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machine's rear chute in order to end its tendency to clog. Now it shoots chips about 20 ft. out into the woods.

"The **Troy-Bilt 570 27-ton log splitter** I bought used is a best buy. I read a review in a magazine years ago saying this splitter should only be counted on to make 3 or 4 cords a year, but I've used it to split about 8 to 10 cords each year. I installed some flashing to deflect exhaust away from the operator whenever I use the splitter in the horizontal position.

"I like the 2014 6-ft. box scraper I bought from **Everything Attachments** (www.everythingattachments.com; ph 828 464-1200). The company was very helpful with selecting the right scraper to fit my tractor for what I wanted to do. This scraper cost less and was built with better quality than anything else I could find.

Ed Barnett, Freedom, Ind.: "I'm impressed with **K&W head gasket and block repair sealer** (sold at WalMart and amazon.com). My Ford 1700 tractor had been overheating and progressively losing power, and I had to use the glow plug to start it even in summer. This tractor is known for developing cracked cylinder heads, so when I asked a New Holland service technician what to do, he recommended trying the K&W

miles it was at the dealer 7 different times for electrical problems with the instrument panel and radio. They installed 5 different radios, but nothing helped. Then the pickup started locking me out, and twice it wouldn't let me start it. The dealer says this was the first year this pickup came with a fully computerized dash. Why don't manufacturers work out the bugs before putting stuff on the market?"



James Karnes, Catawissa, Penn.: James likes the **Limbicator bucket-mounted hydraulic-powered saw** he bought from Northern Tool for about \$1,800 (www.northerntool.com; ph 800 221-0516). "It consists of a 20-in. bar that mounts on an 8-ft. steel boom that attaches to a front-end loader's bucket, allowing the saw to reach out 20 ft. or so to trim trees. The amount of trimming I was able to do in one afternoon with this saw was amazing. It saved months of hand trimming."

Jamisen Fox, Twentynine Palms, Calif.: "I hate seeing rusted-out vehicles. So to keep rust forming from the inside out on my vehicles I fill a **Sure Shot sprayer** (www.sureshotsprayer.com; ph 262 437-0330) with **PB Blaster general purpose oil or Blaster Corrosion Stop** (www.blastercorp.com/corrosion-stop). I put vehicles up on ramps and coat the underside, seams, and underbody compartments. I make sure to avoid coating on all the components that heat up under use such as exhaust manifolds, exhaust pipes, and brake rotors.

"On pickups I spray the inside of the rear wheel wells and cab corners, because those 2 spots are always the first to rust from the inside out. I remove all the body plugs and spray the inner area with oil, and then replace the plugs. I also carefully spray the inside of vehicle doors from the bottom drain holes, being careful not to spray electric door motors and door locks.

"Blaster Corrosion Stop will protect the vehicle for 2 to 3 years while the multi-purpose oil will protect for a year. I've had excellent results for many years with all PB Blaster products."

Fred Markert, Tallula, Ill.: "After reading about **Ecobust** in FARM SHOW, I ordered it from Home Depot. It's a powder which, when mixed with water and poured into pre-drilled holes, expands to break up the concrete into clumps. The company says it's a quiet, safe way to remove concrete. There's no noise, vibration or dust. Just drill several 1 1/2-in. dia. holes about 85 percent through the slab and fill them with the Ecobust-water mixture. The non-toxic powder can be washed away and is biodegradable. It comes in 11 and 44-lb. buckets. Works great.

"I broke my masonry bit so I ordered two 1 by 12-in. bits from **Buy Drill Bits** by Associated Industrial Distributors. They were at my door within 24 hrs. (www.buydrillbits.com; ph 800 351-4230). After drilling more than 100 holes, the first bit I used still looks good, so I haven't even used the second one.

"I find that **Work & Sport** shoes made in Wisconsin and sold by Blain's Farm and Fleet are more comfortable than any popular brand shoes I've ever worn (www.farmandfleet.com; 800 210-2370)."

"Best Buy" Portable Compressor

"Engine-powered air pressure may not be the number one accessory on our farm, but it's darn close," says FARM SHOW contributing editor Lorn Manthey. For the past few years Manthey and his farming partner have used a portable 30-gal. gas-powered air compressor to clean the daily grit, grime and dust off their combine, air up large equipment tires, and run powerful air tools. "I looked at several different models and settled on a unit from Northern Tool (www.northerntool.com; ph 800 221-0516) because it has a dependable Honda GSX engine," says Manthey. "I have that engine on liquid transfer pumps and they seem to always start with one pull of the cord. We also have that engine on our seed tender and it starts with just a quick turn of the key. You let them idle for 30 seconds or so to warm up and they're ready to work."

Manthey says the compressor engine is no different, even though its being used on cool, damp mornings in the spring and fall. "I just open the relief valve on the tank, slide the choke open, pull the cord and it fires right up," says Manthey. "The GX390 OHV motor runs a heavy-duty cast iron pump with dual crankshaft bearings using low vibration technology. It takes about 60 seconds to fill the tank with 140 lbs. of pressure, which is more than adequate to blow off a dusty and dirty combine. We have a 100-ft. hose on a recoil reel with a 5-ft. copper wand and can clean the whole combine in about 15 min.," Manthey says.

Another feature Manthey likes about the compressor is the automatic idle when tank pressure reaches a pre-set level. The machine delivers 24.4 cfm @ 90 psi with the pump running at 1,300 rpm's. The cast iron flywheel provides extra momentum to



Manthey takes his compressor to the field to keep his combine clean.

pressurize the tank.

