

makes cut grass disappear but also grinds up leaves and tree trimming material, and even standing sweet corn stalks.”

**George Hill, Tonasket, Wash.:** “I’ve found that **Interstate** batteries don’t seem to have as many corrosion and electrical problems as other batteries. It’s not unusual for these batteries to last 10 years. The company has a good dealer network and great service.”

**Josh Goehring, Delmont, S. Dak.:** “I work for an ag co-op where we use a 2008 **Case IH 3320** sprayer that has 1,800 hours on it with no problems. This machine is well balanced and fuel efficient. I’ve driven every sprayer known to man, but nothing compares to this one. After we bought this model we bought 5 more, and all have been trouble-free.”

**Garland Ginther, Fulton, Kansas:** Garland’s dissatisfied with his 2011 **Chevrolet 1500** crew cab hybrid pickup. “The fuel economy is terrible, no better than 14.7 mpg. Yet the dealer seems unconcerned about this.”

**Bob Heisinger, Tripp, S. Dak.:** “The first **Deere** tractors I ever bought, a 4440 and a 4240, still run great and have 15,500 hours and 14,000 hours on them, respectively. Neither has been overhauled, and both require only regular maintenance.”

**Roger Hyatt, Salome, Ariz.:** “It has plenty of power to pull trailers and gets 22 mpg on the highway engine,” says Roger, pleased with his 2004 **Dodge 3/4-ton** pickup equipped with a Hemi engine. “It has about 120,000 miles on it, yet all I’ve replaced are the front brakes and power steering pump.”

**Ken Fritjofson, East Barre, Vt.:** “It’s a high quality tractor that runs strong,” says Ken about his 1983 **Deere 950**. “No problems.”

“My **Deere EZTrak 445** zero turn riding mower is an excellent machine. Starts right up and runs great.”

**Grady C. Morey, Sylvester, Ga.:** Grady’s satisfied with his 2008 **Hitachi** cordless drill. “It works even better than I expected, but after 4 years of use the tool’s performance declined so I returned it to the service center for repairs. The manufacturer restored it to original specifications at no cost and returned the tool within 5 days. They even paid for the shipping.”

**Ken Abbott, Big Timber, Montana:** Ken nominates his **Sears Craftsman** 75-piece combination tap and die carbon steel set as his “worst buy”. “The 3/8 by 16-in. die chipped. I took it back to the store but they just told me to contact the warranty center, which I did.

## “I’m disappointed in Sears. I’ve trusted them my entire life.”

I sent 2 letters but never got an answer. It’s frustrating to buy a tap and die set made in the U.S. for Sears and then be unable to get a replacement part for it. I’m disappointed in Sears. I’ve trusted them my entire life.”

**Neal Galloway, Lynch, Neb.:** “My best buy is the 30 by 45-ft. post frame building equipped with 16-ft. sidewalls that I bought at **Menards**. The company provides complete instructions for putting the building up. I was able to complete the building myself, using my **Farmall Super M** tractor and **F-11** front-end loader. I rented some portable scaffolding and hired someone to install the cement floor.”

**Larry R. Cline, Pine Village, Ind.:** “My **Deere 5310** and **4720** loader tractors never fail to do the job and always start right up. They work great for doing everything

from cleaning snow off driveways to mowing hay, pulling a **Deere** round baler, and feeding bales to livestock. The **4720** is just the right size for performing smaller jobs around the farm yard.”

On the “worst buy” side, he lists his 2012 **Ford Escape** SUV equipped with a 6-liter engine and 6-speed automatic transmission. “It does a terrible job of shifting gears whenever the temperature is between 35 and 55 degrees. It slips between third and fourth gear and then ‘slam shifts’ between fourth and fifth gear. I’ve been back to the dealer several times and also called the company. They claim they’ll fix the problem but it hasn’t happened yet. They did increase the shift point rpm’s of the engine, but all that did was lower the fuel efficiency.”

