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Cornhusker Economics

2024 Nebraska Agricultural Custom Rates with Statewide Survey Summary

The 2024 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Custom Rates Survey indicates that rate increases are the norm since the latest survey was completed in 2022. Table 1 provides a summary and percentage change for several common custom operations from 2022 to 2024. Custom field operations such as drilling and planting show increases in 2024 from seven to twenty-seven percent and harvesting rates for various crops indicate state average

rate increases from fourteen to twenty-three percent, with the irrigated corn harvest now at \$47.84 per acre for the state average. Other custom services, such as spraying for weed control using a self-propelled sprayer, increased by just over one dollar per acre. Baling and swathing state average rates increased overall. Hauling grain to storage or elevator on a per bushel basis jumped from \$0.08 to \$0.15 per bushel.

Table 1 - Percentage change in a sample list of custom rates reported from 2022 to 2024

Some Common Nebraska Custom Rates	2022 State Average Rate	2024 State Average Rate	Percentage % Change
Drilling Small Grains, no-till drill, rate per acre	19.65	24.95	27%
Drilling Cover Crops, rate per acre	19.16	22.64	18%
Planting with coulters, with band applicator, rate per acre	22.27	23.73	7%
Planting with coulters, without band applicator, rate per acre	20.41	22.77	12%
Ridge planting, with band applicator, rate per acre	23.50	25.13	7%
Ridge planting, without band applicator, rate per acre	21.74	23.53	8%
Spraying Weed Control, self-propelled sprayer, rate per acre	8.12	9.18	13%
Combining Irrigated Corn, flat rate per acre	41.63	47.84	15%
Combining Dryland Corn, flat rate per acre	38.82	45.00	16%
Combining Soybeans, flat rate per acre	40.18	46.00	14%
Combining Small Grains (no hauling), flat rate per acre	34.91	43.00	23%
Truck Grain to Storage or Elevator, flat rate per bushel	0.08	0.15	88%
Swathing with Crushing/Crimping, rate per acre	16.23	17.88	10%
Large Round Bales With Net Wrap, rate per bale	15.32	16.54	8%

Table 2 is a summary of rates for machinery operations and services most reported in the 2024 Nebraska survey, including state average rates, the 'most common' reported rates per operation, and the range of custom rates charged per operation in Nebraska.

Agricultural custom rate charges can vary across the state; therefore, the full [Nebraska Custom Rates Report \(https://cap.unl.edu/webinars/nebraska-custom-rates-report-2024-final.pdf\)](https://cap.unl.edu/webinars/nebraska-custom-rates-report-2024-final.pdf) provides rate details from survey responses grouped by Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Districts. Several factors contribute to rate differences reported by survey participants, including field and job sizes, soil conditions, and the number of responses for the various operations. Some operators may charge lower-than-market-rate prices to neighbors or relatives. Rates may change from year to year due to expense differences and local market forces. Determining appropriate charges for custom machine hire and agricultural services can include consideration of various elements, including current market rates as reported in the custom rates survey report, market demand in the area for specific types of custom work, and availability of services. In addition, machine owners and custom operators should consider their own machine ownership and operating costs to adequately price custom rate services.

With the growing investment cost of agricultural machinery and equipment, and often with the uncertainty in labor availability, many Nebraska farms and ranches utilize and pay for custom services. The biennial University of Nebraska-Lincoln Custom Rates Survey report has wide utilization by those who perform custom hire services and by producers who pay for services. The survey is distributed both by mail and electronically to Nebraska farm and ranch managers and agricultural service companies that have indicated that they have provided some type of custom machine, equipment rental, or service in the state and have charged for such services.

There were 159 survey responses received and tabulated in the 2024 report. Rates are included in the full report when at least three or more survey respondents provide their current rates charged for machine hire operations or services. Rates reported from the survey should reflect

the cost of the machine, power unit, fuel, and labor unless otherwise stated. Custom contract farming, planting, fertilizer, and chemical application rates do not include material or input expenses. For baling, however, supplies such as wire, twine, or net wrap are included in the rates charged. Refer to the custom rate description in the report to understand cases where the operation does include additional inputs.

