

2025 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 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey was mailed to 371 people by the U.S. Postal Service and 633 people via email in February 2025. The 2025 report is based on 193 responses and 3,703 custom rates provided by Iowa farmers, custom operators, and farm managers.

For each type of work, the average rate from the survey, the median, and the range are shown. The average is calculated as the simple average of all responses. The median is the middle number among the ordered responses (from smallest to largest). The reported range excludes the minimum and the maximum values to avoid reporting extreme values.

The sources of the 3,446 rates reported for custom operations are: 54% service providers, 25% service users, 6% both service providers and users, and 15% unknown. The sources of the 92 rates reported for machinery rentals are: 56% machinery owners, 23% machinery renters, 8% machinery owners and renters, and 13% unknown. The sources of the 165 rates reported for wages are: 86% employers, 5% employees, 2% employer and employee, and 7% unknown.

The reported rates are expected to be charged or paid in 2025, and they include fuel and labor (unless otherwise noted). The average price for diesel fuel (highway-retail including taxes) was assumed to be \$3.66 per gallon (as projected by the U.S. Energy Information Administration in early February 2025). Rental rates for some machinery items are shown in the last section of this report, along with a worksheet for estimating rental rates for other items.

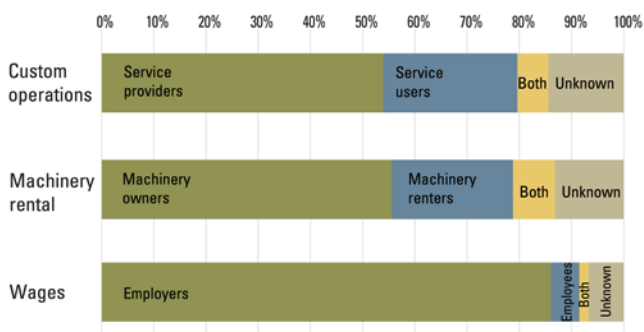
This rate schedule is intended only as a guide. Actual custom rates may vary according to availability of machinery in a given area, timeliness, operator skill, field size and shape, crop conditions, and the performance characteristics of the machine being used.

All rates include fuel, repairs, depreciation, interest, labor, and all other machinery costs for the tractor and implement, unless otherwise noted.

More on estimating machinery costs and machinery management can be found on the [Ag Decision Maker website](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/cdmachinery.html), www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/cdmachinery.html.

The information available in the Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey is only possible due to the responses provided each year. If you are interested in joining the 2026 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey mailing list, send your mail or email address to: Ann Johanns, Iowa State University, Borlaug Learning Center, 3327 290th St., Nashua, IA 50658, 515-337-2766, or aholste@iastate.edu.

Source of survey responses, by category, 2025



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Tillage	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Chopping cornstalks / acre	\$13.45	\$15.00	\$5.00 - \$20.00	39	28%	54%	8%
Moldboard plowing / acre	18.95	20.00	12.00 - 22.00	14	14%	57%	7%
Chisel plowing / acre	19.65	20.00	10.00 - 28.00	32	38%	56%	6%
Disk/chiseling / acre	21.85	23.00	8.00 - 30.00	48	42%	58%	8%
Vertical tillage / acre	21.85	22.00	12.00 - 30.00	65	63%	62%	11%
Strip tillage / acre	21.65	22.00	14.00 - 30.00	13	69%	31%	0%
- extra charge, dry bulk fertilizer, banded, no materials / acre	4.00	3.65	2.00 - 7.50	10	42%	50%	0%
- extra charge, liquid fertilizer, knifed, no materials / acre	4.35	4.50	3.00 - 6.00	6	33%	33%	0%
- extra charge, anhydrous fertilizer, no materials / acre	5.15	5.00	2.00 - 8.00	9	45%	55%	0%
Subsoiling (8 to 15 inches deep) / acre	24.85	25.00	14.00 - 35.00	28	36%	61%	0%
V-ripping (over 15 inches deep) / acre	24.70	25.50	14.00 - 35.00	18	50%	44%	6%
V-ripping with tandem disk / acre	25.10	25.55	12.25 - 40.00	42	52%	60%	0%
Disking, tandem / acre	18.75	18.50	8.00 - 30.00	44	30%	70%	11%
Disking, heavy or offset / acre	21.40	21.50	16.00 - 30.00	14	57%	64%	7%
Harrowing or dragging / acre	10.55	10.80	7.00 - 13.00	12	17%	50%	8%
Soil finishing / acre	19.35	19.00	8.00 - 33.00	45	38%	49%	4%
Field cultivating / acre	18.20	18.00	7.60 - 32.00	76	50%	57%	9%
Rock picking / acre	14.50	15.00	2.50 - 25.00	17	53%	71%	6%
Cultivating, conventional / acre	15.60	15.00	12.00 - 19.00	10	20%	30%	0%
Cultivating, ridge-till / acre	15.35	15.00	12.00 - 16.00	6	50%	33%	0%
Rotary hoeing / acre	11.95	12.00	8.00 - 16.00	20	30%	50%	0%
Land rolling / acre	8.85	8.00	4.00 - 18.00	49	63%	55%	2%

