

2007 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. Thirty-five percent of the respondents perform custom work, 18 percent hire work done, and 47 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	\$8.65	5.00 - 13.00
Plowing - moldboard plow, / acre	12.70	10.00 - 16.00
- chisel, / acre	12.30	9.75 - 16.35
Disk/chiseling, / acre	12.70	9.00 - 16.15
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), / a.	14.50	10.00 - 20.00
V-rip/ (over 15 in. deep), / acre	15.45	12.00 - 21.00
V-rip/ with tandem disk, / acre	15.45	12.75 - 20.00
Disking - tandem, / acre	9.45	5.50 - 14.05
- offset, / acre	11.75	10.00 - 15.00
Harrowing, / acre	6.25	4.60 - 10.00
Soil finishing, / acre	10.10	8.00 - 13.00
Field cultivating, / acre	9.05	5.50 - 14.00
Rock picking, / acre	10.90	8.00 - 13.00
Cultivating, / acre	7.75	5.00 - 10.70
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	10.50	9.50 - 12.80
Rotary hoeing, / acre	5.75	3.50 - 8.00

Planting

Planter - w/ fert & insect. attach., / a.	\$13.05	7.50 - 18.00
- without attachments, / acre	12.15	8.00 - 16.90
- with splitters, / acre	13.50	10.00 - 17.00
- no-till planter, / acre	13.65	10.00 - 19.00
- ridge till planter, / acre	13.95	12.50 - 16.00
Drilling soybeans, / acre	12.45	10.00 - 15.60
Drilling soybeans, no-till, / acre	13.80	11.50 - 17.90
Drilling small grain, / acre	10.50	8.00 - 13.40
Seeding grass, broadcast with tractor / a.	7.70	5.00 - 10.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with ATV / acre	8.80	6.00 - 10.80

Spraying (materials not included)

Ground, broadcast, tractor, / acre	\$5.15	4.00 - 7.00
Ground, broadcast, s. propelled, / a.	5.65	3.50 - 8.50
Ground, incorporated, / acre	10.55	8.50 - 15.00
Ground, banded, / acre	5.40	4.50 - 6.00
Aerial, / acre	5.94	5.00 - 6.25
Ground, road ditches, / hour	43.20	25.00 - 68.30

Fertilizer Application (materials not included)

Dry bulk - applied, / acre	\$3.20	1.50 - 5.00
Liquid - spraying, / acre	4.80	3.00 - 6.50
- strip-till, knifed, / acre	10.50	5.00 - 16.00
Anhydrous - injecting, / acre	7.90	5.00 - 15.00
Spreading lime, / ton	6.50	4.00 - 10.00

Harvesting, Drying, and Storing Grain

	Average	Range
Corn combining, / acre	\$26.60	20.00 - 36.00
Soybean combining, / acre	25.80	20.00 - 35.00
Small grain combining, / acre	23.70	20.00 - 26.00
Picking ear corn, / acre (seed corn)	33.00	30.00 - 35.00
Picking ear corn, / acre	24.30	20.00 - 29.40
Drying corn		
- continuous flow dryer (/ point)	\$0.032	0.030 - 0.040
- bin dryer (/ point)	0.033	0.025 - 0.040
- bin dryer (/ bu.) no fuel or labor	0.073	0.050 - 0.100
Handling grain by auger, / bu.	0.049	0.010 - 0.130
Storing grain, / bu., / month	0.019	0.010 - 0.030
Storing grain, / bu., / year	0.129	0.100 - 0.200
Hauling grain		
-in field, wagon, corn / acre	\$5.45	2.00 - 10.00
-in field, wagon, soybeans / acre	4.75	1.00 - 11.00
-to storage., wagon, / bu. (1-way)	0.061	0.040 - 0.100
-storage to mkt., wagon, / bu.	0.077	0.050 - 0.120
-to mkt., truck, / bu., (5 mi. 1-way)	0.079	0.050 - 0.120
-to mkt., truck, / bu., (25 mi. 1-way)	0.130	0.080 - 0.200
-to mkt., truck, / bu., (100 mi. 1-way)	0.252	0.160 - 0.400

Harvesting Forages

Hay - mowing, / acre	\$9.20	8.00 - 11.50
- conditioning, / acre	10.55	10.00 - 11.00
- mowing/conditioning, / acre	10.75	9.00 - 15.00
- raking, / acre	5.30	3.00 - 7.90
- windrowing, / acre	10.55	9.00 - 12.50
Hay baling - small square, / bale	0.45	0.36 - 0.60
- large square, / bale	8.30	6.50 - 10.70
- large round, / bale	8.50	6.00 - 12.00
- large round with wrapping	9.70	7.00 - 14.00
Straw or corn stalk baling, large round	10.35	7.00 - 14.00
Moving round bales to storage, / bale	2.75	1.50 - 3.50
Hauling round bales, / bale, /loaded mi	0.11	0.05 - 0.17
Silage - chopping, / acre	75.85	48.10 - 130.00
- chopping, / hr., / row	30.55	19.50 - 43.35
- chop, haul, fill upright, /hr, /row	48.00	33.35 - 95.85
Haylage - chopping, / hr., / 7 foot hd.	82.05	73.50 - 100.00
Mowing CRP acres, / acre	10.45	6.50 - 15.00
Mowing fence rows, ditches, /hr.	44.40	20.00 - 67.50
Chopping brush, / acre	12.85	11.95 - 15.00