Full summaries from the survey, including regional rates for the eight Nebraska Statistics Districts and the overall state, are published as a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Circular (EC) 823 and available online at <https://cap.unl.edu/customrates>. The information presented in the state summary and full report should be used only as a guide when determining what to charge or pay for custom operations.

Table 2 STATE SUMMARY OF THE MOST POPULAR MACHINERY OPERATIONS

LAND TILLAGE OPERATIONS	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Disk Harrowing, Primary (heavy), rate per acre	19.93	18.00	10.00-55.00	38
Disk Harrowing, Finishing (light), rate per acre	18.54	16.00	10.00-48.00	39
Moldboard Plow, rate per acre	23.71	25.00	10.00-35.00	7
Harrowing, Spike or Spring Tooth, rate per acre	13.00	15.00	5.00-20.00	8
Chisel Plow for Primary Tillage, rate per acre	20.40	25.00	13.00-25.00	10
Deep Chisel, rate per acre	24.17	25.00	13.00-34.00	12
Subsoil or Rip, rate per acre	27.86	25.00	13.00-55.00	18
Field Cultivator, rate per acre	19.07	20.00	8.50-48.00	22
Vertical or Turbo Tillage, rate per acre	18.78	18.00	10.00-28.00	25
Combination Tillage Operations, Primary, rate per acre	30.17	-	20.00-40.00	6
Combination Tillage Operations, Finishing, rate per acre	25.31	30.00	13.00-48.00	13
Strip Tilling, rate per acre	23.14	25.00	17.00-30.00	14
Strip Tilling with Fertilizer Application, rate per acre	28.50	25.00	17.00-50.00	17
Stalk Shredder PTO Driven, rate per acre	12.29	15.00	9.00-15.00	7
Rolling Stalk Chopper Not PTO Driven, rate per acre	12.43	12.00	11.00-15.00	7
Cultivation Tillage, Rotary Hoe, rate per acre	9.83	6.00	6.00-15.00	6
Cultivation Tillage, conventional, rate per acre	19.26	15.00	10.00-55.00	17
Cultivation Tillage, handling residue, rate per acre	15.94	15.00	12.00-20.00	12
Cultivation Tillage, hill or ditch, rate per acre	14.75	15.00	8.00-24.00	17
PLANTING AND POST PLANTING OPERATIONS	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
DRILLING				
- Small Grains, conventional drill, rate per acre	18.85	15.00	15.00-27.00	20
- Small Grains, no-till drill, rate per acre	24.95	20.00	15.00-65.00	38
- Soybeans, conventional drill, rate per acre	21.08	22.00	15.00-30.00	12
- Soybeans, no-till drill, rate per acre	25.37	25.00	16.00-65.00	36
SEEDING				
- CRP Ground, rate per acre	26.64	25.00	14.00-40.00	11
- Cover Crops - Drill, rate per acre	22.64	20.00	12.00-35.00	38
PLANTING ROW CROPS				
- No coulters, with band applicator, rate per acre	25.00	25.00	15.00-40.00	15
- No coulters, without band applicator, rate per acre	23.94	25.00	15.00-30.00	25
- Coulters, with band applicator, rate per acre	23.73	20.00	15.00-40.00	24
- Coulters, without band applicator, rate per acre	22.77	20.00	15.00-35.00	20
- Ridge planting, with band applicator, rate per acre	25.13	20.00	15.00-35.00	19
- Ridge planting, without band applicator, rate per acre	23.53	22.00	15.00-38.00	20
HAYING AND BALING	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Raking, rate per acre	11.21	8.00	5.00-19.00	14
Swathing with Crushing/Crimping, rate per acre	17.88	20.00	14.00-25.00	25
Raking Cornstalks, rate per acre	11.13	10.00	4.00-20.00	15
BALING				
- Small Square Bales with Twine Tie, rate per bale	2.06	2.00	1.00-3.75	9
- Large Round Bales Without Net Wrap, rate per bale	15.09	15.00	10.00-20.00	11
- Large Round Bales With Net Wrap, rate per bale	16.54	15.00	7.50-25.00	35
- Cornstalks Large Round Bales with Net Wrap, rate per bale	18.11	20.00	12.00-30.00	14
SMALL GRAIN HARVEST	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Combining Small Grains (no hauling), flat rate per acre	43.00	45.00	30.00-65.00	19
Hauling Small Grain to Local Storage, cents per bushel	0.16	0.15	0.05-0.32	21

