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house. Now some of the inside walls are moving.

"The company sent out repair people, but they don't seem to know how to fix anything. All the molding and trim, including what's on the kitchen cabinets, is made of particle board covered by wood grain shelf paper. If this mobile home lasts for 10 years, it'll be a miracle."

H.W. Crow, Geronimo, Okla.: "I'm happy with my **Murray** riding mower equipped with a 13 hp engine and 40-in. deck. I've used this mower for more than eight years and it has provided excellent service. As long as the battery is good, this machine always starts right up without any hassles."

Brad Bergan, Strawberry Point, Iowa: Brad's happy with **Quick Bayt** fly control bait (www.quickbayt.com; ph 800 633-3796). "A 5-lb. pail of this product will last an entire season on my farm. All I have to do is sprinkle a small amount around the milk barn and freestalls, and flies die instantly. When I check the bait a few hours later, the ground will be black with dead flies."

Lloyd Crowe, Picton, Ontario: "Our best buy was our **Case New Holland 8010** combine. We had some electric and hydraulic problems with it initially, but the company completely updated the combine and gave one more year of warranty. Last year we used the combine to harvest 6,000 acres of corn, wheat, and soybeans. It was trouble-free except for a bad solenoid on the header tracking system during corn harvest. However, that problem didn't stop us at all. We just replaced the defective part as soon as the new part came in."

Steve Rodgers, Wellman, Iowa: Steve's happy with his 2004 **A-maize-ing Heat** corn furnace (LDJ Mfg., Pella, Iowa ph 641 620-9412; www.ldj-products.com). "This furnace is well built and easy to understand and operate. It'll easily heat our drafty old 2-story farm house for about one third the cost of propane. The large bulk hopper and lack of complicated controls and electronics were deciding factors when we bought it. The only trouble we've had is that it smelled pretty bad the first day or so as some paint burned off. Also, the auger motor failed twice and was replaced - once under warranty and the second time at our expense. Overall, though, we're glad we bought this corn furnace."

"Our 1990 **Honda Accord** has more than 212,000 miles on it but it's still going strong. We use it every day."

Clifton White, Jima, Alberta: "My worst buy was a **Rem Bale Max 3600 R** bale shredder. The flails and rotor on this machine seem to be made of poor quality material, because the flails break easily and pull the holder off the rotor. The company has replaced the rotor and flails once, but I haven't seen any improvement."

Jim Halliwill, St. Augustine, Fla.: "Anyone with tough laundry stains should try **Zout** stain remover spray. It's amazing stuff (Dial Corp., Scottsdale, Ariz. ph 800 548-9770; www.zout.com). The product is water-based, non-corrosive, non-flammable, and biodegradable. It removes stains, without chlorine or bleach. It's also available in a squeeze bottle."

Jim also likes his **Staber** washing machine bought in 2001 (www.Staber.com; ph 800 848-6200). "There aren't enough words to describe how great this water-saving machine works. It has a side-mounted drum but still loads from the top. Laundry is tumbled through a pool of water at the bottom of the drum, creating a water pumping action that forces soapy water through the clothes for better cleaning. Larger items like comforters and blankets that would never get clean in a

traditional washer come out exceptionally clean, even though you only use about half as much detergent in this machine.

"A problem developed with the washing cycle right after the warranty expired. I called the company's toll-free number and talked to a service rep, who said the problem was probably due to a computer board. They sent me another board free of charge, asking only that I send the old one back. I was able to easily install the computer board by myself. Problem solved."

Greg Kropf, Westphalia, Kansas: "My 1999 **Deere 925** mower conditioner is my best buy. I especially like the flail conditioner, which can pass objects through without damaging the machine. This machine just mows and mows without problems. It has held up well over thousands of acres."

"My 1966 **Deere 4020** tractor is a best buy. It rarely has problems and is worth exactly what I paid for it six years ago."

"My 1999 **Deere 6310** tractor is comfortable, quiet, and does a good job of handling our mower and round baler. The power quad transmission lets us work fast in the field. It lets me mow our field 30 minutes quicker than with my 4020, just because of its ability to easily and constantly change gears."

"My 2003 **Vermeer 605XL** baler makes a good bale and the pickup gets all the hay. However, it has had a lot of problems."

"My 2004 **Vermeer WRX** rake does a good job and is easy to adjust. However, it's four real tires, a good paint job, and some better-grade bolts away from being a best buy."

"My **Deere 1600** hydrazing mower conditioner never made it through a field without breaking down. The final blow came when we couldn't get it unhooked from the tractor's pto shaft, and we ended up having to take the pto shaft out of the tractor."

Joe Kelich, Frankton, Ind.: Joe nominates his 2003 **Cub Cadet ZTR** riding mower equipped with a 44-in. deck as his "worst

"He claimed that we must have accidentally run into something."

buy." "The second day after we bought it, it wouldn't start. The dealer said he would come to our place and check it out, but he couldn't say when. We called our old IHC dealer, who picked it up and installed a new choke on it right away. The second time we used it, a belt idler bent but the metal was so soft we were able to bend it. After we spent a couple weeks putting up with the idler, the center blade assembly fell out."

"We called the dealer, and when he came out he noticed that the deck and mounting frame were also bent. He claimed that we must have accidentally run into something, but we didn't. The metal was just too weak. Finally a district rep came out to look at the machine. They replaced the mower deck. They had the mower from June 20 to November 20 - it took them that long to decide to put on a new deck."

Jeff Mohn, Flaxville, Montana: "My **Seedhawk 357** Magnum grain drill has a simple design that is extremely effective. No other drill is better for seeding small, shallow seeded crops."

Clint Hain, Vandalia, Mich.: "My 1986 **Honda 350** Fourtrax 4-wheeler is a hard working ATV. I recently sold it. It pulled like a mule and could handle a hay wagon loaded with 110 small square bales with no problem."

