

bought my 2006 **Ford Lincoln Mark LT** 4-WD pickup used in 2007 with about 26,000 miles on it. It now has about 150,000 trouble-free miles and is in excellent condition. It's on its second set of tires and still has the original battery. It gets 18 to 22 mpg with a very comfortable ride.

"I've bought four **Eden Pure** electric heaters within the last 5 years. Each performed well for one season, but then either the thermostat or the heating unit fails. The company always says the heaters are out

"They all performed well for one season, but then either the thermostat or the heating unit would fail."

of warranty so I should return them to the factory for repairs at my expense."

Joel Dennis, Kansas, Ohio: "My 2010 **Cub Cadet** 4-cycle string trimmer has plenty of power and always starts on the second pull. I junked all our troublesome 2-cycle trimmers."

Don Mays, Michigan City, Ind.: Don bought a used 1978 **Kubota B6000** 4-WD tractor for just \$900 and uses it with a tiller and snow blade. "I do commercial garden tiling and this is the best tractor I've ever owned. It'll tear up anything, including hard clay soil."

Jeff Knacht, Pine Island, Minn.: Jeff bought a used **Snapper** 25-in. walk-behind brush cutter equipped with a 13 1/2 hp engine. "I've been using it to clean up a grove of trees on our farm that has a lot of dead trees and downed wood in it. I use this machine to mow weeds and brush right up to the downed trees, and then saw up the wood and move on to the next one. I actually have fun operating it, and it does a great job."

Levi Jefferies, Ludington, Mich.: "I bought my 1998 **Deere** LT155 riding mower to resell and make a profit. I cleaned it up and changed the oil and blades, then sold it. The next year the buyer called and said he had mowed his 3-acre lawn once a week without a single problem. This machine was built to last."

"Our 2006 **Sears Craftsman** 33-in. snowblower has yet to provide one week of reliable service. It snaps shear pins in the drive and auger even when the snowblower doesn't hit anything, and it also eats up belts. Another problem was that bolts rattled loose because they weren't properly tightened at the factory. We replaced the shear pins with grade 8 bolts, but they still break."

Joe Hummert, Jonesburg, Mo.: "I've used my 2012 **Stihl** 026 chainsaw equipped with an 18-in. bar to cut more than 10 cords of wood, without a single problem. It's easy to service and has plenty of power. I can service anything on it with one wrench. It's a good, lightweight saw."

"The All Power 3,500-watt propane portable generator I bought at **Northern Tool** is my worst buy. When I put a 15-amp load on it the motor killed. By my calculations 3,500 watts equals 28 amps, so this generator doesn't perform as advertised."

Phil Ruble, Nebo, Ill.: "Our 2004 **Arctic Cat** 500 4-WD ATV was my dad's primary farm vehicle until he passed away in June 2012. It has almost 14,000 miles on it now but has required only minor repairs. We do all the regular maintenance and use Arctic Cat synthetic oil. I only wish it had a brake on the handlebar."

Marvin Vlietstra, Kalamazoo, Mich.: Marvin likes his 2005 and 1999 **Case** 85XT skid loaders. "They have a lot of hours on them but have been trouble-free. The Cummins engines in older Case skid loaders are the best ever built. These 85XT's will easily keep pace with the much newer and larger **Deere** 332D skid loaders."

"We bought 2 new **Deere** skid loaders in 2012 - a 320D and a 332D. The 320D has required extensive work on the drivetrain - all 4 drive chains had to be replaced as well as both drive motors. The company honored the warranty, but now that it has expired I'm afraid the problems will continue. Case makes a much sturdier machine although I do like the heated cabs on the Deeres."

Ed "Magnum" Force, Barboursville, Ky.: "I like my 2010 **Tafe** 4-WD tractor equipped with a 36 hp diesel engine and hydrostatic transmission. I'm hard on equipment because I want my money's worth. This tractor performs flawlessly, even though I've used it standing almost 90 degrees straight up."

