

**Adrian Degerstrom, Askov, Minn.:** "I've purchased 2 new **efco 7200** chainsaws in the last 3 years. Both saws sometimes refuse to idle and when they die, sometimes I can't get them started again. I put both saws aside and now use only my **Husqvarna 372** chainsaw, which I really like."



**James Johnson, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y.:** "I use my 2015 **Kubota BX25D** backhoe-loader tractor to do everything from cutting 6 acres of grass, to cleaning up brush and



removing snow and ice from our 1,200-ft. driveway. I bought it with a **Land Pride** grapple fork and also a **Land Pride** 3-pt. mounted mower. The backhoe and front-end loader are both perfect for my needs. I don't know how I ever got along without this tractor."

**Ray Marks, West Salem, Ill.:** Ray's happy with his 2016 **Honda Acura MDX**. "This is the sixth MDX I've owned and they've all been great. They've never been back to the dealer for repairs. I think the 2016 model is the best yet. It's equipped with a lane keeping assist system, which uses a camera that can identify lane divisions and works proactively to keep the vehicle within a detected lane. It's almost like the car drives itself."

**Bradley Schneider, Washington, Va.:** "I love my **Kioti CS2410** subcompact tractor. I upgraded from a Deere lawn tractor and the only thing it didn't come with was a suspension seat, which I added. This tractor runs well and is easy on fuel. I use it to do some contract mowing and find that it can go places where bigger tractors can't."

"I use the tractor with a 60-in. belly-mounted mower and also a **Coroni** 60-in. rear-mounted flail mower ([www.agrisupply.com](http://www.agrisupply.com); ph 800 345-0169). I really like the flail mower and would never buy a bush hog-type model again. I've put it through real heavy brush, yet it never misses a beat. Replacement flails cost only about \$3 apiece. The biggest advantage is the nice finish that it leaves, whether I use it to mow a field of grass or clean up a site with brush and heavy undergrowth."

**Dave Smerchek, Union Grove, Wis.:** "Our **Leaf Guard** rain gutters were expensive, and in winter they leave 1 to 2-ft. long icicles which can drop on cars or people as they go underneath them. The solution they sold me on was to install heat cables which help, but they're expensive to buy and operate. During heavy rain the water pours over these gutters so they do little good. Also the gutter's inner and outer corners leak, and it's impossible to seal them without destroying the system."

**Karl Kwolek, Weyers Cave, Va.:** "My 2003 **Husqvarna** riding mower equipped with an 18 hp. Kawasaki V-twin engine has about 850 hrs. on it but is still going strong. It uses little oil and has required no major repairs."

"Several parts have failed on our 2015 **Westinghouse** whole house, 3-ton heat pump. This unit is guaranteed for parts.

After two service calls the manager took it upon himself to rectify all the problems at no charge, even though he spent a lot of time on it."

**Charles Meisner, Waupaca, Wis.:** "In 1982 I bought a new **Case 446** garden tractor, which I'm still using to mow lawns and to blow snow. Over the years this tractor has had minor problems, but it still performs flawlessly."

**Bruce Avery, Thetford Center, Vt.:** "Whenever a car or truck sits for a period of time, the brake rotors rust. That's when I spray them with **Fluid Film** ([www.fluid-film.com](http://www.fluid-film.com); ph 650 761-3536). I drive the vehicle ahead far enough to move the rotor underneath the brake pad. Fluid Film stops rust and dries to a dull black, with no effect on the vehicle's braking action. I spray both sides of the rotor."

**Chris Kimball, Nikiski, Alaska:** "My 2010 **Deere** 42-in. riding mower is reliable and easy to work on, and parts are easy to get."



**Marion Klutzke, West Lafayette, Ind.:** In 1988 Klutzke bought a 1979 **Ford** 4-WD pickup that had been repowered with an Allis Chalmers 4-cyl., 200 cu. in. turbocharged and intercooled diesel engine equipped with a C-6 automatic transmission. The engine came out of an Allis Chalmers 6080 tractor.

"The pickup had about 130,000 miles on it when I bought it. Now it has about 300,000 miles but it still doesn't use any oil," says Klutzke. "Chuck Dunlap, who was the head mechanic for 26 years at the Allis Chalmers dealership in Rensselaer, Ind., installed the engine. I asked him how much power the 6080 engine had. I assumed it had 80 to 85 hp, but he said the dynamometer showed 102 hp. I asked him how he was able to increase the power that much, but he would only reply 'that's my secret.'"

**Henry L. Hitechew, Sr., New Paris, Penn.:** "I like my 2016 **Sears Craftsman** 19.2-volt, 1/2-in. drive impact wrench. Works great for changing tires and for service work on riding mowers."

**Clark Edelmans, Troy, N.Y.:** "I use my 2004 **Deere** 4610 compact tractor to haul firewood and to bush hog. It works great and is easy to operate."

"We use our 1997 **Classic** CL400 outdoor wood burning furnace all year long. It'll burn any kind of wood, although it works best with white pine."

