

2012 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey

Many Iowa farmers hire some custom machine work done 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 276 Iowa farmers, custom operators and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate and the range reported are shown. Twenty-eight percent of the respondents perform custom work, 11 percent hire work done, and 61 percent indicated doing both.

Values below are rates expected to be charged or paid this year, and include tractor, implement, fuel and labor. The average price for diesel fuel was assumed to be \$3.25 per gallon. A fuel price increase of \$0.50

per gallon will cause total machinery costs to increase by approximately 5 percent. 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.

Rental rates for some machinery items are shown on the following page, along with a worksheet for estimating rental rates for other items.

Note: All rates include fuel, labor and all other machinery costs for the tractor and implement.

Tillage	Average	Range	Harvesting, Drying and Storing Grain	Average	Range
Chopping cornstalks, / acre	\$11.05	6.00 - 17.00	Corn combining, / acre	\$31.85	24.00 - 45.00
Moldboard plowing, / acre	16.10	12.00 - 22.00	- with chopper head, / acre	35.80	28.00 - 44.00
Chisel plowing, / acre	14.90	10.00 - 20.00	Soybean combining, / acre	31.10	22.00 - 43.00
Disk/chiseling, / acre	15.65	10.00 - 20.00	- with air reel, / acre	33.35	25.00 - 44.00
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), / acre	18.45	14.95 - 26.75	Small grain combining, / acre	29.90	25.00 - 35.00
V-ripping (over 15 in. deep), / acre	18.55	15.00 - 25.00	Complete harvesting (combine, cart, haul to farm storage)		
V-ripping with tandem disk, / acre	20.75	14.00 - 35.00	- Corn, / acre	43.05	25.00 - 65.00
Disking, tandem, / acre	12.55	7.00 - 18.10	- Soybeans, / acre	40.15	23.00 - 58.00
Disking, offset, / acre	15.95	12.00 - 20.00	Added charge for GPS mapping, / acre	2.45	1.00 - 5.00
Harrowing, / acre	8.90	5.00 - 12.60	Picking ear corn, / acre (seed corn)	36.40	30.00 - 50.00
Soil finishing, / acre	13.10	9.00 - 18.00	Picking ear corn, / acre (farm use)	26.95	25.00 - 30.00
Field cultivating, / acre	12.30	7.50 - 19.00	Drying corn (includes fuel, electricity, labor)		
Rock picking, / acre	12.90	7.00 - 17.00	- continuous flow dryer (/ point / bu.)	0.054	0.045 - 0.060
Cultivating, conventional, / acre	12.15	8.50 - 18.00	- bin dryer (/ point / bu.)	0.060	0.045 - 0.070
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	14.35	13.00 - 16.00	Handling grain by auger, / bu.	0.061	0.020 - 0.120
Rotary hoeing, / acre	8.75	5.00 - 12.00	Hauling grain		
Land rolling, / acre	7.25	4.00 - 12.70	- grain cart, corn / acre	6.30	2.00 - 13.00
Planting			- grain cart, soybeans / acre	5.25	2.00 - 10.00
Planting - w/ fert & insect. attach., / a.	\$17.70	10.00 - 26.00	- to farm storage, wagon, / bu.	0.067	0.030 - 0.130
