

2011 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 survey responses from 179 Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate from the survey and the range are shown. Twenty-two percent of the respondents perform custom work, 14 percent hire work done, and 64 percent indicated doing both. This rate schedule is intended only as a guide.

Values below are rates expected to be charged or paid, including fuel and labor. The average price for diesel fuel was assumed to be \$2.75 per gallon. A fuel price increase of \$0.50 per gallon will cause total machinery costs to increase approximately 5 percent. 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 are shown on the following page.

Tillage

	Average	Range
Chopping cornstalks, / acre	\$10.35	6.00 - 15.75
Moldboard plowing, / acre	15.00	10.00 - 19.00
Chisel plowing, / acre	13.70	9.00 - 18.00
Disk/chiseling, / acre	14.95	10.00 - 20.00
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), / acre	17.05	10.00 - 24.00
V-ripping (over 15 in. deep), / acre	17.05	10.00 - 22.00
V-ripping with tandem disk, / acre	18.90	12.00 - 28.00
Disking, tandem, / acre	11.80	5.00 - 16.00
Disking, offset, / acre	14.45	10.00 - 18.00
Harrowing, / acre	8.60	6.00 - 12.00
Soil finishing, / acre	12.30	7.00 - 16.00
Field cultivating, / acre	11.45	7.00 - 16.00
Rock picking, / acre	12.40	10.00 - 15.00
Cultivating, / acre	10.95	8.00 - 14.00
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	13.35	12.00 - 16.00
Rotary hoeing, / acre	8.10	3.75 - 15.00
Land rolling, / acre	6.55	3.00 - 11.00

Planting

Planting - w/ fert & insect. attach., / a.	\$15.70	10.00 - 25.00
- without attachments, / acre	14.80	9.00 - 20.00
- w/ splitters & attach., / acre	16.75	13.50 - 21.00
- no-till planter, / acre	16.30	12.00 - 23.00
- no-till planter w/ splitters, / a.	17.90	14.00 - 24.00
- ridge till planter, / acre	18.60	16.00 - 22.00
Extra charge for seed shut-offs, / acre	1.65	0.50 - 3.00
Drilling soybeans, / acre	14.85	11.00 - 20.00
Drilling soybeans, no-till, / acre	15.95	13.00 - 25.00
Drilling grass seed, / acre	13.20	9.00 - 20.00
Drilling small grain, / acre	13.55	10.00 - 20.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with tractor, / a.	9.80	7.00 - 12.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with ATV, / acre	10.65	9.00 - 12.00

Spraying (materials not included)

Ground, broadcast, tractor, / acre	\$6.05	4.00 - 9.50
Ground, incorporated, tractor, / acre	11.30	9.00 - 14.25
Ground, broadcast, self propelled, / acre	6.80	4.00 - 14.00
Ground, banded, tractor, / acre	7.95	6.50 - 10.00
Ground, road ditches, / hour	52.45	20.00 - 80.00
Aerial, / acre	8.90	6.10 - 13.00

Fertilizer Application (materials not included)

Dry bulk - applied, / acre	\$4.05	1.50 - 7.00
- strip-till, / acre	15.55	9.00 - 20.00
Liquid - spraying, / acre	5.85	4.00 - 7.50
- strip-till, knifed, / acre	13.25	9.00 - 18.00
Anhydrous - injecting, w/ tool bar, / acre	10.30	5.00 - 17.00
- injecting, w/o tool bar, / acre	9.35	6.00 - 13.75
Spreading lime, / ton	5.85	3.00 - 9.90