At 380 lbs., the machine isn't easy to move in or out of a vehicle or trailer, so they mounted the compressor on a 1/2-in. thick steel plate with metal stake pockets. That way they can lift the unit, which now weighs 450 lbs., on and off a trailer with their skid steer.

"We clean off the combine and blow out the filters every morning, sometimes twice a day if conditions are really dusty," says Manthey. "Having the portable compressor lets us do the cleaning in the field when we're refueling, saving time by not having to drive into the yard to the electric compressor in the shed."

Manthey says he has about \$1,400 invested in the compressor, the mounting frame, the retractable reel and the custom-made wand. An optional electric start is available for the machine, but since the engine starts with one pull of the cord, he's never seen a need to add that option. "This rig is a very worthwhile investment that should last a long time," he adds.

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"It fit perfectly. Took me just 30 min. to replace."

block sealer. It worked, and now the tractor starts right up without the glow plug and it no longer overheats. Plan on 2 days to let this product work correctly, and you won't be disappointed.

"I bought a replacement radiator from **All States Ag Parts** (www.TractorPartsASAP.com; ph 877 530-4430) and it fit perfectly - everything lined up correctly and it took me just 30 min. to replace. This company offers great service and great prices.

"My **Dare Eclipse DS 200 solar fence charger** worked good at first, but after a year the solar panel will no longer keep the battery charged. A replacement battery only lasted a week before it lost its charge. I may have to try adding an aftermarket solar panel since I don't have close access to a power source."

Glen Tank, Martin, Ohio: "It's a great all-around machine No problems," says Glen about his 2000 **Deere 360 diesel-powered skid loader**. "I use it to run a portable auger, to trench foundations, set trusses, unload material with forks, grade fill for building sites and to do finish grading with a blade. I had heavy-duty Loegering tracks put on it right after I bought it, and tire wear with the tracks has been minimal. I've only had to replace the tires once.

"I've owned New Holland, Bobcat and International equipment previously and had problems with all of them. When I buy new construction equipment now it's always Deere."

Ronnie A. Hodgson, Port Orchard, Wash.: He's had problems with his 2005 **Kioti 35 hp. tractor**. "It has gone through 5 different hydraulic pumps in less than 2 years. The last pump is still working, but I think it needs more power. Anyone know where I can get a more reliable hydraulic pump for this tractor for less than \$800?"

Dana Jones, Watertown, S. Dak.: "It's a real lemon," says Dana about his 2013 **Dodge Ram 1500 pickup**. "Within the first 22,000

J.E. Chizek, Cuba, Kan.: "In 1978 I bought a used 1954 **Allis Chalmers WD45 tractor** with a stuck engine. I replaced the valves and rings and added a live belt-driven hydraulic pump, power steering, and New Idea front-end loader. I still use this tractor almost every day. I replaced the rear tires with 18.4 by 26 tires with fluid, so it really pulls good.

"We also own a 1976 **Ford 9600 tractor** with no cab and a 1978 **Allis Chalmers 7020** with cab that we bought about 18 years ago. Very few problems with either tractor. These tractors don't use oil and start right up every time.

"Over the years I worked for several different companies where I drove newer model pickups including Ford, Chevrolet and Dodge. However, they all seemed to have minor but irritating problems so now I always buy used models, primarily Fords. I drove a 1978 **Ford F-150 4-WD** until it had about 396,800 miles, and now I'm driving a 1999 4-WD Ford that has more than 197,000 miles on it but still runs good."

Brent Strickland, Louisburg, N.C.: "We bought a new **Deere 345 lawn tractor** in the 1990's, and in no time the hood started cracking. You see hoodless Deere lawn tractors just about anywhere you go and that's why. Otherwise, this is still a good tractor."

John Latulipe, Bombay, N.Y.: "The only downtime we've ever had with our 2004 **New Holland 24 hp. compact loader tractor** was due to a bad ground cable. We use this tractor to mow grass in a small orchard and to remove snow. It sometimes seems like it can do more work than 4 full-size tractors."

Daniel L. Miller, Kendall, Wis.: "My **Dolmar 510 chainsaw** starts good, cuts fast, and is easy on fuel. My **Ford 6600 tractor**

has plenty of power and is comfortable and easy to drive. It's also fuel efficient."

On the minus side, he lists his **Kuhn Knight 1219 rear discharge box manure spreader**. "The first year the poly floor cracked and the spreading paddles fell off. The following year, the small drive belt burned up 3 different times. I replaced it with a sprocket and chain which solved the problem. The third year we were scraping manure off the spreader when big patches of rust fell off the machine, leaving big holes. The company said this was just a cheap spreader anyway, but to me \$9,000 isn't cheap."

Norman Maisel, Quemado, New Mexico: "After reading an article about the **American Eagle** pond aeration windmill in FARM SHOW about 10 years ago, I decided to buy one (www.pondaeration.com; ph 440 236-3278). This wind-powered, pond aeration windmill generates pressurized air to keep the water in our pond fresh and clear. I had been using an electric pump and fountain, but it was noisy and cost about \$100 per month in electricity to operate. This one costs nothing to operate, and all we do is grease it once a year. Works great."

Thomas C. Jones, Williamstown, Ky.: "My son bought a **Polaris Ranger 6-wheeler utility vehicle** with a supposedly bad engine at an auction. It had a stripped-out head bolt, and the ignition wire was grounded to the frame. Now it's the handiest machine on our farm. It starts right up and will go anywhere."

George T. Platt, Charlestown, N.H.: George says his 1971 **International Harvester 1110 pickup** "is easy to fix, built rugged, and adaptable to any project. Of course, they don't make them anymore."

He has owned 4 **Deere tractors** over the last 40 years. "My 110 lawn tractor worked well.