Planting, Drilling, and Seeding	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Planting							
- with fertilizer and insecticide attachments / acre	\$27.20	\$27.00	\$15.00 - \$42.00	36	61%	53%	0%
- without attachments / acre	25.40	25.00	12.00 - 37.50	63	44%	56%	6%
- with splitters and attachments / acre	26.25	25.75	13.00 - 40.00	40	60%	63%	8%
- with high-speed planter / acre	28.90	28.00	14.00 - 46.00	64	84%	63%	3%
- no-till planter / acre	27.25	27.00	13.00 - 45.00	52	44%	58%	4%
- no-till planter with splitters / acre	28.55	28.10	16.00 - 40.00	39	58%	68%	8%
- ridge till planter / acre	24.35	26.50	15.00 - 29.00	6	67%	33%	0%
Extra charge for seed shut-offs / acre	3.15	3.00	1.00 - 9.00	58	58%	62%	3%
Extra charge for variable rate seeding / acre	3.05	3.00	1.00 - 6.00	50	55%	69%	0%
Extra charge for GPS use, if used for analytics / acre	3.30	3.00	1.00 - 6.00	35	56%	62%	2%
Seed tender / acre	4.60	5.00	2.00 - 8.00	42	59%	63%	4%
Drilling soybean / acre	19.75	20.00	14.00 - 26.00	20	45%	45%	5%
Drilling soybean, no-till / acre	22.05	22.00	15.00 - 30.00	27	37%	52%	0%
Drilling grass seed / acre	19.10	20.00	10.00 - 25.50	20	24%	62%	14%

Planting, Drilling, and Seeding	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Drilling small grain / acre	18.25	20.00	10.00 - 23.00	17	29%	53%	24%
Seeding grass, broadcast with tractor / acre	13.70	15.00	8.00 - 20.00	11	45%	55%	0%
Seeding grass, broadcast with ATV / acre	14.30	15.00	10.00 - 20.00	7	57%	57%	0%
Aerial seeding of cover crop / acre	13.60	14.00	9.00 - 18.00	21	52%	29%	0%
Drilling cover crop seed / acre	18.30	18.50	9.75 - 25.00	32	31%	56%	9%

Spraying (materials not included)	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Ground, broadcast, not incorporated, tractor / acre	\$7.55	\$7.50	\$5.00 - \$12.00	41	37%	49%	7%
Ground, incorporated, tractor / acre	10.65	8.50	6.00 - 16.00	10	60%	50%	0%
Ground, broadcast, not incorporated, self-propelled / acre	8.70	8.25	5.00 - 15.00	93	58%	44%	3%
Ground, broadcast, self-propelled tall-crop / acre	10.75	10.00	6.00 - 16.00	47	55%	38%	2%
Ground, banded, tractor / acre	12.30	11.00	8.00 - 16.00	7	71%	57%	0%
Ground, road ditches / hour	83.70	85.00	30.00 - 130.00	23	38%	63%	4%
Aerial / acre	11.85	11.00	9.00 - 16.00	27	56%	19%	0%

