

long before the muffler came loose again, and by this time the piston and cylinder were shot. I called the factory and they said they'd send the dealer a parts list to repair the saw, but they never did. I've been cutting logs and firewood for more than 50 years and maintain all my saws before going to the woods. But I won't buy a Husqvarna saw again."

Bob Potter, Stuart, Okla.: Bob is disappointed with the **Bostich** 3-in-one nailer/compressor kit he bought at **Lowe's**. "The air compressor failed within two weeks and was replaced by the store. The new compressor failed the same day and was replaced again. Then a week later the third compressor failed. Every time I went back to the store to replace the compressor I'd find someone who said they also had problems with this tool."

Steve Boone, New Lebanon, Ohio: "The **Deere** 850 tractor I bought used is my best buy. I use it to mow my yard and to till my garden. It starts great during the winter when I use it to push snow off our lane."

Kevin S. Herring, Aroda, Va.: "My best buy is a 9-in. **Southbend** metal lathe equipped with a quick change gearbox, which I bought more than 45 years ago. It's very accurate. It's always there when I need it and has never let me down."

Donald Borton, Delavan, Ill.: "My 2008 **Lincoln** MKZ car handles well and has a solid feel. It gets 28 mpg on the highway."

"The **Mantis** rototiller I bought 15 years ago still starts and runs good."

James Schumpert, Samonauk, Ill.: "My 1999 **Ford** Ranger pickup has more than 170,000 miles on it but still runs great and has the original battery and exhaust system. I've replaced only the tires, brakes, belts, and shocks."

Carl Coffman, Shawnee, Okla.: "Recently I bought a used 2003 **Polaris** Ranger 4 by 4 to use on our acreage. My wife grew up on a wheat farm in northwest Oklahoma but now suffers from Alzheimer's. I thought the Ranger would be a good way to get her outdoors. The bench seat lets me take her with me when I do chores."



"The Ranger has far exceeded my expectations. I use it almost every day. I wanted to add a top and windshield to provide shade and wind protection in cold weather. So I recycled some 5/8-in. thick pressure-treated decking to create a nice looking top, which I painted white. To make a windshield I had planned to attach plexiglass to the machine's roll cage. However, I was advised by friends that the plexiglass would crack as the roll cage flexed."

"Looking around the barn, I spotted a discarded storm door and cut the frame to the required size. Then I installed a piece of plexiglass in the frame and, using the storm door hinge, attached the 'new' windshield to the roof. At the lower end of the windshield frame, I put a piece of Velcro on the windshield and roll cage. As a result the windshield stays in place, and the flexing of the roll cage doesn't affect the windshield."

Ken Hertz, Brush Prairie, Wash.: He's pleased with his 1996 **Hitachi** EX-60 14,000-lb. excavator, equipped with 2-ft. grouser tracks. "I live in a swampy, soft area and the

grouser tracks' 2-ft. width keeps me on top of the softest earth. I use this machine for moving dirt, digging ditches, and as a crane. I can pick up to 3,000 lbs. with it, even in real rough ground where a loader tractor wouldn't stand a chance."

David Pearson, Isanti, Minn.: "My worst buy is a 2007 **Jenn Air** dual fuel range electric oven and gas cooktop. The warranty has expired and now we can't find a service man within a reasonable driving distance. The appliance store we bought it from has gone out of business."

Bill Kennedy, Stcamons, B. C.: Bill still uses a **Delavan** 4-gal. semi portable milker that's 50 to 60 years old. "I bought it used 15 years ago and use it to milk our goats. It works flawlessly and has never needed repairs. This milker is a blessing to people with arthritis."

Jim Hoover, Moore, Idaho: "My **DeWalt** DC 750 cordless drill is a 9.5-volt, 2-speed variable drive model that performs like a much larger drill. I just finished using it to put in 200 1 1/2-in. wood screws, yet it's still going strong on the same battery. The two-speed variable drive is really nice when you get a hard screw to put in."