**Robert Holland, Maysville, Ga.:** “The **Deutz Allis 46** hp tractor I bought used for \$355 is the best tractor I’ve ever owned. It burns only about one fourth as much fuel as American-made tractors. I wouldn’t be without it.”

**Wilson Rickenbaker, Lexington, S.C.:** Wilson’s pleased with his **Dremel 200** 2-speed rotary tool. “I use it mostly for sharpening flail mower blades using the lawn mower blade sharpening accessory. When the switch failed, the company repaired the tool free under warranty and returned it quickly.”

**Larry Jinnette, Goldsboro, N.C.:** Larry’s “worst buy” is his 2006 **Ford F-250** pickup equipped with a 6.0-liter diesel engine. “The engine blew at about 44,000 miles and the company won’t do anything about it. I’ve bought dozens of Fords over the last 45 years, but this is my last one.”

**Don Raucstadt, Seligman, Mo.:** “My **Kubota 900** RTV utility vehicle has more than 3,000 hours on it but still runs great.”

**Dennis Janowiak, South Bend, Ind.:** Back in 1974 Dennis bought a new **Troy-Bilt** rototiller and is still using it today on his 1/2-acre garden. “It works great not only to till the soil but also to cultivate between rows. I replaced the engine in 1991, but otherwise it has required only routine maintenance.”

**Jerry Overdorf, Pingree, Idaho:** Jerry describes his 2010 **Dodge Nitro 4-WD** SUV as “a big disappointment.” “This vehicle was a gas guzzler and got only 19 mpg. It was hard to see out the rear view mirrors, it was hard to get in, and it rode like a truck. It came equipped with 20-in. tires which are twice as expensive as 15 or 16-in. radial tires. It was a stylish vehicle and did have one redeeming feature – the 4-WD was easy to get in and out of. I finally traded the vehicle at about 8,000 miles.”

**Francis Barney, Altoona, Penn.:** “The **Massey Ferguson 1150** tractor I bought used is easy to operate and has plenty of power.”

**Lyle Oakes, Montrose, Penn.:** “No problems with my 2010 **Country Clipper** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck. One joystick operates everything. The deck lifts straight up for cleaning or servicing.”

**John Ulamincik, Grass Valley, Calif.:** “I’ve had good luck with **Optima** batteries. I started using them 15 years ago on all my equipment and still have most of them. I’ve had as many as 33 batteries at a time. I don’t have to worry about adding water or acid. I just install the batteries and forget about them.”

**Clay Spencer, Somerville, Ala.:** Clay’s impressed with his **Great Dane** Surfer zero turn riding mower equipped with a stand-on platform on back (ph 920 756-2141; www.greatdanemowers.com). “I bought this mower used so I don’t know how old it is. I do know it’s the heaviest built mower I’ve ever seen - the 52-in. deck is made from 1/4-in. thick steel. It’ll go up to 5 mph, turns short



Parker Cummings, who is paralyzed from the chest down, transfers into the Freedom seat to drive his pickup. The Bruno Pow'r Topper and Curb Sider hoist lifts the chair into the back of pickup.

## “Best Buy” Pickup Add-Ons Give Teen Independence

Glen Cummings says his “best buys” have given his son, Parker, who is paralyzed from the chest down, the ability to be an independent teenager.

“Finding the Freedom Seat® (www.freedom-lift.com) and the Bruno Pow'r Topper and Curb Sider® hoist (www.bruno.com) was a big step forward,” says Cummings, a plumber who believes there’s nothing he can’t do to help his son achieve independence. Parker was 11 when he was paralyzed in an auto accident.

Father and son started researching equipment well before Parker’s 16<sup>th</sup> birthday last July, and put together all the pieces needed to equip an F-150 Ford Super Crew pickup. They worked with Mobility Works in Waukesha, Wis., a company that installed all of the special-built equipment.

With a remote control, the Freedom Seat (\$8,000 to \$10,000) swivels and lowers to the ground next to the driver’s door so Parker can transfer from his wheelchair to the seat. Then he uses a control to open the

Bruno Pow'r Topper (\$3,500 to \$5,000) and pivot the Curb-Sider hoist (\$3,500 to \$5,500) to lift his chair into the back of the pickup.

