

the compressor standing 300 ft. from the well-insulated closed-up shop. It makes a whole lot of noise inside the shop. It's hard to talk without raising our voices a bunch. Definitely a worst buy."

**David Lipson, Wayne, Penn.:** "I've hated my **Ariens** 824 snow thrower for about 15 years. I bought it new. It has plenty of power from the reliable Tecumseh engine, but it's heavy and hard to move around. The handles are too low; I have to hunch over to drive it, which causes my back to ache. I had to add weight to the front, or it would ride up over the snow. The traction drive has never worked right.

"I know every manufacturer uses some drive plate and friction wheel version, but what a foolish gizmo. It slips and appears to be designed to wear out. I've had to repair this contraption almost every time I've used it. To do that takes three cold, greasy hands. I never want to see another Woodruff key. None of the body screws align with their holes. Every screw on the machine seems to be a different size."

**Gerald Wright, Bird City, Kan.:** "I've been thinking about the best and worst vehicles I've owned over the years. My 1949 216-cu. in. column shift 3-speed transmission **Chevy** 2-door coupe was one of the best. It plowed some of the worst roads in Cheyenne County, Kan. I also played 'ditch 'em' with it on the streets of Bird City, Kan. There were times it took a tank of gas to travel the 12 to 15 miles to school (depending on the route). A 1955 **Cadillac**, a 1974 **Oldsmobile** and a 2010 **Ford** Expedition have been the very best vehicles I've owned.

"On the worst buy side of things, I'd say my **Dodge** vehicles (a 1960 Dart and 1990 and 2010 pickups) were the worst."

**Ron Betts, Bronson, Mich.:** "My 2011 **Ford** Fiesta sedan has 223,000 miles. It's rusty and ugly, but it wears like a hammer.

"I recently purchased an **Echo** chainsaw. It's comparable to a **Dolmar** 611. New gas saws won't start dependably. They guarantee the saw but won't allow it to be returned. I spent \$500 for nothing. The EPA ruins everything it touches."



**Wilford Secker, Selby, S.D.:** "Our 2016 **Kubota** SSV75 is the smoothest, quietest and easiest to use and service skid steer on the market. It's been very dependable and trouble-free. The sliding overhead door opening is excellent. We added another best buy to it—solid foam-filled tires from **McLaren Industries**. The deep tread gives amazing traction with no chance of leaks, and they ride better than pneumatic tires."

**Charles Wyrick, Lake Orion, Mich.:** "I like my **Ryobi** handheld cordless tools. Both my vacuum and planer are so convenient. The vac is great for sucking up stinkbugs and dirt that comes off my boots. The planer has been useful for truing warped 4 by 4 posts."

Charles is not happy with lumber from big-box stores. "The 4 by 4s and 2 by 4s are twisted and useless for making deck railings."

**Kyle Morris, Illinois.:** "I've used my **Milwaukee** M18 inflator countless times. Even on a flat combine tire. This alternative to buying a gas-powered air compressor works in a pinch when miles from home."

**Ronald Grzywacz Sr., Royersford, Penn.:** Ron isn't pleased with the **LG** dishwasher he purchased in 2020. "It does a great job cleaning the dishes, but after sitting for two days, it smells awful. It was installed correctly. The only thing that has helped is to put a little bleach in the bottom as there's always a little water left."

**Mark A. Feltrop, Willow Springs, Mo.:** "I've pushed my **Kioti** 2022 35-hp tractor to the limit, and it's held up and performed like a champ. There've been no breakdowns or repairs. I wish I'd bought a bigger one, but this one has been great."

On the negative side is a **Ryobi** zero-turn battery-powered lawn mower. "I got it home after purchasing, drove it about 100 ft., and it stopped. Then it would only move 12 to 18 in. and stop. I called **Ryobi** tech support, and the guy told me to get a wire and jump the seat control. I said, 'No, I just paid \$4,500, and you want me to start jumping systems?' I immediately took it back and got a refund."

**Larry Wood, Waldo, Ohio.:** "I love my **Deere** 455 diesel mower with a 60-in. mowing deck. I have the all-wheel steer model, but I don't think it's worth it. I only mow about 1 acre, but still enjoy the fuel mileage."

**Loren Myran, Taylor, N.D.:** "My 2024 hybrid **Ford** Maverick is quiet, gets 35 to 55 mpg, handles great, and the amenities are really nice."

Loren's experience with his most recent hybrid **Toyota** Prius hasn't been as positive. "After owning others and getting an average of 50 mpg from each, I expected my 2023 Prius would do the same. This car averaged 35 mpg, and **Toyota** wouldn't help me. **Toyota** said the car was 'performing as designed.' I kept it for 10 mos. until my 2024 **Maverick** arrived. I've owned many **Toyotas** but will never buy another because of this experience."

**Link Farms Inc., Conklin, Mich.:** "We bought a used **Rogator** that was well cared for with around 4,000 hrs. We keep it in good shape. It's had no issues and works as it should.

"We bought our **Case IH** 7150 tractor used. Right after we bought it, we had problems with the front wheel assist and the front tire breaking the inner rim when planting corn."