Table 2 STATE SUMMARY OF THE MOST POPULAR MACHINERY OPERATIONS

APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Dry Fertilizer Solid Broadcast, inc. labor & applicator, rate per acre	8.85	8.00	4.50-15.00	22
Dry Fertilizer Variable Rate, rate per acre	10.78	10.00	7.50-20.00	20
Liquid Fertilizer Constant Rate, labor & applicator, rate per acre	11.00	12.00	7.50-15.00	20
Liquid Fertilizer Variable, labor & applicator, rate per acre	12.47	12.00	8.00-20.00	13
Anhydrous Ammonia, knife with coulters, rate per acre	19.73	20.00	12.00-28.00	28
INSECT, DISEASE, AND WEED CONTROL	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Spraying Weed Control, boom or recirculating, rate per acre	7.82	8.00	6.00-9.50	7
Spraying Weed Control, self-propelled sprayer, rate per acre	9.18	8.00	7.25-17.50	38
HARVESTING GRAINS & SOYBEANS	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Combining Irrigated Corn, flat rate per acre	47.84	40.00	33.00-82.00	71
Combining Irrigated Corn, flat rate per bushel	0.26	0.15	0.10-0.48	17
Combining Dryland Corn, flat rate per acre	45.00	35.00	30.00-78.00	75
Combining Dryland Corn, flat rate per bushel	0.21	0.20	0.10-0.36	11
Combining High Moisture Corn, flat rate per acre	55.04	50.00	33.00-85.00	27
Combining Soybeans, flat rate per acre	46.00	50.00	30.00-72.00	84
Combining Soybeans, flat rate per bushel	0.16	0.20	0.10-0.20	7
Combining Grain Sorghum, flat rate per acre	45.50	50.00	40.00-50.00	6
Corn Silage (field chopping and hauling), flat rate per ton	12.79	13.50	10.00-16.00	7
HAULING OPERATIONS	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
HAULING GRAIN				
- From Combine with Tractor and Grain Cart, rate per acre	5.92	7.00	2.50-8.00	9
- From Combine with Tractor and Grain Cart, rate per bushel	0.10	0.08	0.05-0.17	6
- Grain Truck to Storage or Elevator, flat rate per bushel	0.15	0.15	0.05-0.32	32
- Grain (above 11 miles), additional charge per bushel	0.08	0.05	0.01-0.25	14
OTHER CUSTOM SERVICES	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Grain Bin Storage, no air or electric charge included, monthly rate per bushel	0.07	0.02	0.02-0.15	12
Grain Bin Storage, with air or electric charge included, monthly rate per bushel	0.06	0.03	0.03-0.20	9
Clearing Cedar Trees, rate per metered hour	126.92	150.00	40-180	13
Mowing Grass (CRP or Pasture), rate per hour	131.67	-	75-180	6
Heavy Equip. - Bulldozing / Clearing Land, rate per hour	195.36	200.00	90-400	14
Heavy Equip. - Excavating, rate per hour	223.75	250.00	120-350	12
Checking Pivots During Irrigation Season, rate per hour	40.33	50.00	25.00-50.00	6
Checking Pivots During Irrigation Season, rate per acre	15.29	10.00	10.00-25.00	17
Closing Pivot Tracks, rate per hour	99.55	50.00	40-180	11
Closing Pivot Tracks, rate per pivot	337.50	500.00	75-500	18
Skid Steer Loader Rent, rate per hour	102.23	90.00	59-200	13
Tractor Rent, 100-149 h.p., rate per metered hour	72.50	-	45-125	6
Tractor Rent, Greater than 250 h.p., rate per metered hour	141.43	100.00	60-300	7
CUSTOM CONTRACT FARMING	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Dryland Soybeans (Average times over the field = 6.8), rate per acre	97.57	-	60-145	7
Irrigated Soybeans (Average times over the field = 6.7), rate per acre	133.00	-	60-200	8
Dryland Corn (Average times over the field = 4.3), rate per acre	119.88	-	76-220	8
Irrigated Corn (Average times over the field = 4.4), rate per acre	163.89	-	76-250	9

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