

## BUYING TIPS YOU CAN USE

Randomly selected farmers “tell it like it is” in nominating their “best” and “worst” buys.

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**Tony Groble, Grant, Minn.:** “It’s the best product we’ve ever used to control shedding in the house,” says Tony, about his “best buy” **Furminator** dog-grooming tool. “We’ve got a German Shepherd mix that sheds heavily. The Furminator makes it easy to do a great job brushing in just a few minutes. It really gets down into the fine hair that’s deep in the coat. A quick press of a button ejects hair off the tines. Different size brushes are available for long or short hair dogs, big or small. There’s also a Furminator specifically for cats.” Sells for \$38 to \$63, depending on the model ([www.furminator.com](http://www.furminator.com); ph 888 283-1620).

# Farmers Nominate Best, Worst Buys

## OPINION

**Tell Us About Your “Best or Worst” Buy**  
Send your nominations to:  
**FARM SHOW, P.O. Box 1029,  
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or E-mail your comments to:  
[Editor@FARMSHOW.com](mailto:Editor@FARMSHOW.com)**

**George Lindsay, Sr., Greeneville, Tenn.:** “I saw the article in FARM SHOW a couple issues ago (Vol. 35, No. 3) about **Walt’s Wholesale Clothing** and ordered 6 pairs of pants, 6 short sleeve shirts, and 6 long sleeve shirts from them on May 20<sup>th</sup>. When my order hadn’t arrived after 3 weeks, I called them and they sent out a package, which arrived June 20<sup>th</sup>. However, 6 shirts were missing so I called them and was told the missing shirts would be shipped overnight. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, they still had not arrived although I have called them 5 times since June. I finally gave up and decided I’d better warn other readers about this company.”

**Alton Eliason, Northford, Conn.:** “My best buy is a 20-in. **Craftsman** mower I bought 50 years ago. It has a 3 hp Briggs & Stratton motor and a heavy white metal deck. It’s been abused, left out exposed to rain, and it was buried under our greenhouse when it collapsed due to snow. I thought it was finished but I gave it a couple pulls. Despite the stale gas, it started right up and is still running perfect.”

**Leonard Mullen, Stewart, P.E.I.:** “My 2010 **Kubota** ZD 221 zero turn, 54-in. riding mower has plenty of power, starts easy, and is easy to operate.

“My two **Stihl** FS 45 gas string lawn and weed trimmers get a lot of use and are trouble-free.”

**Norm Dufresne, Cranbrook, B.C.:** “My worst buy ever is my 2003 **GM** Sonoma 4-WD 4-door pickup. I bought it new off the lot and have treated it like a baby ever since, but last week at only about 48,000 miles one of the front wheel bearing hubs went out and had to be replaced at a cost of almost \$500. Before that, at about 40,000 miles, both front lower ball joints had to be replaced at a cost of \$525.

“This pickup is stored inside when not in use. It has never been used for 4-wheeling and has had all the recommended service called for in the operator’s manual. In the past I owned a 1989 **Nissan** pickup that went about 286,000 miles, and all I replaced on it were the spark plugs.”

**Bryce Dunn, Dunn, N.C.:** Bryce nominates his 1991 **Chevrolet** Silverado 1500 4-WD pickup as his “best buy”. “My grandpa bought this pickup new and then passed it on to my dad, and now I’m driving it. It has about 500,000 miles on it with just a transmission rebuild. My grandpa put a shock hitch tow bumper on it, and we regularly pull a 12,000-lb. water wagon through sandy fields with no problems. There’s nothing tougher than a Chevy truck equipped with a 350 cu. in. engine.

“My **Bird-X** Sonic bird repeller is my worst buy. It doesn’t do one single thing to get rid of birds, but it sure annoys the heck out of me.”

**Ted B. Schuler, Humboldt, Neb.:** “My **Earthway** garden seeder doesn’t reliably deliver seed to the row and often leaves big gaps.”

**Connie Losee, Grand Prairie, Texas:** “**Rustoleum** paint is a quality product that works as promised. We used it to paint our tin chicken coop white in order to reflect the summer heat. It lowered the temperature inside the building and covered everything pretty well in one coat. It’s a little runny when applied with a brush, but we don’t have a sprayer.”

**R. L. Hodgson, Sainte-Marthe, Quebec:** “I recently purchased the shop-size **Grease Buster** online for about \$50. It’s designed to use penetrating oil to clean out grease fittings and bearings. The O-ring on the piston self-destructed the first time I used it on a tie rod end, sending potentially dangerous oil spraying onto my arms and face.”



**Abel Borg, Onalaska, Wash.:** “My 2008 **Scion** xB car is a reliable, fuel-efficient utility vehicle. It’ll carry fourteen 50-lb. bags of grain and two riders. Handles great.”

**Walter Fifelski, Wayland, Mich.:** “My **Lift Master** garage door opener worked fine until recently when we had a power outage. I hooked it up to my 13,000-watt generator and it continued to operate, but then when the power came back on it quit working. The repairman replaced a complicated electrical board and said the unit was supposed to come with a battery so it could still be operated when the power fails. However, there’s no battery on it and no warning not to use standby power. I don’t think I should have to pay the \$167 repair bill.”

**Harvey E. Bish, Aurora, Neb.:** “I like my 2003 **Toro** 42-in. zero-turn riding mower equipped with an 18 hp Briggs & Stratton engine. I used it for six trouble-free years and then bought a new model. It’s the same size but is equipped with a Kohler engine. It works great, too.”

**Steven E. Johnson, Holland, Iowa:** “I’m 57 and have used **Sears** Craftsman power tools all my life. Some of the tools are older than I am but still perform well.

“After a tornado came through in 2008 and totaled my 1991 Dodge pickup, I bought a used 1999 **Dodge** extended cab model equipped with a Cummins diesel engine. I put more than 300,000 miles on the 1991