Miscellaneous Services

	Average	Range
Removing snow (loader), / hr.	\$56.00	20.00 - 79.80
Removing snow (blade), / hr.	52.65	25.00 - 75.00
Removing snow (blower), / hr.	69.40	30.00 - 100.00
Grinding, mixing feed, / ton	8.95	5.00 - 12.00
Spreading liq. manure, inject., / 1000 gal	9.35	7.00 - 11.90
Loading solid manure, / hour	53.55	40.00 - 75.00
Loading, spreading solid manure, /hr	67.60	40.00 - 125.00
Power washing, / hour	24.40	15.00 - 28.80
Building fence, barb, / hr. (no materials)	13.65	10.00 - 15.55
Building fence, barb, / rod (no materials)	8.95	8.00 - 10.00
Building fence, woven, / hr. (no materials)	13.00	10.50 - 15.00
Building fence, woven / rod (no materials)	8.40	8.00 - 9.10
Scouting crops, / acre	3.75	1.50 - 6.00
Soil testing, / sample	7.55	6.00 - 10.00
GPS grid soil testing, / acre	7.45	2.50 - 12.00
Shearing sheep, / head	2.75	2.50 - 3.00
Livestock hauling with trailer, / loaded mile	2.15	1.50 - 2.70
Livestock hauling with truck, / loaded mile	2.50	2.00 - 3.00
Bulldozing, / hr. / ft. of blade	9.20	6.50 - 11.00
Digging post holes, / hole	3.05	2.00 - 4.00
Driving steel fence posts, / post	1.45	1.00 - 2.00
Driving wooden fence posts, / post	2.55	1.90 - 5.00
Building terraces, / foot	1.35	1.20 - 1.50
Trenching, / foot	1.10	0.65 - 1.35
Tiling (ex. materials), / rod	0.70	0.40 - 1.00
Back hoeing, / hour	59.65	35.00 - 80.00
Clearing land, / hour	88.30	75.00 - 100.00
Land rolling, / acre	9.30	7.00 - 12.00
Building ponds, / hour	90.95	90.00 - 100.00
Chain sawing, / hour	25.75	15.00 - 35.00

Machine Rental (operator, tractor, and fuel not included)

	Average	Range
Tractor, / horsepower, / hour	\$0.20	0.10 - 0.35
Grain drill, / acre	7.30	5.00 - 10.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	8.95	7.00 - 10.40
Corn head for combine, / acre	6.70	5.65 - 8.00
Soybean head for combine, / acre	6.45	5.50 - 8.00
Grain cart with auger, corn, / acre	4.35	3.00 - 6.00
Grain cart with auger, soybeans, / acre	3.65	3.00 - 5.00
Grain wagon, / bu.	0.06	0.05 - 0.10
Grain truck (semi), / bu. / trip	0.09	0.05 - 0.14
Grain auger, / bu.	0.04	0.02 - 0.06
Grain vacuum, / bu.	0.07	0.04 - 0.10
Grain cleaner, / bu.	0.06	0.05 - 0.07
Liquid manure spreader, / hour	22.55	10.00 - 31.00
Solid manure spreader, / hour	25.35	15.00 - 40.00
Skid loader, / hour	34.50	10.00 - 59.15
Dry bulk fertilizer applicator, / hour	2.00	1.35 - 2.50
Liquid fertilizer applicator, / hour	3.80	2.20 - 5.00
Anhydrous fertilizer applicator, / hour	3.35	1.00 - 6.40
Power washer, / hour	24.50	22.00 - 25.60
Tub grinder, / hour	152.00	70.00 - 225.00
Custom Farming - Growing and Harvesting		
Corn, / acre	\$88.60	70.00 - 125.00
Soybeans, / acre	79.15	65.00 - 105.00
Small grain, / acre	64.25	60.00 - 76.50
Farm Labor Wages		
Machinery operating, / hour	\$10.60	7.50 - 15.00

Estimating Machinery Rental Rate

1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor)	\$ _____/acre	Example: Tandem Disk \$9.45
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	\$6.62
4. Tractor rental value, if tractor is not provided: _____HP x \$ _____per hp-hour rental rate (see above) / _____acres/hour = 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	\$4.62/acre

... and justice for all

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File: Economics 1 - 1

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Farm Machinery Economics
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