

2004 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 204 Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate from the survey and the range are shown. Thirty-three percent of the respondents perform custom work, 18 percent hire work done, and 48 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	\$7.15	5.00 - 10.00
Plowing - moldboard, / acre	11.95	8.50 - 15.00
- chisel, / acre	10.70	8.00 - 13.00
Disk-chiseling, / acre	11.20	10.00 - 13.00
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), / a.	12.70	8.00 - 16.50
V-ripper/ (over 15 in. deep), / acre	14.10	10.00 - 22.00
V-ripper/ with tandem disk, / acre	13.90	11.00 - 20.00
Disking - tandem, / acre	8.10	5.00 - 12.00
- offset, / acre	9.25	6.00 - 10.30
Harrowing, / acre	4.55	3.50 - 6.00
Soil finishing, / acre	8.40	6.00 - 10.00
Field cultivating, / acre	7.60	4.50 - 11.00
Cultivating, / acre	6.65	4.50 - 10.00
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	9.80	8.00 - 13.00
Rotary hoeing, / acre	5.10	3.50 - 7.00
Planting		
Planter - w/ fert & insect. attach., / a.	\$11.60	7.50 - 15.00
- without attachments, / acre	10.55	7.00 - 15.00
- with splitters, / acre	12.85	8.50 - 18.00
- no-till planter, / acre	12.10	8.00 - 16.00
- ridge till planter, / acre	12.35	10.00 - 13.20
Soybean drill, / acre	11.10	7.00 - 14.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	12.55	10.00 - 15.00
Grain drill, / acre	9.65	7.00 - 12.00
No-till grass seed drill, / acre	12.70	10.00 - 15.00
Broadcast grass seeder, / acre	6.30	5.00 - 8.00
Fertilizer Application (materials not included)		
Dry bulk - applied, /acre	\$3.20	1.50 - 5.00
- applicator rent only, / acre	1.60	1.00 - 2.00
Liquid - applied, / acre	4.70	3.00 - 6.00
- applicator rent only, / acre	2.10	1.32 - 3.00
- strip-till, knifed, / acre	6.80	6.00 - 7.75
Anhydrous- applied, / acre	6.70	4.00 - 9.00
- applicator rent only, / acre	1.65	1.00 - 3.00
Spreading lime, / ton	4.75	2.50 - 9.00
Spraying (materials not included)		
Ground, broadcast, / acre	\$4.75	3.00 - 6.50
Ground, incorporated, / acre	8.65	7.50 - 9.75
Ground, banded, / acre	5.00	4.00 - 6.00
Rope wick applicator, / acre	4.75	4.50 - 5.00
Bean buggy, (without riders) / acre	4.05	2.00 - 5.00
Aerial, / acre	5.95	5.00 - 7.10
Ground, road ditches, / hour	38.75	25.00 - 55.00

Harvesting Grain	Average	Range
Corn combining, / acre	\$24.15	19.00 - 30.00
Soybean combining, / acre	23.40	19.00 - 29.00
Small grain combining, / acre	21.85	20.00 - 25.00
Picking ear corn, / acre (seed corn)	28.70	25.00 - 34.00
Picking ear corn, / acre	20.50	18.00 - 22.00
Drying corn (without fuel, labor)		
- continuous flow dryer, / dry bu.	0.088	0.080 - 0.100
- continuous flow dryer, / point	0.027	0.020 - 0.030
- bin dryer, / dry bu.	0.097	0.095 - 0.100
- bin dryer, / point	0.029	0.023 - 0.030
- bin dryer, / dry bu. (no fuel or labor)	0.068	0.050 - 0.100
Handling grain (by auger), / bu.	0.047	0.005 - 0.100
Hauling grain, on-farm, wagon / bu.	0.054	0.020 - 0.100
Hauling grain to mkt., wagon, / bu.	0.063	0.040 - 0.120
Hauling grain to mkt., truck, / bu.	0.083	0.040 - 0.125
Hauling to mkt., truck, / bu. /mile (1-way)	0.041	0.010 - 0.100
Hauling grain in field, grain cart, / acre	4.60	2.00 - 8.00
Storing grain, / bu., / month	0.023	0.010 - 0.050
Storing grain, / bu., / year	0.117	0.080 - 0.177

