

tractor is a best buy. I bought it used in 1973 with 4,048 hours on it, and it now it has more than 11,000 hours. The clutch and torque amplifier have been replaced twice and the brakes once. It still starts easy and runs smooth, and uses only one to two quarts of oil between 100-hour service intervals. The valve cover and oil pan have never been removed."

**Ron Cook, Lavina, Montana:** "They don't make 'em like this any more," says Ron about his 1967 **Ford** 1-ton pickup equipped with a dump box. He also owns a 1969 Ford 1/2-ton pickup. "Both pickups are still working great."

"I also like my **Ford** 1910 4-WD tractor. It's amazing what this little tractor will do."

On the "worst buy" side, he lists the **Ryobi** battery-powered drills he uses at his job. "I can't get much use out of these drills because the batteries always seem to be drained. I'd never buy any of the company's 12-volt, 18-volt, or 14.4-volt models. Some of the good battery-powered drills I've used include **DeWalt**, **Panasonic**, and **Bosch**."

**Nick A. Wiederhold, Williamsburg, Ohio:** "My 1952 **International Harvester** Farmall Cub, which I bought used from my grandfather, is my best buy. I use it to mow our yard. It works better than the Swisher trail mower we pull behind it, even though it's 49 years older."

"Our 1999 **Chevrolet** Malibu is a worst buy. I'm a Chevy enthusiast but don't ever ask me to buy another Malibu. This vehicle has already gone through four sets of brakes and one set of rotors. The intake manifold gasket blew, along with the left front wheel bearing, and the heater and air conditioning controls went out - all before the car even had 60,000 miles on it. Fortunately, the dealer covered all these premature failures at no cost."

**Ken Gilbertson, Ada, Minn.:** "My 1995 **Holscher** small square bale accumulator is my best buy. The design of the machine and the quality of the material it's built out of, as well as the workmanship that went into it, are all outstanding. No problems."

"My **Sears Craftsman** 6 hp oil-free air compressor is my worst buy. It was a lot louder than an oil-type compressor, and after the warranty expired a connecting rod in the compressor broke. I took the compressor apart and found that it wasn't even worth repairing."

**Clifford Burke, Homestead, Fla.:** "My 2002 **New Holland** 29D tractor is well built, easy to service, and comfortable to operate."

"My 2002 **Sears Craftsman** Robo Grip pliers is my worst buy. It's a great idea but is poorly made. It twists and bends if any pressure is applied."

**Marrel W. Bush, Lambertson, Minn.:** "I get a lot of use out of my 2001 **Milwaukee**

**"It's more fuel efficient when pulling a 32-ft. fifth wheel camper than other pickups running empty."**

sawzall. It's handy to use and is well built."

"My all-time favorite buy is my 1996 **Dodge** 2500 pickup equipped with a Cummins diesel engine and automatic transmission and 3:55 rear end. It's more fuel efficient when pulling a 32-ft. fifth wheel camper than any other pickup empty. The Sears tires I put on it provide a nice ride. This is a real cruising machine."

**Richard Bergman, Gleason, Wis.:** "I like my 1955 **Massey Ferguson** 50 tractor and

1957 **Massey Ferguson** No. 12 baler. I've had good luck with both machines and they're both easy to work on. The tractor always starts. My four children all learned to drive and bale hay with these machines, and now my grandchildren are starting in."

**Wayne Dagen, Reed City, Mich.:** "I like my 2002 **GM** Sierra 1/2-ton pickup."

"In the fall of 2001 I bought a new 42-in. **Yard Machine** riding mower equipped with a Briggs & Stratton 14.5 hp overhead valve engine. I used it to cut grass for only about 15 minutes before it started smoking so bad that I couldn't even see where I had already mowed. The dealer gave me a replacement model to use temporarily and tried to get Briggs & Stratton to send a new engine, but they refused."

**Henry T. "Hank" Vinson, Golconda, Ill.:** "My **Deere** GT275 garden tractor equipped with a 17 hp engine, agricultural tires, and 48-in. deck is my best buy. I use it to mow about six acres, sometimes twice a week. Last year I used it to mow my lawn 32 times. I have to mow fast, sometimes over rough areas and along pond banks, but this machine always does a quality job. I replace the blades and belts every year."

