

# 2001 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 188 Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate and the range from the survey are shown. Twenty-four percent of the respondents perform custom work, 12 percent hire work done, and 41 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 by using the worksheet on the back.

Tillage	Average	Range
Chopping cornstalks, per acre	\$6.50	5.00 – 9.00
Plowing – moldboard plow, per acre	11.05	9.00 – 14.00
– chisel, per acre	10.00	8.00 – 13.00
Disk/chiseling, per acre	10.90	8.00 – 13.00
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), per acre	12.50	10.00 – 18.00
V-ripper (over 15 in. deep), per acre	13.20	10.00 – 18.00
V-ripper with tandem disk, per acre	13.15	10.00 – 16.50
Disking – tandem, per acre	7.75	5.00 – 10.90
– offset, per acre	9.40	8.00 – 12.00
Harrowing, per acre	4.20	3.00 – 5.50
Soil finishing, per acre	8.40	5.50 – 12.00
Field cultivating, per acre	7.55	5.00 – 11.00
Cultivating, per acre	6.65	3.40 – 7.00
Cultivating, ridge-till, per acre	7.90	4.50 – 9.00
Rotary hoeing, per acre	4.95	4.50 – 7.00
<b>Planting</b>		
Planter – w/ fert & insect. attach., per a.	\$11.00	7.50 – 16.00
– without attachments, per a.	9.55	6.00 – 14.00
– with splitters, per acre	12.25	10.00 – 15.00
– no-till planter, per acre	11.95	9.00 – 16.00
– ridge till planter, per acre	11.65	10.00 – 13.50
Soybean drill, per acre	11.30	8.00 – 14.50
No-till soybean drill, per acre	12.80	9.00 – 15.50
Grain drill, per acre	9.25	5.00 – 14.00
No-till grass seed drill, per acre	10.85	7.00 – 14.50
Broadcast grass seeder, per acre	5.25	4.50 – 7.00
<b>Fertilizer Application (materials not included)</b>		
Dry bulk – applied, per acre	\$3.25	2.00 – 5.75
– applicator only, per acre	1.25	0.50 – 2.00
Liquid – applied, per acre	4.55	3.50 – 6.50
– applicator only, per acre	1.85	1.00 – 4.00
– strip-till, knifed, per acre	6.35	4.00 – 10.00
Anhydrous– applied, per acre	6.70	4.00 – 12.00
– applicator only, per acre	1.70	1.00 – 4.75
Spreading lime, per ton	3.45	2.25 – 6.00
<b>Spraying (materials not included)</b>		
Ground, broadcast, per acre	\$4.60	2.50 – 6.75
Ground, incorporated, per acre	8.30	4.50 – 11.00
Ground, banded, per acre	4.95	3.50 – 8.00
Rope wick applicator, per acre	4.10	3.75 – 5.00
Bean buggy, (without riders) per acre	3.70	2.00 – 5.00
Aerial, per acre	5.95	5.00 – 9.50
Ground, road ditches, per hour	36.75	25.00 – 50.00

Harvesting Grain	Average	Range
Corn combining, per acre	\$24.25	18.00 – 33.50
Soybean combining, per acre	23.50	18.00 – 31.00
Small grain combining, per acre	22.15	18.00 – 28.00
Picking ear corn, per acre (seed corn)	28.60	22.00 – 35.00
Picking ear corn, per acre	19.45	14.00 – 25.00
Drying corn		
– continuous flow dryer (per bu.)	0.080	0.050 – 0.110
– continuous flow dryer (per point)	0.024	0.010 – 0.040
– bin dryer (per bu.)	0.093	0.080 – 0.110
– bin dryer (per point)	0.025	0.020 – 0.030
– bin dryer (per bu.) no fuel or labor	0.055	0.050 – 0.060
Handling grain (by auger), per bu.	0.040	0.010 – 0.100
Hauling grain, wagon, per bu. (one way)	0.068	0.050 – 0.120
Hauling grain, truck, per bu., (one way)	0.079	0.050 – 0.130
Hauling grain, per bu, per mile (one way)	0.011	0.004 – 0.018
Hauling grain, on-farm, per bu.	0.050	0.020 – 0.100
Hauling grain, grain cart, per acre	4.10	2.00 – 6.00
Storing grain, per bu., per month	0.018	0.010 – 0.030
Storing grain, per bu., per year	0.118	0.100 – 0.180
Storing ear corn, per bu., per year	0.105	0.100 – 0.120

