

Richard Flanders, Devils Lake, N.D.: “I like my 2024 Chevy Silverado 1500 pickup truck. It has a 3.0L diesel and runs and drives very well. It gets excellent mileage.”

Kenneth Yoder, Harwood, Mo.: Kenneth’s the satisfied owner of a Predator 212cc gasoline engine. “We bought this engine new about 12 years ago to power our Maytag wringer washer, alternator, meat grinder, etc. It’s been used hard, left out in the rain and snow, and irregularly serviced. Even though the air filter fell off, it’s still going strong. It’s done just as well as a Honda for much less money.”

Kenneth is dissatisfied with his 2011 Efc 156 chainsaw. “I bought it new, used it for about 10 hrs., and then it started to run very rough. I took it back to the dealer, and he said there was a piece of dirt in the carburetor. I used it for another 5 hrs.; then it did the same thing. The dealer was of no help after that, and I’ve had it to several other shops, and nobody can fix it. So, I set it on the shelf, and it’s been there ever since.”

Steve Intveld, Bellingham, Wash.: “My 2008 Toyota FJ Cruiser only has 106,000 carefree miles. It’s the best, most enjoyable car I’ve ever owned.”

Harry Gardner, Constable, N.Y.: Harry nominates his two-cycle/mix Echo trimmer and Troy-Bilt Pony garden tiller with a 5-hp Briggs & Stratton engine as best buys. “Both of these products have given me several years of service. They start every spring and work all summer on a relatively large yard and garden acreage. I replaced the gas bulbs and spark plug on the trimmer. The tiller has only required new tines, plugs and decals.”

On the negative side is Harry’s 2016 Nissan Frontier pickup truck. “I purchased it new in 2017. It’s always been hard on gas. It requires lots of space to turn around. It required brake replacement at under 20,000 miles. It’s regularly maintained and used for light duty. The rear end gave out at 28,500 miles. The dealer’s parts department denied any recalls or extended mileage warranty. It required replacement with a rear end from a wrecked truck. It cost more than \$2,000 for repairs. I thought 100,000 power train miles.”

Ben Feldman, Athol, Mass.: “Bison/Merino wool compression socks and regular socks from Buffalo Wool Co. are warm, comfortable and wear well (Vol. 48, No. 1; www.thebuffalowoolco.com; ph 802-379-9665).”

Melvin Braun, Mooresburg, Tenn.: “My Suzuki mini truck with dump and 4-WD is a best buy. I learned about them in FARM SHOW. I bought it at a dealership in Wisconsin three years ago, and I love it. I’m a farmer, and it saves me so much work. My wife loads it up (mostly leaves, brush and firewood) and just hits the button to dump it. I go to town about once every two weeks for chicken feed and other supplies and have no problems with the Suzuki. It sits out in the weather and starts when I need it.”

Stephen Eckman, Maple Plain, Minn.: “My 1996 Deere Gator 4x2 is old but relevant. For a 29-year-old machine, this is a gem. It has 1,000 hrs., and I’ve only replaced tires and a clutch. The only bad trait is it’s cold-blooded—constant choking in Minnesota. Otherwise, it’s great.”

“My Menard’s Masterforce large grinder is terrible. Its vibration is painful. I can’t use it over 10 mins.”

Danny Morris, Springfield, Ill.: “I’ve been wearing Liberty overalls for 40 years (www.libertybibs.com; ph 888-433-4254). I switched from Carhartt and Dickies. Liberty uses real metal, including zippers. Who thought up tiny plastic zippers?”

“Sporting Classics magazine is a quality

hunting and fishing magazine with modern information and quality articles. They also have a great bookstore and sales.

“And, of course, FARM SHOW Magazine is a best buy. There are great articles and information. Sometimes, the USPS tears them. How about a plastic sleeve or protector?”

Melvin Gay, Saginaw, Mich.: “I like my Grasshopper lawn mower with front-mounted 54-in. deck and diesel engine. Because the steering wheels are on the rear axle and the mower deck is front-mounted, I can trim around trees and cut close to buildings. The two levers control the steering, forward and reverse. It also has a power lift to tip up the mower to change blades and clean out grass. Great machine.”

Nate McNeal, Kimbolton, Ohio: “My dad bought a new Deere A in 1952. This tractor has never been out of the family: 1952-dad, 1996-son and 2002-grandson. The tractor has never been taken apart. The only replacement part was a new exhaust manifold. The tractor runs really well.”

Gary Russell, Allouez, Mich.: “I ordered my Titan 60ATVFM tow-behind finishing mower during its winter sale. I live in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula, so I couldn’t use it for several months. I assembled it and took it out for its maiden voyage—a disaster. Unless your property is very flat, it doesn’t follow your towing vehicle but swings out to whichever side is sloping downward. I called and was told there was only a 30-day period to apply for a refund. So, it sits, unused. One of my worst investments.”

Dan Ashburn, Bloomfield, N.M.: “My 1999 Deere 5310 with loader has been exceptionally reliable and hard working.”

Les Troyer, Hudson, Ill.: “My Milwaukee rivet gun with M12 battery handles 3/16 stainless steel rivets easily. I used it for putting troughs in my grain tank under the two augers on a Deere 9510.”

“Anything made in China always disappoints me.”



Joan Wilson, Omaha, Neb.: “My best buy is a BrushGrubber BG-11 for pulling out small trees (www.brushgrubber.com; ph 218-943-6290). It works perfectly without breaking.”

Joan isn’t happy with L.L.Bean. “My husband’s military sweater wore out after a year, and L.L.Bean no longer abides by the lifetime satisfaction guarantee. They continue to charge four to 10 times more for clothes but only have a one-year satisfaction guarantee. I won’t buy anything from them again.”