Fertilizer Application (materials not included)	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Dry bulk - applied / acre	\$7.30	\$7.00	\$4.00 - \$10.50	42	64%	24%	2%
Liquid - spraying / acre	9.10	8.50	6.50 - 15.00	17	53%	35%	0%
- side dressing / acre	13.05	13.50	7.00 - 19.00	22	30%	52%	0%
- high clearance, drop hose, Y spray nozzle / acre	12.80	12.50	8.00 - 19.50	13	46%	31%	0%
Anhydrous - injecting, with tool bar / acre	15.25	15.00	7.00 - 28.00	64	55%	48%	5%
- injecting, without tool bar / acre	12.30	12.50	5.00 - 20.00	27	37%	41%	4%
Spreading lime / ton	8.00	7.25	5.00 - 14.00	24	25%	21%	0%

Harvesting, Drying, and Hauling Grain	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Corn combining / acre	\$44.10	\$44.00	\$25.00 - \$80.00	107	45%	59%	6%
- with chopper head / acre	48.15	45.00	23.25 - 80.00	50	56%	54%	8%
- added charge for corn reel (downed corn) / acre	11.50	10.00	2.00 - 25.00	26	41%	70%	0%
Soybean combining / acre	41.90	40.00	25.00 - 70.00	75	43%	56%	5%
- with air reel / acre	41.75	40.00	27.00 - 65.00	17	50%	50%	0%
- with draper head / acre	44.85	45.00	22.25 - 75.00	88	57%	65%	7%

Harvesting, Drying, and Hauling Grain	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range		Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:			
						For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends	
Small grain combining / acre	42.20	40.00	32.00	-	55.00	12	50%	58%	8%
Complete harvesting (combine, grain cart, haul to farm storage)									
- Corn / acre	71.95	67.00	38.00	-	150.00	64	72%	64%	6%
- Soybean / acre	67.55	65.00	32.00	-	147.00	61	72%	66%	7%
Added charge for GPS mapping / acre	3.50	3.00	1.00	-	8.00	40	61%	59%	4%
Picking ear corn / acre	39.15	35.00	34.00	-	50.00	7	42%	58%	0%
Drying corn (includes fuel, electricity, labor)									
- continuous flow dryer / point per bushel	0.055	0.050	0.030	-	0.080	16	50%	63%	6%
- bin dryer / point per bushel	0.050	0.050	0.030	-	0.080	8	50%	25%	13%
Handling grain by auger / bushel	0.085	0.080	0.030	-	0.160	41	30%	48%	3%
Hauling grain									
- grain cart, corn / acre	9.50	8.50	5.00	-	22.00	69	41%	59%	8%
- grain cart, soybean / acre	8.30	7.50	3.00	-	18.00	66	42%	58%	4%
- to farm storage, wagon / bushel	0.090	0.100	0.050	-	0.150	31	29%	42%	3%
- farm storage to market, wagon / bushel	0.110	0.120	0.050	-	0.150	22	32%	36%	0%
- to market, truck, (5 miles, 1-way trip) / bushel	0.130	0.130	0.060	-	0.220	69	36%	63%	6%
- to market, truck, (25 miles, 1-way trip) / bushel	0.200	0.200	0.090	-	0.320	80	34%	49%	6%
- to market, truck, (100 miles, 1-way trip) / bushel	0.390	0.360	0.180	-	0.670	23	57%	65%	0%

