

# 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:<br>Tandem<br>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<br>____HP x \$____per hp-hour rental rate (see above) / ____acres/hour =<br>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

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