Harvesting, Drying, and Storing Grain

	Average	Range
Corn combining, / acre	\$30.90	22.00 - 40.00
- with chopper head, / acre	33.45	26.00 - 41.50
Soybean combining, / acre	29.65	21.50 - 39.00
- with air reel, / acre	32.10	25.50 - 40.00
Small grain combining, / acre	27.40	20.00 - 35.00
Complete harvesting (combine, cart, haul to farm storage)		
- Corn, / acre	40.80	27.50 - 55.00
- Soybeans, / acre	38.15	27.50 - 50.00
Added charge for GPS mapping, / acre	2.25	0.25 - 4.00
Picking ear corn, / acre (seed corn)	31.45	20.00 - 40.00
Picking ear corn, / acre (farm use)	25.35	20.00 - 28.00
Drying corn (includes fuel, electricity, labor)		
- continuous flow dryer (/ point / bu.)	0.049	0.030 - 0.060
- bin dryer (/ point / bu.)	0.056	0.035 - 0.080
Handling grain by auger, / bu.	0.057	0.010 - 0.100
Hauling grain		
- in field, grain cart, corn / acre	5.65	2.00 - 10.00
- in field, grain cart, soybeans / acre	4.70	2.00 - 8.50
- to farm storage, wagon, / bu.	0.063	0.030 - 0.100
- farm storage to mkt., wagon, / bu.	0.085	0.050 - 0.150
- to mkt., truck, / bu., (5 mi. 1-way)	0.098	0.050 - 0.150
- to mkt., truck, / bu., (25 mi. 1-way)	0.158	0.070 - 0.250
- to mkt., truck, / bu., (100 mi. 1-way)	0.292	0.200 - 0.440

Harvesting Forages

Hay - mowing, / acre	\$10.15	7.00 - 14.00
- conditioning, / acre	11.20	9.00 - 12.00
- mowing/conditioning, / acre	12.40	8.00 - 15.00
- raking, / acre	5.75	3.00 - 8.00
- windrowing, / acre	12.25	10.00 - 14.00
- tedding, / acre	5.90	4.00 - 8.00
Swathing hay or small grain, / acre	11.60	6.00 - 15.00
Hay baling - small square, / bale	0.50	0.40 - 0.75
- large square, / bale	9.45	7.00 - 13.00
- large round w/o wrap, / bale	9.95	8.00 - 12.00
- large round with wrap, / bale	11.20	8.50 - 14.00
Straw or corn stalk baling		
- large round or square w/o wrap, / bale	11.20	8.00 - 14.00
- large round or square w/ wrap, / bale	12.45	9.00 - 16.00
Moving round bales to storage, / bale	2.85	1.00 - 5.00
Hauling round bales, / bale, / loaded mile	0.25	0.18 - 0.50
Silage - chopping, / hr., / head row	36.80	25.00 - 50.00
- chop, haul, fill silo, /hr., / hd row	48.80	35.00 - 58.00
Filling silage bags, per foot of bag	8.65	5.00 - 12.00
Haylage - chopping, / hr., / ft. head width	9.05	6.65 - 10.40
Haylage - chopping, / ton	8.75	7.50 - 9.00
Earlage - chopping, / acre	46.60	39.50 - 50.00

Miscellaneous Services

	Average	Range
Removing snow (loader), / hour	\$77.10	40.00 - 100.00
Removing snow (blade), /hr., /ft. of blade	8.50	5.00 - 11.65
Removing snow (blower), /hr., /ft. of blower	12.40	7.65 - 17.00
Grinding, mixing feed, / ton	10.20	9.50 - 11.50
Tub grinding hay, / hour	250.90	150.00 - 400.00
Spreading liq. manure, inject., / 1000 gal.	11.00	9.00 - 15.00
Liquid manure w/ drag line, / 1000 gal.	10.50	8.00 - 12.00
Loading solid manure, / hour	70.40	50.00 - 100.00
Loading, spreading solid manure, / hour	97.55	60.00 - 140.00
Power washing, / hour	38.45	28.00 - 50.00
Building fence, barb, / hr. (no materials)	16.25	10.00 - 20.00
Building fence, barb, / rod (no materials)	11.85	9.00 - 17.00
Building fence, woven, / hr. (no materials)	15.05	10.00 - 20.00
Building fence, woven, / rod (no materials)	11.75	10.00 - 14.00
Scouting crops, / acre	4.15	3.00 - 6.00
Soil testing, / sample	7.45	5.00 - 10.00
GPS grid soil testing, / acre	6.95	4.00 - 12.00
Managing stored grain, / bu.	0.05	0.01 - 0.10
Shearing sheep, / head	3.60	3.00 - 5.00
Livestock hauling w/ trailer, /loaded mile	2.80	2.00 - 3.25
Livestock hauling w/ truck, /loaded mile	3.10	2.00 - 3.50
Bulldozing, / hr., / ft. of blade	11.15	6.50 - 15.00
Digging post holes, / hole	4.50	3.50 - 5.00
Driving steel fence posts, / post	3.30	2.50 - 4.00
Driving wooden fence posts, / post	4.45	4.00 - 5.00
Building terraces, / foot	1.40	1.30 - 1.50
Trenching, / foot	1.35	1.00 - 2.00
Tiling (ex. materials), / foot	0.95	0.30 - 1.60
Back hoeing, / hour	82.60	35.00 - 150.00
Clearing land, / hour	128.30	100.00 - 150.00
Building ponds, / hour	120.30	100.00 - 140.00
Chain sawing, / hour	37.05	25.00 - 45.00
Welding machinery, / hour	50.35	30.00 - 80.00
Mowing CRP or pasture, / acre	13.85	6.00 - 25.00
Mowing fence rows, ditches, / hour	58.35	20.00 - 100.00
Chopping brush, / acre	17.75	15.00 - 20.00
Using truck scale, / load weighed	3.75	2.00 - 5.00