Harvesting Forages	Average	Range
Hay – mowing, per acre	\$7.05	5.00 – 10.00
– mowing/conditioning, per acre	8.90	6.00 – 12.00
– raking, per acre	3.90	2.00 – 6.00
– windrowing, per acre	9.00	8.00 – 10.00
– mowing CRP acres, per acre	8.15	4.50 – 12.00
– fence rows, ditches, per hr.	40.80	20.00 – 65.00
Hay baling – small square, per bale	0.39	0.30 – 0.50
– large square, per bale	7.10	6.00 – 8.00
– large round, per bale	7.55	5.00 – 11.00
– extra charge for plastic wrap	1.40	0.50 – 2.50
– stack, 1 ton, per stack	11.05	10.00 – 12.00
– stack, 3 ton, per stack	22.15	15.00 – 26.00
Hay baling & storing, square, per bale	0.47	0.45 – 0.50
Straw or corn stalk baling, large round	9.15	7.00 – 15.00
Wrapping round bales, per bale	2.50	1.50 – 4.50
Silage – chopping, per acre	42.00	40.00 – 50.00
– chopping, per hr., per row	33.40	15.00 – 46.25
– chop, haul, fill upright silo, hr./row	38.35	20.95 – 47.50
– chop, haul, fill trench silo, hr./row	31.90	18.95 – 40.00

Custom Farming – growing and harvesting	Average	Range
Corn, per acre	75.15	50.00 – 100.00
Soybeans, per acre	68.25	45.00 – 95.00
Small grain, per acre	56.65	45.00 – 65.00

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	\$3.05	1.00 – 5.00	Digging post holes, per hole	\$2.50	1.00 – 5.00
Moving round bales by truck, per mile	1.65	1.00 – 2.20	Building terraces, per foot	1.05	1.00 – 1.20
Removing snow (loader), per hr.	51.05	25.00 – 100.00	Trenching, per foot	0.60	0.50 – 0.75
Removing snow (blade), per hr.	50.20	30.00 – 100.00	Tiling (ex. materials), per rod	7.80	4.50 – 16.00
Removing snow (blower), per hr.	62.15	30.00 – 100.00	Back hoeing, per hour	52.85	30.00 – 85.00
Grinding, mixing feed, per ton	5.40	5.00 – 6.00	Chopping brush, per acre	12.10	10.00 – 15.00
Spreading liq. manure, broadcast, /hr	28.75	25.00 – 32.50	Cleaning seed, per bu.	0.55	0.40 – 0.75
Spreading liq. manure, injection, /gal	0.010	0.007 – 0.013	Shearing sheep, per head	2.35	2.00 – 2.50
Loading solid manure, per hour	45.40	35.00 – 60.00	Scouting crops, per acre	3.60	2.00 – 6.50
Loading, spreading solid manure, per hr.	64.35	45.00 – 100.00	Soil testing, per sample	5.05	2.00 – 8.00
Building fence, per hour (no materials)	12.45	8.50 – 19.00	GPS grid soil testing, per acre	5.70	2.00 – 9.50
Building fence, per rod (no materials)	7.55	5.00 – 15.00	Rock picking, per acre	15.70	15.00 – 16.80
Hauling livestock, per mile	1.50	1.00 – 2.10	<b>Farm Labor Wages</b>		
Bulldozing, per hr. per ft. of blade	7.70	6.00 – 9.00	Machinery operating, per hour	\$8.55	6.50 – 12.00

## Average 2001 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	\$9.45	\$10.85	\$9.85
Moldboard plow	10.55	10.50	11.50	11.90
Tandem disk	7.45	7.15	8.25	8.05
Field cultivate	7.50	7.25	8.10	7.55
Plant, with attachments	10.25	10.20	11.25	11.70
Cultivate, conventional	6.50	6.40	7.00	7.05
Spray, ground, broadcast	4.35	4.25	4.80	4.85
Combine corn	23.55	24.00	24.90	24.40
Combine soybeans	22.70	23.15	24.30	23.75
Combine small grain	22.45	22.15	23.20	21.95
Square baling, per bale	0.38	0.40	0.38	0.39
Round baling, per bale	7.50	8.20	7.15	7.10
Machinery labor, per hour	8.25	8.85	8.60	8.50

## 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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