

2006 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 165 Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate from the survey and the range are shown. Twenty-six percent of the respondents perform custom work, 14 percent hire work done, and 60 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, / acre	\$8.00	5.00 - 12.00
Plowing - moldboard plow, / acre	12.40	9.50 - 15.10
- chisel, / acre	11.80	9.00 - 15.00
Disk/chiseling, / acre	12.50	9.50 - 14.00
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), / acre	13.85	9.70 - 18.00
V-rip/ (over 15 in. deep), / acre	15.10	11.00 - 21.00
V-rip/ with tandem disk, / acre	14.85	12.00 - 18.00
Disking - tandem, / acre	9.05	6.00 - 14.00
- offset, / acre	10.60	8.50 - 15.00
Harrowing, / acre	5.75	4.00 - 8.00
Soil finishing, / acre	9.20	6.50 - 12.50
Field cultivating, / acre	8.45	5.50 - 12.00
Rock picking, / acre	11.30	10.00 - 12.50
Cultivating, / acre	7.50	5.00 - 10.00
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	10.00	8.50 - 11.00
Rotary hoeing, / acre	5.70	4.00 - 8.00

Planting

Planting - w/ fert & insect. attach., / acre	\$12.60	8.00 - 18.00
- without attachments, / acre	11.45	8.00 - 16.25
- with splitters, / acre	13.05	10.00 - 15.25
- no-till planter, / acre	13.10	9.75 - 18.00
- ridge till planter, / acre	13.20	11.50 - 14.50
Drilling soybeans, / acre	11.50	8.00 - 14.00
Drilling soybeans, no-till, / acre	12.90	8.70 - 15.60
Drilling small grain, / acre	9.95	7.50 - 12.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with tractor, / acre	7.55	5.25 - 10.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with ATV, / acre	9.00	8.00 - 11.00

Spraying (materials not included)

Ground, broadcast, tractor, / acre	\$4.90	3.50 - 6.50
Ground, broadcast, s. propelled, / acre	5.35	4.00 - 7.50
Ground, incorporated, / acre	9.60	7.25 - 15.00
Ground, banded, / acre	5.15	4.25 - 5.75
Aerial, / acre	5.85	5.00 - 7.50
Ground, road ditches, / hour	42.00	20.00 - 70.00

Fertilizer Application (materials not included)

Dry bulk - applied, / acre	\$3.50	2.00 - 5.00
Liquid - spraying, / acre	4.50	3.50 - 6.00
- strip-till, knifed, / acre	9.50	7.00 - 13.50
Anhydrous - injecting, / acre	7.40	5.00 - 11.00
Spreading lime, / ton	5.00	3.00 - 8.00

Harvesting, Drying, and Storing Grain

	Average	Range
Corn combining, / acre	\$25.70	19.00 - 35.20
Soybean combining, / acre	25.00	18.00 - 34.20
Small grain combining, / acre	22.90	18.00 - 28.00
Picking ear corn, / acre (seed corn)	31.70	30.00 - 33.10
Picking ear corn, / acre	23.20	20.00 - 25.00
Drying corn		
- continuous flow dryer, / point	\$0.030	0.020 - 0.035
- bin dryer, / point	0.027	0.020 - 0.038
- bin dryer, / bu., no fuel or labor	0.069	0.040 - 0.099
Handling grain by auger, / bu.	0.048	0.020 - 0.100
Storing grain, / bu., / month	0.022	0.010 - 0.040
Storing grain, / bu., / year	0.123	0.070 - 0.200
Hauling grain		
- in field, cart, corn, / acre	5.60	2.00 - 13.00
- in field, cart, soybeans, / acre	4.50	1.50 - 11.00
- in field, cart, / bu.	0.050	0.030 - 0.070
- to storage., wagon, / bu.	0.058	0.030 - 0.100
- storage to mkt., wagon, / bu.	0.073	0.050 - 0.120
- to mkt., truck, / bu., (5 mi. 1-way)	0.074	0.040 - 0.120
- to mkt., truck, / bu., (25 mi. 1-way)	0.121	0.080 - 0.160
- to mkt., truck, / bu., (100 mi. 1-way)	0.211	0.120 - 0.300
- to market, semi-load, / loaded mile	2.30	2.00 - 2.70

Harvesting Forages

Hay - mowing, / acre	\$8.90	7.50 - 10.00
- conditioning, / acre	10.50	10.00 - 12.00
- mowing/conditioning, / acre	9.95	8.00 - 12.50
- raking, / acre	4.90	3.00 - 8.00
- windrowing, / acre	10.05	8.00 - 12.00
Hay baling - small square, / bale	0.45	0.25 - 0.65
- large square, / bale	8.00	6.50 - 9.50
- large round, / bale	8.35	6.00 - 12.00
- large round with wrapping	9.35	6.00 - 14.00
Straw or corn stalk baling, large round	10.10	7.00 - 13.00
Moving round bales to storage, / bale	2.25	1.00 - 3.50
Hauling round bales, / bale, / loaded mile	0.30	0.18 - 0.50
Silage - chopping, / acre	45.80	40.00 - 58.20
- chopping, / hr., / row	28.95	25.00 - 35.00
- chop, haul, fill silo / hr., / row	30.50	28.00 - 37.50
Haylage - chopping, / hr., / 7 foot hd.	85.95	82.20 - 86.00
Mowing CRP acres, / acre	9.80	6.50 - 15.00
Mowing fence rows, ditches, / hr.	40.60	20.00 - 70.00
Chopping brush, / acre	11.40	11.00 - 12.00