"My two 2008 **Sears** 19.2-volt cordless drills are both worst buys. One is a 3/8-in. model and the other a 1/2-in. model. I've had both drills less than a year and all three batteries died prematurely. Sears wants almost as much for the batteries as I paid for the drills. The drills themselves worked fine."

Kimball Petty, Little Deer Isle, Maine: Kimball likes his 2007 **Ryobi** electric log splitter that he bought at Home Depot for \$300. "I share it with four households that split two cords a year, and we all like it. I've used it to split 24-in. dia. straight grain oak with no problems. It's quiet, odorless, and runs only when it's actually splitting. It's easy to transport and, with the addition of a bungee cord, the controls work well for one-handed operation."

Troy Lenssen, Lynden, Wash.: "My 2001 **Van Dale** barn scrapers save us a lot of time. I use them to clean my freestall barn 12 times a day with no problems. I replaced some bearings and switched to ropes instead of cable, which is better for the cows."

"My **Albers** Accu-lock stanchions are poorly built. I got 20 panels and I have to use a pipe wrench at one end because the handle at the other end only unlocks half of them. Cows get stuck constantly or it unlocks and they walk away. The company said I would have to live with the problems. I'll never buy from them again."

W. A. Manning, South Hill, Va.: "My **Kubota** 7040 4-WD tractor equipped with a cab and front-end loader is the most powerful and fuel efficient tractor I've ever owned. I use it every day. It's a pleasure to drive."

Danny Surgenor, Kingsport, Tenn.: "My 2001 **Bush Whacker** 7-ft. rotary cutter is built to take on small trees up to 3 in. in diameter (www.bush-whacker.com). I use my New Holland 4630 tractor to pull it. If I can push the tree over with my front-end loader, the Bush Whacker will cut it up. I had been buying a new cutter about every two years until I bought this unit. I changed blades for the first time in 2006."

G. Combs, Concord, Ohio: "The **Snowbear** 88-in. wide pickup-mounted snowplow I bought at Northern Hydraulics is a worst buy. I paid \$1,699 for it. By the time I got all the parts for it the 30-day return was up. If I'm not careful, the winch will bend the support arms into the plow - without a limit switch it just keeps on going. The company is aware of the problem but doesn't have a solution. My driveway is about 200 ft. long. I've used this plow about six times and it

Farm Tek Nipple Waterers

Greg and Lei Gunthorp, La Grange, Ind., are happy with the FarmTek nipple drinkers they use in their pasture-based chicken and duck operations. They produce some 40,000 birds and developed their own markets selling direct to consumers and upscale restaurants.

The Gunthorps got started in pasture production of chickens and ducks on a relatively modest 65 acres, and have expanded their operation in recent years. Raising birds on grass meant they needed an efficient way to supply drinking water to them at all times.

The FarmTek nipple drinkers long have been used in poultry confinement operations (800 327-6835; www.farmtek.com). "We use the FarmTek nipple system inside our brooder barn, before the birds go outside. They're great," says Greg. "As far as I know FarmTek is the first company to come out with a nipple drinker line that's suited to small producers."

"The nice thing about using nipple drinkers is that it keeps the animals' bedding dry. The birds have to reach their head upward to drink, instead of reaching down into a bowl and getting their front side wet. The birds stay healthier, and everything stays cleaner. We



FarmTek nipple drinkers are suited to small producers. The Gunthorps use their system inside their brooder barn, before the birds go outside.

use the FarmTek Bell-Matic waterer outside because if the Bell-Matic units should ever freeze they're a lot cheaper to fix."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Greg and Lei Gunthorp, 0435 Northeast, La Grange, Ind. 46761 (ph 260 367-2708; cell phone 260 463-6239).

broke four times. I don't abuse machinery but the company always seems to infer that I'm abusing it. The price is reasonable, but the machine is built too light for plowing snow unless you live in Florida. The construction and materials on it look like something I'd buy for a lawn tractor."