“We also put remote start on the truck so we won’t run the batteries low,” Cummings says.

For safety, he placed a protector plate over the gas and brakes since Parker uses hand brake and gas controls and a spinner knob on the steering wheel. Cummings also added a 55-light LED spotlight in the cab to shine down on the ground to make it easier to see where the chair is being placed on fields and other uneven surfaces at night. Parker enjoys target shooting and snowmobiling and going to tractor pulls.

Cummings got the ultimate seal of approval for the pickup modifications. Parker told him: “Dad, I think you did it perfect.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Glenn Cummings, 233 2nd St., Hilbert, Wis. 54129 (ph 920 427-5661).

and will mow steep slopes in all directions. I’ve used this rig to mow in woods and even to cut 1-in. dia. saplings. It’s fun to use.”

**Donald B. Colvin, Whittemore, Mich.:** Donald’s the proud owner of a 2006 **New Holland TM-140 4-WD** tractor equipped with a **New Holland 62LB** front-end loader. “This tractor has about 3,300 hours of use without a single problem. It always starts, even in the coldest weather.

“My 2006 **New Holland LS 170** skid loader has also been trouble-free, other than the replacement of 2 bearings and a couple of hydraulic hoses.”

**Pat Macha, Marlin, Texas:** “My **DeWalt 1 1/2-in.** heavy duty die grinder is built tough and is dependable.

“Changing the oil on my 2009 **Honda Big Red** utility vehicle is a pain. The oil filter is hard to replace and the drain plug is hard to access. Another problem is the air filter pulls dirty air from under the passenger seat behind the front right wheel, resulting in excessive dirt on the filter. The filter has to be cleaned every week. This problem finally resulted in the failure of the filter, which ruined the engine. It’s a very poor design. I hope I have better luck with my new **Polaris** Ranger diesel.”

**K.L. Enos, Poplar Grove, Ill.:** “My 2003 **DR Powerwagon** works unbelievably well and never quits. I use it hard every day. It always starts right up and still has the original battery. Company service is fantastic.”

**Doug White, Unity, Sask.:** Doug nominates his son’s 2001 **Chrysler Intrepid** full-sized car equipped with a 2.7-liter, V-6 engine as his “best buy”. “He bought this car used one year ago with about 100,000 miles on it for only \$3,500. Since then he

has put another 20,000 miles or so on it with no problems. It gets 35 mpg on the highway, which I think is good for a full-sized vehicle. This is the only Chrysler car we’ve owned in more than 65 years, but it’s by far the best. My son bought it because he drives 32 miles to work and needs economical transportation.”

**Boyd Stanley, South Port, N.C.:** “I like my 1998 **DR Pro** mower trimmer equipped with a **Kawasaki FC150** engine. I’ve changed the spark plug, oil and belt and that’s it. It starts on the first pull and mows like crazy. No more back pain like with other weed trimmers. Good product, good company, and good, reliable service.”

**Andy Larson, Stanton, Iowa:** “I’ve had good luck with **Husqvarna** commercial-style weed eaters. I maintained 7 different parks for 8 years on contract and am still using all 3 of the weed eaters that I bought for this work.

“I work at a local highway department, and our shop foreman ordered Chinese-made brake shoes and drums for a Ford 9000 truck. Unfortunately they lasted less than a year, whereas the old U.S.-made brakes we used before lasted about 250,000 miles. We installed a Chinese-made clutch in a 1-ton sign truck, but it lasted only about a year. We replaced it with a U.S.-made clutch assembly, which is still going strong after 4 years. Tools, roller chains, and bearings made in China are all junk.”

**Bill Flagg, Elverson, Penn.:** “My 2011 **Kubota 523** diesel mower is comfortable and reliable. It does a great job.

“My **Timac** fertilizer spreader buggy never works properly, and as a result my fields end up with streaks because of uneven application.”