Herb Dunham, Millerton, Penn.: "My 2013 **Woods** 6-ft. finish mower cuts smooth. No problems."

Mark Fielder, Webster City, Iowa: Mark's 2008 4-WD **Jeep** Patriot, equipped with a 2.4-liter engine and 5-speed manual transmission, has more than 167,000 miles on it. "It still has the original battery, brakes, exhaust, etc., and I've only spent about \$150 on repairs. It gets 28 to 30 mpg, doesn't use any oil, and drives great on snow and ice. Also, it has a lifetime powertrain warranty."

John Vandersluis, Mendon, Mass.: "It's the best tractor I've ever owned," says John about his 1999 **Kubota** 2500. "I've put about 1,100 hrs. on it doing such jobs as hauling wood using a winch and operating a backhoe. I've also used it to operate a 1,200-watt pto generator, which I ran for 3 days straight one time. It's equipped with quick-tach brackets for mounting forks on front and back."

James R. Godwin, Dothan, Ala.: "I love the 2001 **GMC** dually pickup I bought used. My only complaint is the door mirrors are way too small. I use this pickup to pull a livestock trailer and fifth wheel camper, and the mirrors are so small that I can't see out past the fenders."

"A question - why don't they attach screw jacks on front of all zero turn riding mowers?"

Kelly Adams, Ladonna, Texas: "I like my **Massey Ferguson** 135 diesel tractor, **Deere** 4440 tractor, **Gnuse** 3-pt. mounted forklift, **Honda** generator, and **Stihl** chainsaw. They seldom break down and are easy to repair."

On the negative side, "Hands down, our worst buy was a **Staber** clothes washer. It didn't clean our clothes, and maintenance was also a problem. We had to replace the bearings, pump, a hose, pulley, belt, and motor, and we had electronic problems."

"Replacement parts for this machine are ridiculously expensive. For example, the pump is imported from Italy and the belt that drives it is one-of-a-kind and is available only from the company. Every time I call the company they accuse me of oversudsing, which seems to be the explanation for all the failures on this machine. Also, the company isn't helpful about how to stop the machine from jumping around and making a lot of noise. Toward the end, the struts needed to be replaced; however, the frame was rotting out so instead we got rid of the machine."

"I got holes in my clothes from the very first time I used this washer. I think the door design on the basket was to blame. It was a stainless steel basket that came with a 20-year warranty, but it was already rusty after only 4 years."



Power Rack bale feeder is equipped with retaining "fingers" that release flakes from bale as it's pushed backward on rack.

12-Volt Big Bale "Flaker"

Lester Neff, Pasco, Wash.: "The Power Rack 1-Man Big Bale Feeder works extremely well (ph 509 269-4632; www.moveitinc.com). I've had mine for about 4 years. It's a really good deal for someone with 50 to 100 head or more. It's even better for the guy who works off the farm or has to travel. If his wife can run a tractor with a loader, she can feed hay to the cattle."

"It's safe, too. I spent too many years putting the truck in idle with a bungee cord on the steering wheel and climbing on the moving truck. With the Power Rack, I don't have to worry about running over calves, the bale falling off the flatbed, or falling off the back of the truck myself."

"The Power Rack hooks on a truck or tractor and runs off the 12-volt system."

"I now own a **Speed Queen** clothes washer which I bought used. I replaced the pump on it for \$40 and the belt for \$20. Best of all, now my clothes are clean again."

Orville E. Flagen, Ottawa, Kansas: "The drinker on my 2009 **Hawkeye Co.** energy-free livestock waterer has never frozen. It's a great waterer for cold weather. (ph 800 553-1791; www.hawkeyesteel.com)."

"My **Stihl** MS230 chainsaw starts easy and runs great, but it takes 15 min. to fill with gas and the oil caps sometimes fall off. The chain tightener is junk and comes loose soon after I tighten the chain. I wouldn't buy this model again."

Greg Weaver, Shelbyville, Ind.: "I had four **Exide** car batteries go bad and they all had to be replaced. Fortunately, after the fourth one failed the company refunded my money."

