

2002 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey



Many Iowa farmers hire some custom machine work in their farm business, or perform custom work for others. Others rent machinery or perform other services. The information below is based on a survey of 196 Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate from the survey and the range are shown. Nineteen percent of the respondents perform custom work, 14 percent hire work done, and 42 percent indicated doing both.

Values below are rates expected to be charged or paid, including fuel and labor. This rate schedule is intended only as a guide. Actual custom rates may vary according to availability of machinery in a given area, timeliness, operator skill, field size and shape, crop conditions, and the performance characteristics of the machine being used. Machinery rental rates can be estimated on the back.

Tillage	Average	Range
Chopping cornstalks, per acre	\$6.80	5.00 - 10.00
Plowing - moldboard plow, per acre	11.30	9.00 - 15.00
- chisel, per acre	10.45	8.00 - 15.00
Disk/chiseling, per acre	11.00	8.00 - 14.00
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), per acre	12.70	9.00 - 17.00
V-ripper (over 15 in. deep), per acre	13.10	9.00 - 18.00
V-ripper with tandem disk, per acre	13.30	10.00 - 18.00
Disking - tandem, per acre	7.90	5.00 - 12.00
- offset, per acre	9.65	7.75 - 14.00
Harrowing, per acre	4.50	3.30 - 7.00
Soil finishing, per acre	8.45	6.00 - 12.50
Field cultivating, per acre	7.70	5.00 - 12.00
Cultivating, per acre	6.65	4.00 - 10.00
Cultivating, ridge-till, per acre	8.65	6.00 - 12.00
Rotary hoeing, per acre	4.95	3.40 - 7.00
Planting		
Planter - w/ fert & insect. attach., per a.	\$11.35	7.50 - 16.00
- without attachments, per acre	9.80	6.00 - 15.00
- with splitters, per acre	12.45	9.00 - 15.00
- no-till planter, per acre	12.00	7.00 - 16.00
- ridge till planter, per acre	12.10	9.00 - 15.00
Soybean drill, per acre	10.90	6.00 - 14.00
No-till soybean drill, per acre	12.75	9.50 - 16.00
Grain drill, per acre	9.35	6.00 - 13.00
No-till grass seed drill, per acre	11.65	8.00 - 15.00
Broadcast grass seeder, per acre	5.90	4.00 - 9.00
Fertilizer Application (materials not included)		
Dry bulk - applied, per acre	\$3.10	1.50 - 6.00
- applicator only, per acre	1.40	0.75 - 2.00
Liquid - applied, per acre	4.60	3.00 - 6.00
- applicator only, per acre	2.05	1.00 - 4.00
- strip-till, knifed, per acre	7.35	4.00 - 12.00
Anhydrous- applied, per acre	6.65	4.00 - 10.00
- applicator only, per acre	1.40	1.00 - 2.00
Spreading lime, per ton	3.35	2.00 - 5.00
Spraying (materials not included)		
Ground, broadcast, per acre	\$4.70	3.00 - 6.00
Ground, incorporated, per acre	8.70	6.00 - 12.00
Ground, banded, per acre	5.30	3.50 - 10.00
Rope wick applicator, per acre	4.65	4.00 - 5.70
Bean buggy, (without riders) per acre	3.95	2.50 - 5.00
Aerial, per acre	6.15	5.00 - 7.00
Ground, road ditches, per hour	36.80	20.00 - 55.00

Harvesting Grain	Average	Range
Corn combining, per acre	\$23.85	18.00 - 31.00
Soybean combining, per acre	23.05	18.00 - 29.00
Small grain combining, per acre	21.35	16.00 - 25.00
Picking ear corn, per acre (seed corn)	27.20	18.00 - 36.00
Picking ear corn, per acre	19.85	15.00 - 25.00
Drying corn		
- continuous flow dryer (per bu.)	0.081	0.050 - 0.100
- continuous flow dryer (per point)	0.023	0.015 - 0.030
- bin dryer (per bu.)	0.086	0.060 - 0.120
- bin dryer (per point)	0.024	0.015 - 0.030
- bin dryer (per bu.) no fuel or labor	0.047	0.025 - 0.060
Handling grain (by auger), per bu.	0.044	0.010 - 0.130
Hauling grain, on-farm, wagon per bu.	0.052	0.015 - 0.100
Hauling grain to mkt., wagon, per bu. (1-way)	0.066	0.025 - 0.120
Hauling grain to mkt., truck, per bu., (1-way)	0.088	0.050 - 0.170
Hauling grain to mkt., per bu. /mile (1-way)	0.020	0.010 - 0.060
Hauling grain in field, grain cart, per acre	3.90	1.00 - 6.00
Storing grain, per bu., per month	0.017	0.010 - 0.030
Storing grain, per bu., per year	0.131	0.080 - 0.300
Storing ear corn, per bu., per year	0.102	0.050 - 0.150

Harvesting Forages	Average	Range
Hay - mowing, per acre	\$7.35	4.50 - 12.00
- mowing/conditioning, per acre	8.80	6.00 - 12.00
- raking, per acre	4.25	2.00 - 10.00
- windrowing, per acre	9.20	7.00 - 11.00
- mowing CRP acres, per acre	8.65	5.00 - 15.00
- mowing fence rows, ditches, /hr.	42.90	20.00 - 75.00
Hay baling - small square, per bale	0.38	0.25 - 0.50
- large square, per bale	7.35	6.50 - 8.00
- large round, per bale	7.35	5.00 - 10.00
- charge for plastic wrapping	1.55	0.50 - 2.50
- stack, 1 ton, per stack	11.05	8.00 - 15.00
- stack, 3 ton, per stack	23.60	15.00 - 25.00
Hay baling & storing, square, per bale	0.50	0.40 - 0.75
Straw or corn stalk baling, large round	9.15	6.00 - 12.50
Wrapping round bales, per bale, w. net	1.95	1.50 - 2.50
Silage - chopping, per acre	50.40	30.00 - 80.00
- chopping, per hr., per row	30.30	10.00 - 40.00
- chop, haul, fill upright silo, /hr, /row	33.80	25.00 - 40.00
- chop, haul, fill trench silo, /hr, /row	32.15	31.90 - 38.00
- silage bag filling (excluding bag)	45.00	40.00 - 50.00
Haylage - chopping, per hr., 7 foot hd.	66.70	50.00 - 72.00
- chopping, hauling, filling silo, per hr.	77.15	60.00 - 80.00