Harvesting Forages	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range		Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:			
						For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends	
Hay - mowing / acre	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$10.00	-	\$20.00	22	35%	70%	9%
- mowing/conditioning / acre	16.50	16.00	12.00	-	22.50	26	37%	74%	7%
- raking / acre	8.20	8.00	5.00	-	14.00	28	32%	68%	7%
- merging / acre	13.90	12.00	9.00	-	21.00	6	67%	67%	0%
- tedding / acre	11.55	10.00	8.00	-	16.00	9	44%	78%	11%
Hay baling - small square bales / bale	0.91	0.93	0.75	-	1.00	10	18%	55%	9%
- large square bales / bale	14.45	13.40	13.00	-	15.00	6	67%	67%	0%
- large round bales without wrap / bale	13.65	14.50	10.00	-	16.00	14	43%	71%	7%
- large round bales with wrap / bale	15.45	16.00	11.00	-	19.00	41	49%	51%	2%
Straw or corn stalk baling									
- large round or square bales without wrap / bale	11.75	12.25	10.00	-	13.00	6	83%	67%	0%
- large round or square bales with wrap / bale	15.55	16.00	12.00	-	19.00	21	59%	50%	5%
Moving large round bales to storage / bale	1.85	2.00	1.00	-	2.00	7	25%	38%	13%
Silage - chopping / hour / head row	82.05	84.60	58.33	-	100.00	8	0%	0%	0%
- chopping / ton	9.50	8.90	7.00	-	13.00	14	57%	71%	0%
Filling silage bags / foot of bag	10.40	10.00	9.25	-	14.50	5	33%	83%	0%
Earlage or snaplage - chopping / acre	90.30	78.50	75.00	-	119.85	6	33%	33%	0%

Custom Farming (tillage, planting, pest control, harvesting, and hauling to farm, no drying)	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Corn / acre	\$167.75	\$150.00	\$75.00 - \$353.00	53	43%	53%	9%
Soybean / acre	154.50	140.00	65.00 - 353.00	51	41%	53%	8%
Small grain / acre	199.65	192.50	125.00 - 260.00	6	83%	33%	0%

Miscellaneous Services (labor, fuel, and equipment included)	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From service providers only	For family or friends
Removing snow (loader) / hour	\$112.85	\$112.00	\$50.00 - \$200.00	29	31%	76%	7%
Removing snow (blade) / hour / foot of blade	10.70	9.40	1.50 - 20.00	13	0%	0%	0%
Removing snow (blower) / hour / foot of blower	18.35	18.15	10.00 - 27.78	16	0%	0%	0%
Tub grinding hay / hour	340.00	300.00	175.00 - 525.00	7	0%	0%	0%
Spreading liquid manure, injected / 1,000 gallon	17.05	17.75	10.00 - 22.00	12	67%	25%	8%
Applying liquid manure with drag line / 1,000 gallon	16.20	15.75	12.50 - 20.00	8	57%	0%	0%
Loading, spreading solid manure / ton	7.40	7.50	6.00 - 9.00	6	57%	29%	14%
Power washing / hour	75.50	72.50	50.00 - 100.00	10	40%	30%	10%
Building fence, barbed (no materials) / hour	48.35	50.00	25.00 - 60.00	6	17%	50%	0%
Scouting crops / acre	6.30	5.75	3.00 - 10.00	8	44%	44%	0%
GPS grid soil testing / acre	6.40	7.00	2.50 - 9.50	11	55%	18%	0%
Managing stored grain / bushel	0.09	0.06	0.03 - 0.19	8	25%	38%	0%
Vacuuming grain / bushel	0.13	0.12	0.07 - 0.18	29	30%	50%	3%
Livestock hauling with trailer / loaded mile	3.60	3.00	3.00 - 4.00	5	20%	80%	20%
Bulldozing / hour / foot of blade	16.20	15.35	12.00 - 21.45	12	21%	64%	0%
Tiling, tiling machine (excluding materials) / foot	1.35	1.30	1.00 - 1.75	6	17%	17%	0%
Tiling, tile plow (excluding materials) / foot	1.00	0.88	0.75 - 1.75	10	50%	63%	0%
Backhoeing / hour	127.25	125.00	80.00 - 185.00	19	16%	58%	0%
Clearing land / hour	153.75	145.00	120.00 - 210.00	8	25%	50%	0%
Chain sawing / hour	83.15	80.00	75.00 - 90.00	8	13%	75%	13%
Welding machinery / hour	87.50	80.00	60.00 - 120.00	12	25%	50%	0%
Mowing CRP or pasture / acre	27.00	25.00	12.00 - 50.00	28	43%	61%	4%
Controlled burning of grass, CRP, pasture / acre	36.25	30.00	10.00 - 75.00	19	26%	26%	16%
Mowing fence rows, ditches / hour	99.15	100.00	40.00 - 185.00	36	36%	61%	0%
Mowing lawns / hour	53.75	60.00	20.00 - 80.00	22	41%	45%	9%
Chopping brush / acre	103.75	87.50	40.00 - 180.00	8	50%	38%	13%