Roman Bontrager, Delphos, Ohio: “I really like my Worx 56-volt leaf blower. It has plenty of power and much more air than a DeWalt 20-volt. I use it to clean up my cement drive after mowing, my flower beds in the fall, and light snow in the winter. However, the battery has died after almost seven years, and new batteries are no longer available. I sent my battery to MTO Battery (www.mtobattery.com; ph 717-751-2705). It was returned within 10 days. The blower is as strong as it ever was and lasts as long

Polaris 1000 Buyer Review

Brian Flom, Kenyon, Minn.: “I bought a 2024 Polaris Ranger XP 1000 Ultimate Crew Cab to replace my tired, dirty and dusty old Kawasaki Mule. The Ultimate was a major upgrade because it’s a crew cab with hard side doors, heat and A/C. With 29-in. tires, it goes through almost anything and rides well. I’ve taken it on hilly and muddy trails, and the 4-WD handles those without problems.”

“I use it around the farm to pull a small trailer, fence, check fields, pick rocks, and take a quick ride to the neighbors. The tilt-up box works well. Those are the good points. Now for the dislikes.”

“I really don’t like the whining engine noise. The engine is right behind the back seat, so the noise is tough for backseat passengers. The radio is terrible and doesn’t pick up many stations, so I use Bluetooth on my phone.”

“When driving on gravel roads, which we have a lot of, the cab gets full of dust. It was coming in underneath the seats through open bolt holes, so I sealed those. When it’s really dusty, I crack open the front tilt-up window, turn the A/C on high and roll down the back windows. That seems to help kick the dust through.”

“In rainy weather, the roof leaks; if I wash it, water gets inside because the doors don’t seal. I had to silicone the roof where the front and back seam together. I also added silicone and sealing on top of the doors. Polaris could’ve done a much better job on the cab, especially since the vehicle cost \$30K. Mine’s a 2024 model, and I’ve read that the company upgraded the 2025 models



Photo courtesy of Polaris

Flom notes his Ranger XP isn’t perfect but is an upgrade over his previous UTV.

by sealing the cab better and putting in better noise control.

“I’d like to do the service myself, but I have to almost stand on my head to check the oil because it’s tucked way under the cab. I have the dealer check it over and service it.”

“Shifting can be an issue because the drive belt needs a certain rpm to kick in. If I shift quickly, there’s a loud clunk when it engages. Done slowly, it engages a little smoother. The drive train has a turf mode so the wheels don’t tear up grass, a 4-WD mode that works well on hills and muddy conditions, and ‘positrack’ for tough straight-ahead towing. I’ve driven it through deep water that comes through the floorboard, so I guess it’s not a boat, just an all-terrain utility vehicle.”

“It has a good suspension, the ride is smooth, and I don’t feel a lot of bumps, even on field roads. It’s not a perfect vehicle, but it’s much better than I had before.”

as when it was new. I definitely recommend MTO Battery.

“On the negative side are my gas string trimmer and Craftsman chainsaw. They’re very frustrating to get started. I get them running great one year, and by the next year, the plastic gas lines are disintegrating, and I have to play with them when I’m trying to get something done. After a few years of this, my solution is cordless tools.”

Bruce Peterson, Rockville, Ind.: “We had about 140 ft. of Leaf Filter installed. The company assured us they would perform as advertised. We live in the woods, and this Leaf Filter doesn’t let in anything except for a small amount of water. Leaves, seed pods, etc., plug up the guards, causing water to flow over and ice to back up. I’ll remove them and clean my gutters rather than clear the fine mesh screen they installed. They’re total junk for us under our conditions. They did say they’d come out and clean them for \$85.”

Lynn Schroeder, Jamestown, N.D.: “I bought shoe inserts from Sanford Healthcare Accessories LLC made by Summit Labs LLC. They hurt my feet worse than without them. I told them to make them deeper in the arch to take pressure off the outside of my foot, but they didn’t listen. I guess I’m just a dummy because I don’t have a doctor’s degree and make \$100,000 or more a year. I have a wide foot and high arch; nobody can get me a shoe or insert that works. I’ve spent at least \$19,000 to \$20,000, but nothing has worked. We can send a man to the moon, but we can’t fix my problem.”

Timothy Newman, Moorhead, Minn.: “I was given a Husqvarna 20-hp riding mower (model 2042LS) approximately 15 years old. It was damaged when the roof of a building collapsed under snow load. With a few repairs, it’s the best operating machine I’ve used in a long time. It’s a tough machine.

I give it an A+.”

George Van Arsdall, Livingston Manor: George is impressed with his Predator 6.5-hp horizontal shaft gas engine, which he purchased at Harbor Freight in the summer of 2024 for his pressure washer. “My pressure washer is over 20 years old, and the engine, having been repaired several times, was ‘tired’ at best. The Predator was a direct fit, bolt-in replacement. It took less than an hour to install. It started on the first pull, and my pressure washer works better than ever. It was cheaper than repairing the old one.”

Edwin Brubaker, Memphis, Mo.: “I nominate our Speed Queen washer (model TC5003WN) as a best buy. It gets our dirty farm clothes clean, and it has a lot of good features. I appreciate that it’s made in the U.S.”



Roger Keil, Bellevue, Iowa: “I’ve been pleased with my Black Diamond 32-ton log splitter. I haven’t found anything it won’t split, including oak and ash. Whoever designed it had their head screwed on right. I want to put a hydraulic lift on it, as big chunks don’t work well when standing it upright on the ground. It needs a bigger base to keep the chunk level.”

On the negative side is Roger’s 2017 Chevrolet Colorado half-ton 4x4 pickup. “It’s jacked up so high that I can’t get anything out of the box without a ladder.

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