diesel lawn mower. It’s been bulletproof. I’ve only done maintenance; not a penny has gone to repairs. The grass goes out the back, so there are no unsightly windrows or grass in your face when the wind blows. This beast has over 600 hrs.

“My **Case IH** combine also deserves recognition. What a machine. It’s easy to service and repair (one chain on the whole machine).

“My worst buy ever is my **Deere 9300**. I should’ve kept the Versatile. Deere support was a joke. I bought a 5-year, 5,000-hr. extended warranty. The engine failed at 2,800 hrs. I was told I was out of warranty by four months. The same thing happened with a 260 skid steer. It was purchased new. The engine failed at 512 hrs. I was again told my machine was out of warranty, this time by three months. It cost me \$8,000. Where is product support? And a little pride in your customers and products?”