Joe Macha, Plainview, Texas: "My 1981 **Toyota** 4-WD pickup, and my 1991 and 1997 **GM** 4-WD pickups, are all best buys. These compact pickups are reliable and fuel efficient, with plenty of storage space in the cab."

A 2008 **GM** 4-WD extended cab pickup rates as Joe's "worst buy". "This pickup

"The cab has very little storage space and the door gaskets leak."

drives and rides nice but it isn't a work truck. It's big, bulky and so tall that I can't get anything out of the bed without having to climb in. The cab has very little storage space, and the gaskets on the doors leak in high winds. This pickup is poorly designed by people who have no idea what a work truck should be. It also annoys me to have Onstar and satellite radio as standard equipment, when I don't want either one."

Butch Malawy, Nashville, Ill.: "My 2008 **EZ Boardwalk** sawmill is a well-built, durable machine. It's equipped with a rugged, 24 hp Honda engine and can handle all sizes of logs."

Jamie S. Thomas, Boswell, Okla.: "Our 1992, 1997, and 2007 **Dodge** 1-ton 2-WD pickups have all been best buys, as have our 1994 and 1997 **Dodge** 1-ton 4-WD's. They work every day, just like we do."

Gailey Henderson, Williamstown, W. Va.: "My 1999 **Stihl** weed eater and 2006 hedge trimmer are both best buys. The only time they've been in the repair shop was four years ago, when the internal gas line on the weed eater collapsed. The shop said the problem was due to ethanol in the gas."

Steve Nichols, Galesburg, Ill.: "My most useful tools are my **Hitachi** 12-volt and **Goodyear** 24-volt cordless impact wrenches. They work great for removing lawn mower

blades and reinstalling them after sharpening. Many tire dealers use them to buzz lug nuts off and on. It makes changing a tire or rotating tires an easy job. I use them for countless other jobs. I don't think I'll ever be without a cordless drill again."

F. K. Mitchell, Greenwood, Florida: "I've had problems with my 1999 **Honda** Foreman ATV. When I turn the lights on it kills the battery. It also had a starting problem. The starter turned over fine, but the engine wouldn't crank. I took off the fenders to look for shorts, cuts, or unplugged connectors and finally found that the kill switch on the handlebars was broken. I solved the problem by wiring two wires together. The engine fired up and ran with no problems."

Timothy Yoder, Princeton, Ky.: "My 1999 **Case IH** Maxxum MX 110 front wheel assist tractor is my best buy. This tractor is considerably heavier than its Deere counterparts, such as the Deere 7210 and 7220 models. The MX 110 is rated at only 95 hp but performs way beyond what I'd expect from a tractor its size. It's also fuel efficient, averaging 3 1/2 gallons per hour depending on the load. It's powered by a 5.9-liter Cummins turbocharged diesel which is very reliable. I've heard reports of similar models with 12,000 hours or more."

"I'd definitely buy another MX 110. The only major repairs so far have been to rebuild a planetary on a front wheel and a new hydraulic pump. The pump went out due to poor maintenance - the filter and fluid should have been changed sooner. We're extremely pleased with this tractor."

"My 2006 **Case** 440 skid loader is also a best buy. It has a two-speed transmission which is handy and also fuel efficient, averaging 1.25 gallons per hour. We've had to make only minor repairs such as replacing a fan belt and a solenoid. It starts well in cold weather and has almost 1,800 hours on it."

Joseph B. Brock, Kings Mountain, N. C.: "My 1996 **Buick** LeSabre has about 200,000 miles but still doesn't use oil. It has had few mechanical problems."

Garry Chazuka, Tyler, Texas: "My 2006 **MTD** Yardmaster 20-ton log splitter has performed flawlessly, splitting through some massive blocks of wood up to 46 in. in diameter. A good machine."