**Jeff Schindel, Oconto Falls, Wis.:** "My 1997 **Chevrolet** 1500 4-WD pickup equipped with an automatic transmission is my worst buy. Before the pickup even had 40,000 miles on it I had to replace an EGR valve, O2 sensor, oil cooler lines, front wheel hubs and anti-lock brake sensors, intake gaskets, heater connections, and a door handle. The radio and lights work when they want to. I won't buy another Chevy truck. However, I do have a 1977 GM pickup that I wouldn't part with."

**Marcus A. Evers, Eugene, Mo.:** Over the years Marcus has had a lot of success with **Allis Chalmers** equipment. "We're still using our 1936 **Allis Chalmers** WC tractor equipped with 12-ply road grader tires for bush hogging and raking hay. We use our 1951 **Allis Chalmers** WD tractor for mowing and also for making hay with our 1968 **Allis Chalmers** 303 square baler. We use our 1974 **Allis Chalmers** 200 tractor for heavy work and for making hay with our **Vermeer** 605H round baler. We use our 1968 **Allis Chalmers** 1600 backhoe for handling big bales and dirt work."

**Donald Borton, Delavan, Ind.:** "I like my 1998 **Lincoln** car. No problems and it gets 25 to 27 mpg, which I think is reasonably fuel efficient for a car its size."

"My **Weiser** power bolt lock is my worst buy. It has a coded touch pad system that I thought would work great with our tool shed. However, it never worked right. The company sent a new power strip but it didn't work, either."

**Mark Miller, Belvidere, Tenn.:** "My dad has a 1972 **Oliver** 1365 tractor equipped with a 4-cylinder diesel engine. Over the years all we've had to replace was a clutch. The tractor has less than 5,000 hours on it."

**Randall L. Lacy, McHenry, Md.:** Randall's pleased with a couple of **Hewlett Packard** products - his 2001 XL753 computer and his 2002 750 combination printer, scanner, and copier. "Both products were purchased at our local Wal-Mart store and have been problem-free. I use the computer every day to keep farm records, nutrient management planning, surfing the internet, and sending email. I use the printer-scanner-copier for everything from copying documents to making copies of photos."

"My 2000 **Troy Built** wheeled string trimmer equipped with a Briggs & Stratton gas engine is my worst buy. The engine powers a round trimmer head that holds two pieces of nylon line. The problem is that the line is held to the head with a metal plate with a tab, and

## Allis-Chalmers Manure Spreader

In the last issue of FARM SHOW a reader sent in a photo of an old pto-driven manure spreader that unloads out the front. He asked if any of our readers could identify it. Several people contacted us to report that it's an **Allis-Chalmers** 110 spreader, made in the late 1950's.

"The 110 stands for the spreader's 110-bu. capacity," said Martin Pohlman, Caledonia, Minn. "The early models were equipped with two turbine-type beaters while later models had three. The conveyor chain ran forward so the weight was always being transferred toward the tractor rather than to the back of the spreader."

"There were also two unique prototypes of the spreader. The first was equipped with a self-loader on the rear and the second had a cover so that it could be pulled behind a chopper. The 1960 price for the spreader was \$938.10. The company only made a total of 1,500 units."

As a coincidence, we recently heard about an Illinois farmer who uses the same AC spreader as a mulching machine for blueberries. Hubert Smith and his wife Bunny apply composted sawdust to one acre of blueberries. He equipped the spreader with a cross conveyor on front that's powered by an orbit whenever I run the trimmer in heavy grass the line comes loose and flies off. I spend more time trying to tighten up the line holders than I do trimming."

**Jim Gage, Jr., Schoharie, N.Y.:** "Our 1997 **Ford** F-350 pickup equipped with a Power Stroke diesel engine is our worst buy. We bought it used in 2001 and have had nothing but trouble ever since. At 30,000 miles it needed new rear brakes. Last year we had to replace the rear brakes again as well as a new rear end and universal joints. At about 60,000 miles the starter had to be replaced and it needed new rear universal joints again. Last January the universal joints had to be replaced yet again, and last March the starter again went bad after only six months of use."