Lance Goertzen, Inman, Kansas: "I'm well satisfied with the hopper bottom bin cone I bought from **Harvest Ag Fabricating, LLC** (ph 620 345-8205; www.harvestagonline.com)."

Elmer S. Yoder, Meyersdale, Penn.: Elmer uses his 1996 **Deere** 6300 75 hp tractor to power his **Schulte** 9600 snowblower. "The tractor has more than 15,500 hrs. on it and has been repainted and had a minor tune-up; otherwise, it's still original. It still runs good, doesn't use oil, and starts great in cold weather. The snowblower cuts through 4-ft. high snowdrifts with no problems. Schulte snowblowers are next to indestructible."

John Jamieson, Monterey, Tenn.: "No problems with my **Kioti** CK30 4-WD tractor equipped with a hydrostatic transmission. I use a lot of attachments with it that work well. The tractor came with a 4-year warranty plus insurance coverage for loss and damage repairs. My only complaint is that Kioti dealers around here are few and far between but are the only source for replacement filters. Common filters should be made available at auto parts stores."

John W. Flournoy, Jr., Houston, Texas: "I've owned several **Troy-Bilt** products including a riding mower, a walk-behind self-propelled mower, a small rototiller, and

Load the bale on, cut the twine and go. The retaining "fingers" hold the last flake in place until you push a button on the remote. The rack pushes the bale backward until a flake drops off.

"You can space flakes out so cows feeding on one flake don't step on the next one, or drop the flakes on top of each other. You can feed all of the bale or just part of it and keep the rest for another day, all without breaking a sweat."

"The bale feeder is simple, too, with very few wear points. If parts are needed, they can be replaced at the local hardware store."

"The Power Rack 1-Man Big Bale Feeder costs \$4,850. It can be ordered for 3 by 4-ft. or 4 by 4-ft., 1-ton bales."

several weedeaters. In the past **Troy-Bilt** was a great brand. But all of my newer models constantly break down with just light use around our home."

Scott Ray Peterson, Darlington, Wis.: "My best buy is my 2012 **Land Pride** 1051 3-pt. mounted, pto-driven snowblower. I get a lot of heavy snow drifts on my small farm, but this snowblower handles them with no problem. My 2005 **Kubota** 2230 tractor has plenty of power to operate it."

Shawn Gibson, Terra Alta, W. Va.: "I like my 2013 **Claas** 340 Rotocut round baler. I've used **Claas** round balers for years. Last year, when I was ready to update, I bought a **Deere** 458 Silage Special because I read that was the way to go. I made 748 bales with it. This baler was so inferior in bale quality and operator ease. I took quite a financial hit to get out of it and bought the new **Claas**. Now I never have to get off the tractor for any problems."

On the minus side, he lists his 2011 **Deere** 6430 4-WD loader tractor with cab. "The dealer told me this tractor would outperform the 110 hp, 6-cyl. model I already owned. However, it was sluggish on the road, weak in the field, and burned 6 to 7 1/2 gal. of fuel per hour. The dealer made numerous repairs to the tractor, but after 600 hrs. I wasn't satisfied. He gave me a decent trade on a new **Deere** 7330 tractor, which I do like."

Trevor Lee, Washington, Va.: "We really like **Deutz** and **Kubota** diesel tractors. **Deutz** tractors are tough and run forever. My dad put about 16,000 hrs. on a 1979 **Deutz** 7006 before he retired it. It was easy on fuel. He also likes his 2004 **Kubota** M6800. Just keep it serviced and it'll run forever."

William Maryniuk, Rosburn, Manitoba: "Thanks to **FARM SHOW**, I'm very happy to have found **Seal Lube** products for fixing leaky seals (ph 800 434-9192; www.seallube.com)."

James Anderson, Evansville, Minn.: "My **Hobart** Handler 140 wire feed welder does an outstanding job, even with flux core wire. It's a much better machine than my old 'red' one."