

2015 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey

Many Iowa farmers hire 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 166 Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers. For each operation, the average rate and the range reported are shown. Twenty-five percent of the respondents perform custom work, 11 percent hire work done, and 64 percent indicated doing both.

Values below are rates expected to be charged or paid, and include tractor, implement, fuel, and labor. The average price for diesel fuel was assumed to be \$2.94 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, repairs, depreciation, interest, labor, and all other machinery costs for the tractor and implement.

Tillage	Average	Range	Harvesting, Drying, and Hauling Grain	Average	Range
Chopping cornstalks, / acre	\$11.90	6.50 - 17.50	Corn combining, / acre	\$35.35	25.00 - 55.00
Moldboard plowing, / acre	18.50	13.00 - 25.00	- with chopper head, / acre	41.05	30.75 - 57.00
Chisel plowing, / acre	16.90	12.00 - 22.00	Soybean combining, / acre	34.75	24.00 - 53.00
Disk/chiseling, / acre	17.95	12.00 - 25.00	- with air reel, / acre	37.05	32.00 - 42.00
Vertical Tillage, / acre	16.90	10.00 - 21.00	- with draper head, / acre	38.35	30.00 - 49.50
Subsoiling (8 to 15 in. deep), / acre	20.10	13.50 - 25.00	Small grain combining, / acre	30.00	20.00 - 35.00
V-ripping (over 15 in. deep), / acre	21.70	13.50 - 30.00	Complete harvesting (combine, grain cart, haul to farm storage)		
V-ripping with tandem disk, / acre	23.50	14.75 - 33.00	- Corn, / acre	50.35	30.00 - 90.00
Disking, tandem, / acre	14.65	7.50 - 20.00	- Soybeans, / acre	47.75	30.00 - 85.00
Disking, offset, / acre	19.00	14.00 - 24.00	Added charge for GPS mapping, / acre	2.90	1.00 - 5.00
Harrowing, / acre	9.35	4.00 - 13.00	Picking ear corn, / acre (seed corn)	36.55	35.00 - 39.00
Soil finishing, / acre	14.75	10.00 - 20.00	Picking ear corn, / acre (farm use)	29.50	25.00 - 35.00
Field cultivating, / acre	14.05	8.00 - 21.00	Drying corn (includes fuel, electricity, labor)		
Rock picking, / acre	14.95	9.00 - 20.00	- continuous flow dryer (/ point / bu.)	0.055	0.040 - 0.060
Cultivating, conventional, / acre	14.65	8.00 - 19.00	- bin dryer (/ point / bu.)	0.063	0.050 - 0.070
Cultivating, ridge-till, / acre	16.85	15.00 - 20.00	Handling grain by auger, / bu.	0.061	0.010 - 0.100
Rotary hoeing, / acre	11.00	5.50 - 15.00	Hauling grain		
Land rolling, / acre	7.90	5.00 - 12.00	- grain cart, corn / acre	6.95	2.00 - 15.00
Planting			- grain cart, soybeans / acre	6.05	3.00 - 15.00
Planting - w/ fert & insect. attach., / a.	\$19.90	13.00 - 30.00	- to farm storage, wagon, / bu.	0.077	0.030 - 0.130
- without attachments, / acre	18.50	12.00 - 28.00	- farm storage to mkt., wagon, / bu.	0.087	0.020 - 0.150
- w/ splitters & attach., / acre	21.30	15.00 - 27.00	- to mkt., truck, / bu., (5 mi. 1-way)	0.108	0.050 - 0.180