"The door handles are made of plastic and break off easily. We removed the door panels and found that the door latches are bolted onto tin, which was all cracked. The best part of the truck is the Power Stroke diesel engine."

**W.T. Brantley, Jr., Raleigh, N.C.:** "We've used **Deere** tractors over the years, starting with a 1940 model B. We've always had one or more on the farm since then. Our latest purchase was a 1997 **Deere** 7810. We've had some minor problems with it including leaking steering cylinders, a hole in the air conditioning line that caused loss of refrigerant, a leaky oil pan gasket that apparently was improperly installed at the factory, and a cab head liner that came loose and dropped down. The dealer didn't help out on any of these problems. Several of my neighbors have had the same head liner problem in their **Deere** 7800 series tractors."

"On the plus side, the tractor handles nice and starts right up in cold weather. The cab is roomy and quiet. Also, this tractor is more fuel efficient than our **Deere** 4440."

**B. Scott, Hodges, Alabama:** "Our **Bush Hog** 2425 front-end loader mounted on a 1997 **Ford** 5610 tractor is my worst buy. The problem is there's no way to level the bucket to scrape and keep it in a fixed position. I've done everything suggested by the company and my dealer with no success. I tried bypassing the joystick control but that didn't help, either. I have a neighbor with a similar loader who has the same problem. I owned a **Deere** tractor equipped with a **Deere** loader before and it worked perfect."



Several readers identified this as an **Allis-Chalmers** 110 manure spreader.



**Hubert Smith** recently converted one of the front-unload spreaders into a mulching machine for his blueberry crop.

motor. He uses a small **New Holland** tractor to pull the unit between the rows of berries.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Hubert Smith, 5730 U.S. Hwy. 40, Altamont, Ill. 62411 (ph 618 483-6588).

**Michael Gray, Jonesboro, Ark.:** "I bought my 1983 **Honda** 200e Big Red 3-wheeler used, and it still works great. The transmission is equipped with a high and low range. This rig has a lot of pulling power - I've even used it to pull out a **Grizzly** 660 4-wheeler."

"My 1994 **Suzuki** 4-WD ATV is the worst \$1,500 I've ever spent. The engine spits, sputters, and backfires. It has no power and breaks down all the time."

**John C. Johnston, Baltimore, Ontario:** "My **Massey Ferguson** 1045 4-WD compact tractor equipped with a front-end loader is my best buy. It's not a big tractor, but it's all muscle and you can't beat it for plowing snow. It operates both my haybine and baler with ease. I think it's the perfect tractor for my 30-acre hobby farm. I've used it to go around our house and clean out the eave troughs. I also use it to unload objects out of my 1/2-ton pickup that are too heavy to move. At times I use it like a big wheelbarrow. It uses only two liters per hour of fuel while bush hogging. It's a great little tractor for hobby farmers."

**Allen A. Drayna, Eagle Bend, Minn.:** "It's by far the best pickup I've ever owned," reports Allen about his 1995 **Dodge** Ram 3/4-ton 4-WD pickup equipped with a diesel engine. "It has more than 274,000 miles on it but the engine still purrs like a kitten. I raise dairy heifers and use this pickup to pull my 6 1/2 by 25-ft. aluminum livestock trailer. It gets 11 to 14 mpg depending on whether it's loaded or empty. I've replaced the clutch, but the engine has never been touched."

"I'm not happy with my 2000 **AquaTherm** outside wood burning boiler. It uses way too much wood and its forced air draft blows way too much heat out of the chimney. It's well-built, but I believe it could be improved tremendously by adding some type of heat baffle to pick up more heat before it goes out the chimney."

**Bob Van Pelt, Roseville, Calif.:** Bob's impressed with his **Rodex** 5000 underground pest blaster. "I have major gopher and ground squirrel infestations in my orchards, pastures, and vineyards. After just two applications from the **Rodex** 5000, I've almost eliminated them."

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