Miscellaneous Services

	Average	Range
Removing snow (loader), / hr.	\$55.80	20.00 - 75.00
Removing snow (blade), / hr.	58.35	25.00 - 80.00
Removing snow (blower), / hr.	71.15	30.00 - 100.00
Grinding, mixing feed, / ton	9.75	6.50 - 10.25
Spreading liq. manure, inject., / 1,000 gal.	9.45	8.00 - 10.00
Loading solid manure, / hr.	44.40	25.00 - 65.00
Loading, spreading solid manure, / hr.	52.40	35.00 - 72.50
Power washing / hour	22.65	12.00 - 28.00
Building fence, barbed, / hr. (no materials)	14.80	10.00 - 20.00
Building fence, barbed, / rod (no materials)	7.90	7.00 - 9.00
Building fence, woven, / hr. (no materials)	13.85	10.00 - 20.00
Building fence, woven / rod (no materials)	8.65	8.00 - 10.00
Scouting crops, / acre	3.55	2.00 - 5.50
Soil testing, / sample	6.90	5.95 - 7.75
GPS grid soil testing, / acre	6.20	2.50 - 10.00
Shearing sheep, / head	2.60	2.50 - 3.00
Livestock hauling with trailer, / loaded mile	2.30	1.50 - 3.00
Livestock hauling with truck, / loaded mile	2.55	2.00 - 3.00
Bulldozing, / hr. / ft. of blade	9.00	5.00 - 12.50
Digging post holes, / hole	3.10	2.00 - 4.00
Driving fence posts, / post	1.80	1.00 - 2.25
Building terraces, / foot	1.45	1.20 - 1.65
Trenching, / foot	1.15	1.00 - 1.50
Tiling (excluding materials), / rod	0.75	0.33 - 1.50
Back hoeing, / hour	56.60	30.00 - 80.00
Clearing land, / hour	87.20	75.00 - 100.00
Building ponds, / hour	91.10	75.00 - 110.00
Chain sawing, / hour	28.20	15.00 - 50.00

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

	Average	Range
Tractor, / horsepower, / hour	\$0.20	0.15 - 0.25
Grain drill, / acre	7.60	5.00 - 10.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	8.95	7.00 - 11.00
Corn head for combine, / acre	5.40	4.00 - 7.00
Soybean head for combine, / acre	5.35	4.00 - 7.00
Grain cart with auger, corn, / acre	4.30	2.00 - 6.00
Grain cart with auger, soybeans, / acre	3.40	2.00 - 5.00
Grain wagon, / bu.	0.05	0.05 - 0.05
Grain truck (semi), / bu. / trip	0.08	0.02 - 0.14
Grain auger, / bu.	0.03	0.02 - 0.04
Grain vacuum, / bu.	0.06	0.04 - 0.08
Grain cleaner, / bu.	0.05	0.04 - 0.06
Liquid manure spreader, / hour	19.00	15.00 - 20.00
Solid manure spreader, / hour	18.50	15.00 - 20.00
Skid loader, / hour	36.90	20.00 - 60.00
Dry bulk fertilizer applicator, / hour	1.30	0.50 - 2.00
Liquid fertilizer applicator, / hour	2.10	1.50 - 2.50
Anhydrous fertilizer applicator, / hour	2.55	1.00 - 4.50
Power washer, / hour	22.20	20.00 - 25.00
Tub grinder, / hour	98.75	65.00 - 140.00

Custom Farming - Growing and Harvesting

Corn, / acre	\$82.90	65.00 - 100.00
Soybeans, / acre	76.25	60.00 - 95.00
Small grain, / acre	60.70	60.00 - 65.00

Farm Labor Wages

Machinery operating, / hour	\$10.10	8.00 - 15.00
-----------------------------	---------	--------------

Estimating Machinery Rental Rates

		Example: Tandem Disk
1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor)	\$_____/acre	\$9.05
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)	_____%	70%
3. Rental value, including tractor (1 x 2)	\$_____/acre	\$6.34
4. Tractor rental value, if tractor is not provided ____HP x \$____per hp-hour rental rate (see above) / ____acres/hour = Ex: 150 HP x \$.20 (per hp-hour rental rate) / 15 acres/hr = \$2.00	\$_____/acre	\$2.00
5. Implement rental value, without tractor (3 minus 4)	\$_____/acre	\$4.34/acre

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack M. Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.

Prepared by
William Edwards, extension economist
(515) 294-6161, wedwards@iastate.edu
and Darnell Smith, extension associate

Farm Machinery Economics
Internet home study course:
www.extension.iastate.edu/ames
www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm
www.extension.iastate.edu/store