**Loren Woolridge, Lakeport, Calif.:** Loren's satisfied with his **Chamberlain** CWA2000 "wireless motion alert" driveway alarm ([www.chamberlain.com](http://www.chamberlain.com)). "It works great even with a long distance between the sensor and receiver. The batteries last for more than a year, and there have been few false alarms."

**Ed Kirkpatrick, Portland, Tenn.:** "I was surprised to learn that one of your readers had problems with his **Porter Cable** 20-volt cordless tools. I've had nothing but a great experience with my tools, which include a 20-volt cordless drill and reciprocal saw. Also, I own four of their 18-volt tools and they're all excellent. The batteries on these tools outperform the NiCad batteries on my Ryobi 18-volt tools."

## "Slow" Feeder Good For Mare

**Heather Smith Thomas, Salmon, Idaho:** "I have a mare that eats her hay quickly and then wants to chew on fences or reach over or through them to try to get to some grass. If I feed her more hay she gets too fat."

"I decided to try a 'slow' feeder, to make her eat the proper amount of hay more slowly so it would last longer through the morning and evening after her twice-daily feeding."

"The best one I've found is called The Savvy Feeder® ([www.savvyfeeder.com](http://www.savvyfeeder.com)) and I like it because it is sturdy and can take a lot of abuse, yet is lightweight and portable. It's built like a box with slanted sides (bigger at the bottom), with a grate that sits on top of the hay and keeps moving down as the horse pulls the hay out through the grate. It's always right on top of the hay as the amount of hay decreases. This feeder holds up to 25 pounds of hay. The manufacturer says it takes 4 to 10 times longer for a horse to consume it than when eating hay with free access. My mare works very diligently at getting the hay out and it probably only takes her about 3 times longer to eat her hay, but that's still a great benefit - giving her more eating time to occupy her busy mind and less time to get into trouble trying to destroy her pen!"



A plastic grate nests on top of hay and keeps moving down as horse pulls hay out through holes.



"I really like **Kubota** tractors and **Woods** farm implements. They're hard to beat."

**Jerry Brandt, La Grange, Mo.:** "For a couple of years now I've had problems with the headlights on my 2000 **Dodge** Ram 1500

### "Sometimes the headlights come on and stay on until I disconnect the battery."

pickup. After numerous Google searches, I've never been able to find a solution. Sometimes the headlights will come on and stay on until I disconnect the battery. I replaced the on-off switch and checked all the fuses, but nothing helped."

**Doug Clifton, Purdy, Mo.:** "Before the 2016 haying season started we ordered a set of **Silencer** wheel rake bands for our **Sitrix** 12-wheel rake ([Hygrade Engineering](http://Hygrade Engineering); [www.hygrade-engineering.com](http://www.hygrade-engineering.com); ph 605 396-7418). The one-piece plastic bands slip over rake wheel teeth and bolt together on the ends.



"After owning several wheel rakes over the years, we were getting real tired of replacing rake teeth all the time. So when we traded for a new rake we installed these bands right away. They reduce damage to rake teeth in rough conditions, and after a full season of use we haven't had a single broken tooth. Not only does the rake run much quieter, it seems

to rake much better. I won't own another wheel rake without Silencer bands on it."

**Bill Mahle, Ahwahnee, Calif.:** "Two years ago I started building a 1 1/2-scale live steam locomotive and purchased a **Grizzly** industrial 14 by 40-in. gunsmithing lathe ([www.grizzly.com](http://www.grizzly.com); ph 800 523-4777). It's a great machine that will turn parts to within .0005, or one half of one thousandth of an inch. It has been trouble-free and costs only about one third as much as similar machines."

"I bought a **Dro Pro** digital readout kit for the lathe ([www.dropros.com](http://www.dropros.com); ph 877 628-6028). The digital readout saves a lot of time because I don't have to remember the settings, as it's all done for you. Very handy. Together these products provide a great, affordable lathe for the farm."

**Ora Weston, Estherville, Iowa:** "The tie rods on my 2015 **Sears Craftsman** DT6000 riding mower are too weak, which causes the front wheels to toe out and the mower to steer hard. Another problem is the mower deck doesn't float, so when I'm mowing in ditches it can easily get hung up."

**Ed Clayton, Chesterfield, Va.:** "My **Kubota** 72-in. zero-turn riding mower equipped with a diesel engine has a lot of power and is stingy on fuel. It makes cutting grass a fun job."

"My **Little Wonder** self-propelled leaf blower is difficult to shift from forward to reverse. I discovered the factory had left off a block bearing. I tried to contact them by phone and email, but they never replied so I had to buy the part at a local small engine shop for \$46. I wish I had purchased another brand. Apparently, this company doesn't care about its customers."

**Steven Yoper, Reedsville, Penn.:** "I'm impressed with my 2015 **Samlex** Evolution series 4024 off-grid solar-powered inverter/charger ([www.samlexamerica.com](http://www.samlexamerica.com); ph 800 561-5885). I use solar panels and this 4,000-watt, 24-volt unit to operate all my shop tools with no problems. It'll operate my 2 hp. air compressor and Miller 40-amp plasma welder at half power. No noisy generators any more for me."

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