"My 1996 **Polaris Sportsman 500** ATV

61-Year-Old Home-Built Tractor Still Going Strong

"After 61 years of use, my home-built tractor is still going strong," says Gerald Gilbertson, Avoca, Wis., who recently sent FARM SHOW a photo of the tractor he built in 1945 when he was just a senior in high school.

The tractor's 4-cyl., 25 hp engine came out of a 1926 Dodge and is connected to a 4-speed transmission off a 1940 Chevy truck. The rear axle was taken out of a 1940 International Harvester 2-ton truck. The tractor rides on 38-in. rear wheels and 15-in. front wheels. To make the rear wheels, Gilbertson bought plain wheel rims and then welded in spokes made from 2-in. sq. tubing. The tractor's steering shaft and gears came out of an old Dodge. He built the frame from scratch out of channel iron.

"During World War II new tractors were hard to come by and also expensive, so quite a few farmers built their own," says Gilbertson. "At the time I built it we had just gotten electricity, and I was able to use a 125-

amp welder on 110-volt electricity. Otherwise, we didn't have a lot of powered equipment available. I used a hacksaw instead of a cutting torch.

"I used it to haul manure during the winter when we were milking cows. I also used it to pull a motor-driven hay baler and a 2-bottom moldboard plow, and with a belly-mounted, 2-row cultivator."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Gerald Gilbertson, 2674 Maple Hollow Rd., Avoca, Wis. 53506 (ph 608 583-4924).



was two years old when it started running rough, so I traded it in for a 1999 model. However, the new machine started doing the same thing. The dealer told me these machines have a bad cam. The cam was replaced in the 1999 model, but after putting only 500 miles on it we're already finding metal shavings in the oil."

Neal B. Neidig, Madison, Neb.: Neal's "worst buy" is his 2005 **Ford F-350 Super Duty 4-WD** crew cab pickup equipped with a 6.0-liter Power Stroke engine. "At about 15,000 miles the fuel pump went out (not the injector pump). The company paid for the pump and labor but wouldn't pay for the filter kit, even though there were brass filings in it. The filter kit retails for \$70. The transmission had a recall for a bad snap ring deep inside, which was covered under warranty. The pickup now has about 23,000 miles on it, and now the limited slip differential isn't working. Also, there's a problem with the turbo variable vane and with the EGR."

"I'm currently waiting for a qualified mechanic to do the warranty work on it, as some Ford mechanics aren't certified to work on 6.0-liter Power Stroke engines. I've been a Ford man for most of my life, but I'm disappointed. I don't think it was adequately tested."

"This is a \$45,000 pickup that gets only 8 1/2 to 11 mpg. It has never made the 16 mpg they said it would, even on the open road not towing anything. I traded off a 2001 F-250 Super Duty 4-WD crew cab with 102,000 miles, and its 7.3-liter Power Stroke engine was still getting 16 to 20 mpg."

Jon Braun, Mina, S. Dak.: Jon's disappointed with a building he had put up by **Cleary Building Corp.** "The salesman promised a starting date of November, but the materials didn't even show up until the middle of December. Then I was told they had no crews to do the construction until February. The rafters froze in ice and warped. The company sent out a small crew to put up the walls, but they patched broken boards with small chunks of wood to hold them together. I'll never buy from this company again."

Danny Nohren, Lakewood, Ill.: "My 2005 **Kubota RTV 900** is one of the most useful and enjoyable pieces of equipment I've ever owned."

Richard Posey, Ooltewah, Tenn.: "My 2003 **Dodge 2500** pickup equipped with a diesel engine is my best buy. I also have a 1995 Dodge 2500 diesel pickup with about

200,000 miles on it with no problems. It still runs like new."

Jack Nachamkin, Glen Mills, Penn.: "I had my DR trimmer, with the Beaver blade only a short time before I discovered that the blade becomes dull after only a few hours of use. The company's cutting blade consists of a piece of chainsaw chain wrapped around a disc."

"It became an expensive proposition to continually re-sharpen and/or replace the chain every 8 hours or so of use. I decided to replace the blade with a carbide-tipped sawmill blade. I bought a 14-in. blade and a friend, George Jones, precision machined a washer needed to fit the blade snugly onto the shaft of the DR machine."

"The modification was a complete success, and the DR went from a worst buy to a joy to use. It cuts through woody brush, thick vines, and weed saplings up to 4 in. thick, without any degradation of the blade."

"Although this upgrade might invalidate the DR warranty, the machine was useless for my purposes without the conversion. I suspect the DR company might argue with me."

Ronald Martin, Cookeville, Tenn.: "My 1972 **Ford 4000** low profile SU tractor has almost 8,000 hours on it but still has the original brakes and clutch. I bought it used when it was one year old, equipped with an industrial loader. It has its own hydraulic pump on front that's belt-driven off the engine driveshaft, with the hydraulic reservoir built into the loader frame. It's a lot stronger and quicker than loaders that run off tractor hydraulics. This tractor doesn't use any oil between changes."

"My four **Stihl** chain saws are all best buys. They include a model 011, two 034's, and model 036."

"My 1979 **Ford F-250 3/4-ton** pickup has about 150,000 miles on it and still runs great. It's equipped with a 400 cu. in. engine and a 4-speed transmission. About 15 years ago I mounted dual wheels and a flatbed on it so I can use it like a 1-ton pickup. I use a 12,000-lb. **Warn** electric winch with this pickup, which is also a best buy."

Dorothy Reynolds, Evans Mills, N.Y.: "Last fall we wanted to protect our garage floor. The paint man at a local independent lumber yard warned us against using latex-epoxy paint. 'They haven't perfected it yet,' he said."

"We thought his advice was just sour