Farm Labor Wages for Operating Machinery	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:	
					From employers only	For family or friends
Spraying or harvesting / hour	\$24.05	\$23.00	\$15.00 - \$45.00	68	89%	11%
Other operations / hour	22.65	22.00	15.00 - 45.00	97	94%	8%

Bin Rental	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From owners only	For family or friends
Storing grain, bin rental / bushel / month	\$0.030	\$0.030	\$0.015 - \$0.050	26	29%	29%	11%
Storing grain, bin rental / bushel / year	0.150	0.150	0.100 - 0.250	39	21%	38%	13%

Machine Rental (operator, tractor, and fuel not included)	Average Charge	Median Charge	Range	Number of Responses	Percent of Reported Rates:		
					For machinery 1–5 years old	From machine owners only	For family or friends
Tractor / horsepower / hour	\$0.33	\$0.35	\$0.22 - \$0.41	17	79%	58%	11%
Corn head for combine / acre	13.35	12.50	7.00 - 20.00	12	58%	50%	8%
Soybean head for combine / acre	13.85	17.00	5.00 - 20.00	7	29%	43%	0%
Grain cart with auger, corn / acre	8.10	6.00	5.00 - 12.00	9	36%	64%	0%
Grain cart with auger, soybean / acre	6.10	5.00	4.00 - 10.00	9	36%	64%	0%
Grain truck (semi) / bushel / round trip	0.19	0.20	0.15 - 0.23	7	63%	63%	0%
Grain auger / bushel	0.08	0.08	0.02 - 0.12	8	25%	50%	13%
Grain vacuum / bushel	0.11	0.10	0.08 - 0.14	9	33%	56%	0%
Skid loader / hour	88.95	85.00	60.00 - 140.00	14	50%	50%	14%

Estimating a machinery rental rate for items not surveyed

**Example:
Tandem Disk**

The following worksheet can be used to estimate a rental value for equipment items not shown above.

1. Custom charge (includes labor, fuel, tractor)	\$ _____/acre	\$18.75
2. Percent of custom charge that is for interest, insurance, depreciation, and repairs (to exclude fuel and labor) (use 60% for tillage, 65% for planting and harvesting)	× _____%	× 60%
3. Rental value, for tractor and implement (1 × 2)	= \$ _____/acre	= \$11.25
4. Tractor rental value, if tractor is not provided: _____hp × \$ _____ per hp-hour rental rate (see above) / _____acres/hour ^{1/} = Ex: 150 hp × \$.33 (per hp-hour rental rate) / 15 acres/hour = \$3.30	– \$ _____/acre	– \$3.30
5. Implement rental value, without tractor (3 minus 4)	= \$ _____/acre	= \$7.95/acre

^{1/} Typical values for acres covered per hour can be found in AgDM File A3-24 [Estimating the Field Capacity of Farm Machines](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/pdf/a3-24.pdf), www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/pdf/a3-24.pdf. [Estimating Farm Machinery Costs](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-29.html), www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-29.html, provides further details to estimate ownership and operating costs. A [Decision Tool Calculator](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/xls/a3-29machcostcalc.xlsx), www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/xls/a3-29machcostcalc.xlsx, is also available.