Machine Rental (operator, tractor, and fuel not included)

	Average	Range
Tractor, / horsepower, / hour	\$0.22	0.16 - 0.30
Grain drill, / acre	9.80	7.00 - 12.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	10.55	9.00 - 13.00
Corn head for combine, / acre	8.75	7.00 - 11.10
Soybean head for combine, / acre	8.25	7.00 - 11.00
Grain cart with auger, corn, / acre	5.05	2.50 - 8.00
Grain cart with auger, soybeans, / acre	4.60	3.00 - 7.00
Grain wagon, / bu.	0.09	0.05 - 0.12
Grain truck (semi), / bu. / round trip	0.12	0.05 - 0.15
Grain auger, / bu.	0.05	0.01 - 0.08
Grain vacuum, / bu.	0.08	0.05 - 0.11
Grain cleaner, / bu.	0.08	0.05 - 0.10
Liquid manure spreader, / hour	28.95	25.00 - 30.00
Solid manure spreader, / hour	35.85	30.00 - 50.00
Skid loader, / hour	46.50	20.00 - 60.00
Dry bulk fertilizer applicator, / acre	2.20	1.50 - 3.25
Liquid fertilizer applicator, / acre	5.15	3.50 - 7.00
Anhydrous fertilizer applicator, / acre	3.70	1.00 - 7.00
Power washer, / hour	33.30	25.00 - 40.00
Generator, / hour	29.00	20.00 - 35.00
Tub grinder, / hour	183.70	150.00 - 225.00

Bin Rental

Bin dryer, / bu. dried, (no fuel or labor)	\$0.067	0.050 - 0.090
Storing grain, bin rental / bu., / month	0.023	0.010 - 0.040
Storing grain, bin rental / bu., / year	0.158	0.100 - 0.280

Custom Farming (tillage, planting, pest control, and harvesting)

Corn, / acre	\$108.95	65.00 - 145.00
Soybeans, / acre	96.40	60.00 - 130.00
Small grain, / acre	81.45	60.00 - 100.00

Farm Labor Wages for Operating Machinery

Spraying or harvesting, / hour	\$13.45	10.00 - 22.00
Other operations, / hour	12.00	9.00 - 18.00

Estimating a Machinery Rental Rate

1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor)	\$ _____/acre	Example: Tandem Disk \$11.80
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)	x _____%	x 70%
3. Rental value, including tractor (1 x 2)	= \$ _____/acre	= \$8.26
4. Tractor rental value, if tractor is not provided: _____HP x \$ _____per hp-hour rental rate (see above) / _____acres/hour = Ex: 150 HP x \$.22 (per hp-hour rental rate) / 15 acres/hr = \$2.20	= \$ _____/acre	= \$2.20
5. Implement rental value, without tractor (3 minus 4)	= \$ _____/acre	= \$6.06/acre

... and justice for all

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