**Gerald Lubitz, Perham, Minn.:** "Over 50 years ago, I bought a **Waterloo** toolbox with top and bottom for about \$100. They were good old American-made. The drawer slides are nice and tight, better than most new ones are today. I can proudly say I'm using it to this day. To me, this qualifies as a 'best buy.'"

"In a recent **FARM SHOW**, a reader talked about tool batteries. I have several **DeWalt** 18-volt batteries from years back, but I couldn't make the batteries last. I finally went with 20-volt adapters and batteries. They'd only work okay. I discovered the adapters were the problem. Spend the extra money and get the **DeWalt** brand. The cheap Chinese adapters didn't last two seconds before they smoked. You get what you pay for."

**"You get what you pay for."**

**Brian Ogram, Floradale, Ontario.:** My **Ford** 1220 tractor always starts in the winter.

## Carrier Arms Improve Planter

**Spencer Yenni, Wakefield, Kan.:** "Terrace King carrier arms from **Swihart Solutions** have really made a difference with my planter. I struggled with uneven planting, with my 24-row planter skipping over terraces and high spots.

"The inside wheels would cause the row units to lose ground contact at the end of the wing, and the two center wheels would cause row units to lose ground contact near the hinge points. The parallel arms couldn't travel down far enough to keep the row units in the ground.

"When that happened, the computer would alert that there was a weight cell problem and no ground contact. The Terrace King arms improve that by about 95%. They restore up to 12 in. of row travel on terraced ground. When planting, they lift the wheels above the ground, but return them to a weight-bearing position when the planter is lifted. Even if the planter lifts partly out of the ground, it's not out long enough to throw a code.

"E.J. Swihart made his first set of carrier arms for my planter. I've been running them for three or four years, and they're a very



Yenni is happy with his planter carrier arms from Swihart Solutions.

straightforward solution for a big problem. Compared to flex planter solutions, they were easy to install and required no modification to how the frame came from the factory."

## Shoes For Work And Play

**Lorn Manthey, Northfield, Minn.:** "For the past 10 years, my personal favorite for indoor workshop and outdoor yard work has been the **Merrell** Jungle Moc work shoe. I'm on my third pair. They're easy to slip on without tying anything, which is a big plus. I give this rugged yet comfortable waterproof shoe a five-star rating.

"It has a molded arch support, a cushioned heel for long hours of wear, a slip-resistant rubber outsole and a protective abrasion-resistant rubber toe cap. I trudge my first pair through all types of dry, wet and semi-muddy conditions nearly every day, let them dry out overnight, and they were pliable and comfortable for almost four years. A good friend in the HVAC business says he's had the same pair of safety toe Jungle Mocs for three years, working 50 weeks a year, and they're still not worn out. The comfort and durability can't be beat.

"I defer to the **Merrell** Moab Adventure Polar Waterproof half boot for dirtier and wetter conditions. It slips on quickly, fits tight around my upper ankle and keeps dirt, wood shavings and other debris away from my socks. The treaded Vibram sole grips well for excellent traction in all conditions, even climbing around farm machinery. After hundreds of wear hours, these lace-free **Merrell** products still fit snugly to my feet. They don't replace my lace-up hard-toe **Red Wing** work shoes for farming or hunting, but they're excellent for lighter outside work.

I use glow plugs and never have to plug it in. It always does what I want to do. It gets a lot of loader work and rolls lawns with a homemade 2,900-lb. roller. It blows snow and does some one-furrow plowing. I have a 5-ft. width loader bucket and a 5-ft. snowblower for it. The weight is balanced well for many jobs. The two-speed hydro is always good for the jobs at hand. I added LED lights that really help at night. The 4-WD is fantastic. My only complaint is that it could use a little more power.

"My most recent worst buy is my **Craftsman** utility knife. It has a retractable blade that always retracts. I have to hold the thumb down on the handle all the time to use it. It doesn't stay in place. I thought **Craftsman** would be worthwhile, but I guess



Manthey notes his best buys for shoes in the shop, yard and casual wear.



"My casual go-to favorites are **Skechers** Hands Free Slip-Ins. No shoehorn needed; just slip on and off. They have an engineered knit and synthetic upper with stretch laces, a memory foam insole and slip-free tread. As their name implies, I don't have to bend down to put them on; just step in, and the heel pillow holds my foot securely in place. **Skechers** has many styles of this priced-right, cleverly designed shoe for men, women and kids."

not. It has a lifetime warranty, which is easy for the company because it'll sit on a shelf and not be used, so it should last a lifetime."

**Howard Leroy Uiterdyk, Belding, Mich.:** Howard is pleased with his **Deere** 2038R compact utility tractor, which has a 220R loader and a 60D AutoConnect™ mower deck. "It's so easy and fun to operate. It does everything very well and has many nice features. The AutoConnect deck attaches and detaches easily, and the underside of the deck stays exceptionally clean."

**David Whitney, Bradford, Tenn.:** "My **DeWalt** 20-volt 1/2-in. impact is way more powerful than I expected. I never even get my air impact out anymore.

"My **Bauer** rechargeable flashlight didn't even last a week."