Harvesting Forages	Average	Range
Hay - mowing, / acre	\$7.00	5.00 - 10.00
- mowing/conditioning, / acre	9.10	5.00 - 12.00
- raking, / acre	4.20	2.00 - 6.00
- windrowing, / acre	9.60	8.00 - 10.00
- mowing CRP acres, / acre	8.75	5.00 - 13.00
- mowing fence rows, ditches, /hr.	44.35	20.00 - 80.00
Hay baling - small square, / bale	0.40	0.30 - 0.50
- large square, / bale	8.10	6.50 - 11.00
- large round, / bale	7.75	5.00 - 10.00
- extra for plastic wrap, /bale	1.55	1.00 - 2.00
- stack, 1 ton, / stack	11.10	10.00 - 12.00
- stack, 3 ton, / stack	23.20	15.00 - 25.00
Hay baling & storing, square, / bale	0.57	0.55 - 0.60
Straw or corn stalk baling, large round	8.95	5.50 - 12.00
Wrapping round bales with net, / bale	2.05	1.00 - 3.00
Silage - chopping, / acre	44.75	40.00 - 50.00
- chopping, / hr., / row	31.90	28.35 - 36.65
- chop, haul, fill upright silo, /hr, /row	36.40	30.00 - 39.35
- chop, haul, fill trench silo, /hr, /row	42.10	33.00 - 45.00
Haylage - chopping, /acre	65.15	60.00 - 70.00
- chopping, per hr., 7 foot header	70.10	60.00 - 75.00
- chopping, hauling, filling silo, / hr.	82.50	75.00 - 100.00

Machine Rental (operator, tractor, and fuel not included)	Average	Range
Tractor, / horsepower, / hour	\$0.20	0.15 - 0.35
Grain drill, / acre	7.35	6.00 - 8.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	8.85	7.00 - 10.00
Grain wagon, / bu.	0.05	0.02 - 0.06
Grain auger, / bu.	0.02	0.01 - 0.03
Grain cart with auger, / bu.	0.05	0.02 - 0.08
Grain vacuum, / bu.	0.06	0.04 - 0.12
Grain cleaner, / bu.	0.04	0.03 - 0.07
Liquid manure spreader, / hour	19.15	15.00 - 20.40
Solid manure spreader, / hour	18.80	18.00 - 20.00
Skid loader, / hour	36.20	24.00 - 55.00
Silage wagon, / hour	8.05	7.00 - 10.00
Power washer, / hour	18.30	12.00 - 22.00
Tub grinder, / hour	125.90	100.00 - 180.00
Brush chopper, / acre	8.45	8.00 - 10.00

Miscellaneous Services	Average	Range		Average	Range
Moving round bales, / bale	\$2.80	2.00 - 3.50	Bulldozing, / hr. / ft. of blade	\$8.80	6.50 - 13.00
Moving round bales by truck, / mile	\$1.75	1.00 - 2.25	Digging post holes, / hole	2.95	1.25 - 6.00
Removing snow (loader), / hr.	50.40	20.00 - 85.00	Building terraces, / foot	1.40	1.00 - 2.50
Removing snow (blade), / hr.	53.80	30.00 - 85.00	Trenching, / foot	0.70	0.35 - 1.00
Removing snow (blower), / hr.	66.10	20.00 - 100.00	Tiling (excluding materials), / rod	8.55	3.80 - 15.00
Grinding, mixing feed, / ton	8.55	6.00 - 15.00	Back hoeing, / hour	57.75	35.00 - 75.00
Spreading liq. manure, broadcast, /hr	30.75	30.00 - 33.10	Chopping brush, / acre	12.30	10.00 - 14.00
Spreading liq. manure, inject., /1000 gal.	8.40	8.00 - 9.25	Cleaning seed, / bu.	0.55	0.40 - 0.65
Loading solid manure, / hour	46.75	35.00 - 60.00	Shearing sheep, / head	2.35	1.40 - 2.75
Loading, spreading solid manure, / hr.	72.40	50.00 - 100.00	Scouting crops, / acre	3.50	2.00 - 5.00
Building fence, / hour (no materials)	12.90	8.50 - 17.50	Soil testing, / sample	5.90	3.00 - 9.00
Building fence, / rod (no materials)	7.10	6.00 - 8.00	GPS grid soil testing, / acre	6.50	4.00 - 10.00
Hauling livestock, truck or trailer / mile	1.85	1.50 - 2.00	Rock picking, / acre	13.60	13.00 - 15.00
Power washing / hour	21.70	15.00 - 30.00			
Custom Farming - growing and harvesting			Farm Labor Wages		
Corn, / acre	\$75.40	36.00 - 103.00	Machinery operating, / hour	\$9.15	7.00 - 13.00
Soybeans, / acre	68.85	38.00 - 95.00			
Small grain, / acre	53.65	45.00 - 60.00			

Average 2004 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	\$10.95	\$10.65	\$10.90	\$10.10
Moldboard plow	11.90	11.50	11.65	12.70
Tandem disk	7.85	8.10	8.50	7.80
Field cultivate	7.40	7.40	7.85	7.95
Plant, with attachments	10.65	12.05	11.65	11.90
Cultivate, conventional	6.65	6.50	6.65	7.10
Spray, ground, broadcast	4.40	4.55	4.60	4.65
Combine corn	23.40	24.00	23.90	24.50
Combine soybeans	22.50	23.70	22.85	23.80
Combine small grain	20.35	21.55	21.10	23.10
Square baling, / bale	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.43
Round baling, / bale	8.10	7.75	7.30	7.65
Machinery labor, / hour	9.35	8.80	8.65	9.45

Estimating Machinery Rental Rates

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 \$ _____/ 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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