Machine Rental (operator, tractor, and fuel not included)	Average	Range
Tractor, per horsepower, per hour	\$0.176	\$0.100 - \$0.267
Grain drill, per acre	6.95	5.00 - 10.00
No-till soybean drill, per acre	8.55	5.00 - 12.00
Grain wagon, per bu.	0.029	0.010 - 0.050
Grain auger, per bu.	0.024	0.010 - 0.040
Grain cart with auger, per bu.	0.034	0.020 - 0.050
Grain vacuum, per bu.	0.055	0.020 - 0.100
Grain cleaner, per bu.	0.024	0.020 - 0.030
Liquid manure spreader, per hour	19.15	15.00 - 25.00
Solid manure spreader, per hour	17.65	15.00 - 20.00
Skid loader, per hour	31.05	10.00 - 50.00
Silage wagon, per hour	6.95	6.00 - 8.00
Power washer, per hour	17.40	10.00 - 25.00
Tub grinder, per hour	79.35	50.00 - 100.00
Brush chopper, per acre	8.85	5.00 - 10.00

Miscellaneous Services	Average	Range			Average	Range	
Moving round bales, per bale	\$3.00	1.00	- 5.00	Digging post holes, per hole	\$2.35	1.00	- 5.00
Moving round bales by truck, per mile	1.80	1.10	- 2.25	Building terraces, per foot	1.15	1.00	- 1.50
Removing snow (loader), per hr.	50.25	20.00	- 100.00	Trenching, per foot	0.75	0.50	- 1.00
Removing snow (blade), per hr.	46.40	25.00	- 70.00	Tiling (ex. materials), per rod	7.80	4.00	- 12.80
Removing snow (blower), per hr.	62.10	25.00	- 85.00	Back hoeing, per hour	58.95	35.00	- 125.00
Grinding, mixing feed, per ton	6.70	5.00	- 7.50	Chopping brush, per acre	11.50	10.00	- 12.45
Spreading liq. manure, broadcast, /hr	31.70	28.00	- 35.00	Cleaning seed, per bu.	0.55	0.40	- 0.80
Spreading liq. manure, inject., /1000 gal	9.30	4.80	- 10.30	Shearing sheep, per head	2.45	2.00	- 3.00
Loading solid manure, per hour	43.15	20.00	- 60.00	Scouting crops, per acre	3.30	1.50	- 5.00
Loading, spreading solid manure, per hr.	71.15	45.00	- 120.00	Soil testing, per sample	6.10	2.00	- 10.00
Building fence, per hour (no materials)	12.65	8.00	- 20.00	Rock picking, per acre	14.55	8.10	- 20.00
Building fence, per rod (no materials)	7.10	5.00	- 10.00	GPS grid soil testing, per acre	5.70	3.00	- 8.00
Hauling livestock, per mile	1.60	1.00	- 2.25	Farm Labor Wages			
Bulldozing, per hr. per ft. of blade	8.10	4.35	- 11.25	Machinery operating, per hour	\$8.75	7.00	- 12.00
Custom Farming — growing and harvesting							
Corn, per acre	\$72.75	40.00	- 95.00	Small grain, per acre	\$53.90	45.00	- 62.50
Soybeans, per acre	65.10	40.00	- 85.00				

Average 2002 Farm Custom Rates, by Area

The table below shows average custom rates reported for some common operations in different areas of the state. Not enough responses were received for other operations to provide reliable estimates.

Operation	Northwest	Northeast	Southwest	Southeast
Chisel plow	\$9.80	\$9.05	\$11.55	\$11.30
Moldboard plow	10.35	11.10	12.35	11.70
Tandem disk	7.45	8.00	8.35	8.05
Field cultivate	7.30	7.40	8.10	8.05
Plant, with attachments	10.55	10.70	11.75	12.80
Cultivate, conventional	6.45	6.50	6.00	7.85
Spray, ground, broadcast	4.35	4.85	4.70	4.85
Combine corn	22.90	23.85	24.10	24.75
Combine soybeans	22.00	22.95	23.25	24.05
Combine small grain	20.65	21.90	22.15	22.65
Square baling, per bale	0.42	0.35	0.36	0.43
Round baling, per bale	8.10	7.40	7.15	7.10
Machinery labor, per hour	8.75	8.65	8.95	8.90

Estimating Machinery Rental Rate

1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor) \$ _____/acre
2. Percent of custom charge which is for interest, insurance, depreciation, and repairs (excluding fuel and labor) _____%
(use 70% for tillage, 80% for planting and harvesting)
3. Rental value, including tractor (1 x 2) \$ _____/acre
4. Tractor rental value, if tractor is not provided:
_____ HP x \$ _____ per hp-hour rental rate / _____ acres/hour = \$ _____/acre
(See PM 696, "Estimating Field Capacity of Farm Machines.")
5. Implement rental value, without tractor (3 minus 4) \$ _____/acre

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