- no-till planter, / acre	20.50	15.00 - 30.00	- to mkt., truck, / bu., (25 mi. 1-way)	0.180	0.090 - 0.300
- no-till planter w/ splitters, / a.	21.55	15.00 - 30.00	- to mkt., truck, / bu., (100 mi. 1-way)	0.371	0.250 - 0.500
- ridge till planter, / acre	23.25	17.00 - 29.00	Harvesting Forages		
Extra charge for seed shut-offs, / acre	2.70	0.50 - 5.00	Hay - mowing, / acre	\$12.05	9.00 - 16.00
Extra charge for variable rate seeding, / a.	3.15	1.00 - 5.00	- conditioning, / acre	11.60	11.00 - 12.00
Seed tender, / acre	3.75	2.00 - 6.00	- mowing/conditioning, / acre	14.25	11.00 - 19.00
Drilling soybeans, / acre	16.75	12.00 - 24.00	- raking, / acre	6.50	4.00 - 10.00
Drilling soybeans, no-till, / acre	19.20	14.00 - 28.00	- windrowing, / acre	13.40	5.00 - 16.50
Drilling grass seed, / acre	16.35	10.00 - 25.00	- tedding, / acre	7.65	5.00 - 8.00
Drilling small grain, / acre	15.90	10.00 - 20.00	Swathing hay or small grain, / acre	13.10	12.00 - 15.00
Seeding grass, broadcast with tractor, / acre	12.30	8.00 - 15.00	Hay baling - small square, / bale	0.72	0.50 - 1.10
Seeding grass, broadcast with ATV, / acre	14.55	6.50 - 20.00	- large square, / bale	10.75	8.00 - 12.00
Spraying (materials not included)			- large round w/o wrap, / bale	11.25	8.00 - 14.00
Ground, broadcast, tractor, / acre	\$7.40	5.00 - 15.00	- large round with wrap, / bale	12.85	10.00 - 16.00
Ground, incorporated, tractor, / acre	11.15	5.70 - 18.25	Straw or corn stalk baling		
Ground, broadcast, self propelled, / acre	7.70	4.50 - 16.00	- large round or square w/o wrap, / bale	12.35	11.00 - 14.00
Ground, banded, tractor, / acre	11.05	9.00 - 13.00	- large round or square w/ wrap, / bale	14.80	11.50 - 20.00
Ground, road ditches, / hour	63.80	30.00 - 85.00	Picking up w/accumulator, / lg. sq. bale	3.15	1.75 - 4.00
Aerial, / acre	10.60	7.50 - 15.00	Moving lg. round bales to storage, / bale	3.00	2.50 - 3.46
Fertilizer Application (materials not included)			Moving lg. square bales to storage, / bale	3.30	2.00 - 4.25
Dry bulk - applied, / acre	\$5.40	2.00 - 9.00	Hauling round bales, / bale, / loaded mile	0.14	0.01 - 0.22
- strip-till, / acre	17.20	10.00 - 20.00	Hauling square bales, / bale, / loaded mile	0.09	0.01 - 0.16
Liquid - spraying, / acre	7.35	5.00 - 10.50	Silage - chopping, / hr., / header row	64.75	11.67 - 125.00
- strip-till, knifed, / acre	16.30	13.00 - 20.00	- chopping, / ton	7.80	5.00 - 10.00
- side dressing, / acre	12.25	6.00 - 18.50	- chopping, haul, fill silo, / ton	8.70	8.00 - 9.00
Anhydrous- injecting, w/ tool bar, / acre	12.80	6.75 - 20.00	Filling silage bags, / foot of bag	12.25	10.00 - 13.33
- injecting, w/o tool bar, / acre	11.70	7.00 - 18.00	Haylage - chopping, / ton	9.85	7.50 - 12.50
Spreading lime, / ton	6.25	3.00 - 10.00	Earlage or snaplage - chopping, / acre	54.05	50.00 - 69.50