- without attachments, / acre	15.60	10.00 - 21.50	- farm storage to mkt., wagon, / bu.	0.091	0.040 - 0.150
- w/ splitters & attach., / acre	18.05	14.00 - 24.00	- to mkt., truck, / bu., (5 mi. 1-way)	0.098	0.050 - 0.170
- no-till planter, / acre	17.60	12.00 - 28.00	- to mkt., truck, / bu., (25 mi. 1-way)	0.163	0.090 - 0.250
- no-till planter w/ splitters, / a.	18.85	14.00 - 29.00	- to mkt., truck, / bu., (100 mi. 1-way)	0.322	0.220 - 0.480
- ridge till planter, / acre	20.90	18.00 - 25.00	Harvesting Forages		
Extra charge for seed shut-offs, / acre	2.05	1.00 - 4.00	Hay - mowing, / acre	\$10.80	7.00 - 15.00
Drilling soybeans, / acre	16.25	12.00 - 25.00	- conditioning, / acre	11.15	10.00 - 12.50
Drilling soybeans, no-till, / acre	17.70	13.00 - 28.00	- mowing/conditioning, / acre	12.65	7.00 - 18.00
Drilling grass seed, / acre	15.60	8.00 - 25.00	- raking, / acre	6.20	3.00 - 10.00
Drilling small grain, / acre	14.50	10.00 - 20.00	- windrowing, / acre	12.55	10.00 - 14.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with tractor, / a.	11.15	9.80 - 15.00	- tedding, / acre	6.45	5.00 - 8.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with ATV, / acre	11.90	10.00 - 15.00	Swathing hay or small grain, / acre	12.90	10.20 - 16.00
Spraying (materials not included)			Hay baling - small square, / bale	0.55	0.40 - 1.00
Ground, broadcast, tractor, / acre	\$6.35	4.25 - 10.00	- large square, / bale	10.45	8.50 - 13.00
Ground, incorporated, tractor, / acre	12.75	11.00 - 15.00	- large round w/o wrap, / bale	10.85	8.00 - 13.00
Ground, broadcast, self propelled, / acre	7.30	4.00 - 15.50	- large round with wrap, / bale	11.35	8.00 - 15.00
Ground, banded, tractor, / acre	9.00	7.50 - 11.00	Straw or corn stalk baling		
Ground, road ditches, / hour	59.85	25.00 - 100.00	- large round or square w/o wrap, / bale	11.50	10.00 - 13.00
Aerial, / acre	9.60	7.00 - 14.00	- large round or square w/ wrap, / bale	12.75	8.00 - 17.00
Fertilizer Application (materials not included)			Moving round bales to storage / bale	3.75	2.00 - 8.00
Dry bulk - applied, / acre	\$4.50	1.00 - 8.00	Hauling round bales, / bale, / loaded mile	0.20	0.11 - 0.26
- strip-till, / acre	17.10	15.00 - 21.00	Silage - chopping, / hr. / header row	44.85	30.00 - 59.15
Liquid - spraying, / acre	6.70	4.00 - 12.00	- chop, haul, fill silo, /hr. / hdr row	50.60	50.00 - 51.25
- strip-till, knifed, / acre	14.55	8.00 - 20.00	Filling silage bags, / foot of bag	10.70	9.00 - 13.00
- side dressing, / acre	11.25	5.50 - 20.00	Haylage - chopping, / hr. / ft. head width	11.00	9.85 - 11.45
Anhydrous - injecting, w/ tool bar, / acre	11.50	6.00 - 22.00	Haylage - chopping, / ton	8.90	7.00 - 10.00
- injecting, w/o tool bar, / acre	9.85	5.50 - 15.00	Earlage or snaplage - chopping, / acre	48.85	40.00 - 64.00
Spreading lime, / ton	5.75	3.00 - 9.00			

