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## E-Tractor Designed For Market Gardeners

The Super E from Tilmor is a perfect fit for market gardeners and even large-garden hobbyists. Like the Tilmor 520 diesel introduced in 2019, the Super E is modeled after the classic Allis-Chalmers G. It provides the operator with full visibility while planting, side-dressing, hilling and cultivating.

"The Super E can handle anything after tillage," says Lydell Steiner of Tilmor. "It fits the company goal we set to focus on commercial vegetable market gardeners."

Tilmor is the latest iteration of the family-

owned company that celebrated its 50th anniversary this past year. Over the years, the company's products have included Steiner tractors, Ventrac tractors and now the Super E. Along the way, the company also introduced non-tractor products. Many, such as the novel dual-fan snow blower (Vol. 2, No. 6) and the tumble-action feed mixer (Vol. 5, No. 3), were highlighted in FARM SHOW over its past 50 years.

The Super E may target the same market as the 520, but it offers a significantly

lower price. Its simple design and many components that have long since proven their durability also make it stand out.

"The Super E comes in at \$19,500, compared to \$36,000 for the 520," says Steiner. "The diesel engine, mechanical gearbox, and transmission make the 520 expensive to build."

Steiner notes that his uncle, Roy Steiner, was heavily involved in the process, as he was in projects throughout the past 50 years.

"It was the last project Roy had his thumbprint on before retiring at the age of 80," he says.

The company didn't set out to build an electric tractor, explains Steiner.

"We wanted to refine our cultivation tractor to be more bare-bones, simple and lower-cost," he says. "We started working on it three years ago and introduced it this past October."

The design uses proven components, many of which come from the golf cart industry. One new feature of the Super E is the frame. It's completely different from the 520 diesel, notes Steiner. The Super E has a higher platform and fixed wheel spacing. It also doesn't have a toolbar on the belly or the back, nor does it have a 3-pt. on the back.

"If the goal is post-tillage, it doesn't need those things," says Steiner. "The 520 has adjustable wheel spacing, but when you add that, you add cost. Besides, our research suggested that about 80% of our target customers fit the Super E tire spacing."

What the Super E does have is 48-volt, 50Ah batteries, with space for up to four. Battery storage is designed for easy swapping to extend run time. Estimated run time per battery is 1 to 2 hrs., depending on the tool and operating conditions. The batteries come with a 10-year warranty.

"With four batteries, you get 4 to 5 hrs. of steady work," says Steiner. "That's what most of our customers are looking for. You can always add batteries to swap out for an even longer day. Our quick-plug connectors make that easy and fast."

The tractor has a maximum ground speed of 4.5 mph and a maximum transit speed of 8.4 mph.

The Super E features 22 in. of ground clearance and 50 in. of space between the tires, measured inside-to-inside. The frame offers 48 in. of underbelly tool space and a 2-in. receiver tube at the front.

Steiner notes that the Super E has a tight turning radius and is easy to maneuver and operate.

"Our core customers are operating from one to 50 acres," says Steiner. "Many of them are using an Allis-Chalmers G or a Cub and are looking to replace it. With the 520 diesel and the Super E, we have two great options."

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## Options For Smart Phone Tractor Guidance

Whether you have an Apple, Android or other smartphone, you have plenty of low-cost GPS navigation options for tractors. Mount the app-equipped smartphone in the tractor, sprayer or combine cab, and simply follow the on-screen icon, adjusting the steering wheel as you go.

The app stores are well stocked, as are websites on the internet. It's been noted that some apps share remarkably similar product interfaces, including purchase screens, prompts to rate the app, and review sections that look less than authentic.

Agricision's onTrak claims to be the only user-friendly tractor GPS system. AgriBus-NAVI claims to help farmers worldwide

save money and farm better. FieldBee offers a wide range of navigation tools, including a simple GPS tractor navigation app. There is also Farm Navigator, Tractor GPS and more.

Some offer simple, straight-line guidance. Others include field mapping and other data-gathering features. Most are free... initially. However, monthly subscriptions usually begin after the free period ends.

Evaluating options can be difficult because it requires jumping from one web page to another. It's also often challenging to identify the parent company.

GLandNav, GLandGo, and UTM Maps are apps available from Hong Kong-based 4Digsoft. They offer navigation, field

measurement, route and work planning, and much more for farmers worldwide. The company details its product features.

With so many apps offering a free introductory plan, the best option may be to download and evaluate several. Some plans automatically charge after the free trial ends, so be sure to cancel before that date if the app isn't delivering what you're looking for.

Monthly plans vary widely: GLandNav starts at \$4, while FieldBee starts at \$50.

If you've tried a tractor navigation smartphone app, share your experience with FARM SHOW via our website, email or letter.



Mount a smartphone equipped with a GPS navigation app in the tractor, sprayer or combine cab, and simply follow the on-screen icon, adjusting the steering wheel as you go.

Winter bale grazing was just one of countless practices Voth showcased in On Pasture.



## Collection Of Grazing Tips Available Online

On Pasture has been a valuable resource for graziers nationwide. Founder and publisher Kathy Voth recently announced a gift for anyone interested in grazing cattle, sheep, goats, horses, chickens, pigs and other species.

"When you go to the On Pasture website, you'll find a link to another website where you can download the entire On Pasture library to your own computer," says Voth. "The compressed folder is 2 1/2 GB, which may be too large for some. I'm looking into other ways to download and may offer a flash drive for a fee."

That library comprises some 2,500 articles by a cross-section of the grazing industry, from hands-on graziers to university researchers. It includes regular contributions from many of the most well-known and well-respected graziers in the country. The collection covers forages, soil health, animal health, and other topics Voth considered important for graziers to know.

For nearly 10 years, Voth managed On Pasture as an online subscription magazine focused on grazing. Voth has spent her 40-year career sharing ideas and knowledge on

conservation and range management, including the use of goats in fire management (Vol. 36, No. 2) and teaching cows to eat weeds (Vol. 36, No. 2).

Voth founded On Pasture after hearing a very uninspiring speech by a scientist describing his research to a roomful of graziers. She noted that he was not reaching them, so she decided to do something different. On Pasture translated scientific and experiential knowledge into practices graziers could use.

In 2022, she retired and retired the publication, telling her readers some of what she had tried to accomplish.

"We've done some myth-busting from time to time," she says. "Is keyline plowing a helpful practice? Does raw milk and compost tea really grow more grass? Can grazing really sequester more carbon in the soil? What about soil balancing and Brix measurement? These are just a few of the practices we've covered with an eye towards helping you keep more money in your pocket."

At the time, she made the library available on the website at no cost. She continued to send occasional newsletters and solicit contributions from readers to support her efforts. That ended this fall. She explained the reasons for the change to her dedicated followers.

"Well, I'm retired and am interested in do-

ing other things with my life now," says Voth. "But at the same time, I want to preserve your ability to access 12 years of information on how to be a sustainable and profitable grazer."

"Second, it saves money. It costs about \$4,000 a year to maintain On Pasture online in its current state. This solution is almost free."

Voth plans to continue communicating with her graziers. However, instead of emails, they'll receive notifications from Substack, a service for writers, with or without paid subscriptions. Again, she explained to her followers why.

"It eliminates the \$150-a-month cost of sending emails to you and gives me a place to share information without spending a dime," says Voth. "Things have changed a lot since the first issue of On Pasture in March of 2013. What hasn't changed is how much I care for the grazing community. I hope you've felt my caring for you, and I hope that I've helped you in some small way."

Articles she published, along with the innovative graziers, equipment, and researchers she showcased, have often resulted in stories in FARM SHOW.

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