Miscellaneous Services (labor, fuel, and equipment included)

	Average	Range
Removing snow (loader), / hour	\$77.90	30.00 - 110.00
Removing snow (blade), /hr., /ft. of blade	5.65	1.00 - 10.00
Removing snow (blower), /hr., /ft. of blower	11.00	2.00 - 19.44
Grinding, mixing feed, / ton	10.80	10.00 - 11.75
Tub grinding hay, / hour	221.70	200.00 - 250.00
Tub grinding hay, / ton	11.40	10.00 - 12.50
Spreading liq. manure, inject., / 1000 gal.	13.50	10.00 - 16.00
Liquid manure w/ drag line, / 1000 gal.	12.25	10.00 - 15.00
Loading solid manure, / hour	76.05	50.00 - 110.00
Loading, spreading solid manure, / hour	122.25	100.00 - 150.00
Power washing, / hour	42.10	35.00 - 50.00
Building fence, barb, / hr. (no materials)	16.45	15.00 - 18.00
Building fence, barb, / rod (no materials)	14.25	10.00 - 18.00
Building fence, woven, / hr. (no materials)	17.50	15.00 - 20.00
Building fence, woven, / rod (no materials)	14.75	12.00 - 16.80
Scouting crops, / acre	4.90	2.50 - 7.00
Soil testing, / sample	6.45	2.00 - 10.00
GPS grid soil testing, / acre	6.80	2.50 - 10.00
Managing stored grain, / bu.	0.06	0.01 - 0.10
Vacuuming grain, / bu.	0.09	0.01 - 0.18
Shearing sheep, / head	3.80	3.50 - 3.95
Livestock hauling w/ trailer, / loaded mile	2.80	1.50 - 4.50
Livestock hauling w/straight tr., /loaded m.	3.35	3.00 - 4.00
Livestock hauling w/semi tr., /loaded mile	3.90	3.50 - 4.00
Bulldozing, / hr., / ft. of blade	12.60	9.38 - 15.00
Digging post holes, / hole	3.95	3.00 - 5.00
Driving steel fence posts, / post	2.55	2.00 - 4.00
Driving wooden fence posts, / post	3.95	3.00 - 4.50
Building terraces, grassed back, / foot	3.10	2.50 - 3.50
Building terraces, narrow base, / foot	2.55	2.00 - 3.00
Trenching, / foot	1.45	0.75 - 2.00
Tiling, tiling machine (ex. materials), / ft.	1.15	0.55 - 2.00
Tiling, tile plow (ex. materials), / foot	0.76	0.40 - 1.00
Back hoeing, / hour	91.25	50.00 - 125.00
Clearing land, / hour	135.45	85.00 - 165.00
Building ponds, / hour	147.90	140.00 - 153.05
Chain sawing, / hour	58.70	40.00 - 85.00
Welding machinery, / hour	52.80	45.00 - 75.00
Mowing CRP or pasture, / acre	18.35	10.00 - 30.00
Mowing fence rows, ditches, / hour	69.70	18.00 - 100.00
Mowing lawns, / hour	38.05	25.00 - 60.00
Chopping brush, / acre	28.30	20.00 - 40.00
Using truck scale, / load weighed	3.95	1.00 - 6.00

Custom Farming (tillage, planting, pest control, harvesting, and hauling to farm, no drying)

	Average	Range
Corn, / acre	\$136.50	82.00 - 175.00
Soybeans, / acre	125.35	78.00 - 170.00
Small grain, / acre	93.65	82.50 - 100.00

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

	Average	Range
Tractor, / horsepower, / hour	\$0.28	0.17 - 0.40
Grain drill, / acre	10.35	6.00 - 15.00
No-till soybean drill, / acre	12.70	8.00 - 18.00
Corn head for combine, / acre	10.05	8.00 - 14.00
Soybean head for combine, / acre	9.50	6.00 - 13.00
Grain cart with auger, corn, / acre	6.45	2.00 - 10.00
Grain cart with auger, soybeans, / acre	5.80	3.00 - 7.50
Grain wagon, / bu.	0.08	0.05 - 0.11
Grain truck (semi), / bu. / round trip	0.12	0.05 - 0.17
Grain auger, / bu.	0.06	0.02 - 0.08
Grain vacuum, / bu.	0.08	0.01 - 0.15
Grain cleaner, / bu.	0.08	0.05 - 0.10
Liquid manure spreader, / hour	41.35	35.00 - 45.00
Solid manure spreader, / hour	43.55	35.00 - 50.00
Skid loader, / hour	53.40	30.00 - 80.00
Dry bulk fertilizer applicator, / acre	3.75	3.00 - 4.50
Liquid fertilizer applicator, / acre	5.75	3.00 - 7.50
Anhydrous fertilizer applicator, / acre	5.70	3.00 - 10.00
Power washer, / hour	40.55	35.00 - 50.00
Generator, / hour	43.05	40.00 - 50.00
Tub grinder, / hour	209.20	200.00 - 220.00

Bin Rental

	Average	Range
Bin dryer, / bu. dried, (no fuel or labor)	\$0.076	0.050 - 0.100
Storing grain, bin rental / bu., / month	0.031	0.010 - 0.100
Storing grain, bin rental / bu., / year	0.176	0.100 - 0.300

Farm Labor Wages for Operating Machinery

	Average	Range
Spraying or harvesting, / hour	\$16.40	10.00 - 25.00
Other operations, / hour	14.20	10.00 - 20.00

Estimating a Machinery Rental Rate for Items Not Surveyed

1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor)	\$ _____/acre	Example: Tandem Disk \$14.65
2. Percent of custom charge that is for interest, insurance, depreciation, and repairs (excluding fuel and labor) (use 60% for tillage, 65% for planting and harvesting)	x _____%	x 60%
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 =	= \$ _____/acre	= \$2.80
Ex: 150 HP x \$.28 (per hp-hour rental rate) / 15 acres/hour = \$2.80		
5. Implement rental value, without tractor (3 minus 4)	= \$ _____/acre	= \$5.99/acre

... and justice for all

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