Miscellaneous Services (labor, fuel and equipment included)

	Average	Range
Removing snow (loader), / hour	\$77.80	40.00 - 120.00
Removing snow (blade), /hr., /ft. of blade	7.85	3.15 - 11.45
Removing snow (blower), /hr., /ft. of blower	11.70	3.90 - 21.65
Grinding, mixing feed, / ton	10.35	10.00 - 11.00
Tub grinding hay, / hour	257.75	140.00 - 400.00
Spreading liq. manure, inject., / 1000 gal.	11.95	9.00 - 15.80
Liquid manure w/ drag line, / 1000 gal.	11.35	8.00 - 15.00
Aerating liquid manure, / hour	51.00	50.00 - 60.00
Loading solid manure, / hour	91.00	55.00 - 150.00
Loading, spreading solid manure, / hour	111.85	50.00 - 200.00
Power washing, / hour	38.00	30.00 - 50.00
Building fence, barb, / hr. (no materials)	17.70	15.00 - 20.00
Building fence, barb, / rod (no materials)	12.10	10.00 - 15.00
Building fence, woven, / hr. (no materials)	17.00	15.00 - 20.00
Building fence, woven, / rod (no materials)	12.80	10.00 - 17.00
Scouting crops, / acre	5.00	3.00 - 7.50
Soil testing, / sample	8.50	6.00 - 11.50
GPS grid soil testing, / acre	7.50	2.00 - 12.50
Managing stored grain, / bu.	0.05	0.02 - 0.10
Vacuuming grain, / bu.	0.09	0.04 - 0.17
Shearing sheep, / head	3.75	2.35 - 4.50
Livestock hauling w/ trailer, / loaded mile	2.60	2.00 - 3.00
Livestock hauling w/ truck, / loaded mile	3.35	3.00 - 4.00
Bulldozing, / hr., / ft. of blade	12.95	9.40 - 16.90
Digging post holes, / hole	4.30	3.00 - 5.00
Driving steel fence posts, / post	3.40	2.00 - 5.00
Driving wooden fence posts, / post	4.75	4.00 - 6.00
Building terraces, / foot	1.65	1.45 - 2.00
Trenching, / foot	1.85	1.00 - 3.00
Tiling (ex. materials), / foot	0.95	0.50 - 1.25
Back hoeing, / hour	84.50	40.00 - 125.00
Clearing land, / hour	139.35	100.00 - 175.00
Building ponds, / hour	136.25	120.00 - 175.00
Chain sawing, / hour	41.80	34.00 - 50.00
Welding machinery, / hour	52.50	30.00 - 90.00
Mowing CRP or pasture, / acre	15.65	8.00 - 26.00
Mowing fence rows, ditches, / hour	69.70	38.00 - 120.00
Chopping brush, / acre	21.25	18.00 - 30.00
Using truck scale, / load weighed	3.05	1.50 - 5.00

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

	Average	Range
Corn, / acre	\$119.80	80.00 - 160.00
Soybeans, / acre	105.70	50.00 - 150.00
Small grain, / acre	88.05	75.00 - 100.00

Machine Rental (operator, tractor and fuel not included)

	Average	Range
Tractor, / horsepower / hour	\$0.25	0.12 - 0.50
Grain drill, / acre	9.95	7.00 - 12.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	11.40	9.00 - 15.00
Corn head for combine, / acre	9.05	6.00 - 13.00
Soybean head for combine, / acre	8.80	5.00 - 12.00
Grain cart with auger, corn, / acre	6.15	3.00 - 10.00
Grain cart with auger, soybeans, / acre	5.30	3.00 - 9.00
Grain wagon, / bu.	0.09	0.04 - 0.13
Grain truck (semi), / bu. / round trip	0.12	0.05 - 0.20
Grain auger, / bu.	0.06	0.05 - 0.10
Grain vacuum, / bu.	0.08	0.05 - 0.12
Grain cleaner, / bu.	0.08	0.06 - 0.12
Liquid manure spreader, / hour	31.85	25.00 - 50.00
Solid manure spreader, / hour	38.85	25.00 - 50.00
Skid loader, / hour	45.35	20.00 - 75.00
Dry bulk fertilizer applicator, / acre	2.50	1.50 - 4.00
Liquid fertilizer applicator, / acre	5.50	3.50 - 7.00
Anhydrous fertilizer applicator, / acre	4.40	1.50 - 8.00
Power washer, / hour	36.90	30.00 - 50.00
Generator, / hour	37.30	30.00 - 50.00
Tub grinder, / hour	184.10	175.00 - 200.00

Bin Rental

	Average	Range
Bin dryer, / bu. dried, (no fuel or labor)	\$0.063	0.030 - 0.100
Storing grain, bin rental / bu. / month	0.026	0.010 - 0.050
Storing grain, bin rental / bu. / year	0.170	0.100 - 0.360

Farm Labor Wages for Operating Machinery

	Average	Range
Spraying or harvesting, / hour	\$14.40	10.00 - 25.00
Other operations, / hour	13.40	8.00 - 22.00

Estimating a Machinery Rental Rate

Example:
Tandem Disk

1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor)	\$ _____/acre	\$12.55
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	= \$8.79
4. Tractor rental value, if tractor is not provided: HP x \$ _____ per hp-hour rental rate (see above) / _____ acres/hour = Ex: 150 HP x \$.25 (per hp-hour rental rate) / 15 acres/hr = \$2.50	- \$ _____/acre	- \$2.50
5. Implement rental value, without tractor (3 minus 4)	= \$ _____/acre	= \$6.29/acre

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