

Ohio Farm Custom Rates 2010 – Part 1
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A large number of Ohio farmers hire machinery operations and other farm related work to be completed by others. This is often due to lack of proper equipment or lack of time or expertise for a particular operation. Many farm business owners do not own equipment for every possible job that they may encounter in the course of operating a farm and may, instead of purchasing the equipment needed, seek out someone with the proper tools necessary to complete the job. This farm work completed by others is often referred to as “custom farm work” or more simply “custom work”. A “custom rate” is the amount agreed upon by both parties to be paid from the custom work customer to the custom work provider.

The custom rates reported in this article are based on a statewide survey of 242 farmers, custom operators, farm managers and landowners conducted in 2010. These rates, except where noted, include the implement and tractor if required, all variable machinery costs such as fuel, oil, lube, twine etc., and the labor for the operation.

There is no assurance that the average rates reported in this article will cover your total costs for performing the custom service or that you will be able to hire a custom operator for the average rate published here. Calculate your own costs carefully before determining the rate to charge or pay. Some custom rates published in this article have a wide range. Possible explanations are the type or size of equipment used, the value of labor, the mix of labor and equipment used, different income needs of full-time custom operators versus farmers supplementing their income. Also some custom operations are provided at bargain rates due to family relationships between the parties or due to the fact that custom providers may see an increased probability of eventually securing the custom farmed farmland in a cash rental or other rental agreement.

Charges may be added if the custom provider considers a job abnormal such as distance from the operator’s base location, difficulty of terrain, amount of product or labor involved with the operation, or other special requirements of the custom work customer.

Publications are available that may help in calculating your total costs of performing a given custom operation. Some of the online resources available that may be of assistance include:

Farm Machinery Cost Estimates available at:

http://www.apec.umn.edu/Machinery_Economics2.html

Machinery Economics at *farmdoc*:

<http://www.farmdoc.illinois.edu/manage/index.asp>

Estimating Farm Machinery Costs

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-29.html>

Before entering into an agreement, discuss all of the details of the specific job with the other party.

Fuel prices have an impact on custom rates and rates may fluctuate based on large movements in fuel prices. The approximate price of diesel fuel at the time of this survey was \$2.50 per gallon for off-road (farm) usage.

For the custom rates reported in this article the average is the simple average of all the survey responses. The “Low” and “High” rates represent \pm one standard deviation around the average. (Standard deviation is a measure of the variability of the survey responses and one standard deviation both above and below the average includes approximately two-thirds of all survey responses.)

Ohio Farm Custom Rates 2010					
Soil Preparation / Per Acre			Low	Average	Hi
Stalk Chopper			\$7.00	\$10.10	\$13.05
Moldboard Plow			\$12.75	\$17.30	\$21.80
Chisel Plow			\$9.60	\$14.05	\$18.50
Disk Chisel			\$8.80	\$14.80	\$20.85
Disk-Tandem			\$8.40	\$12.60	\$16.80
Disk-Offset			\$7.75	\$14.75	\$21.75
Soil Finishing			\$7.10	\$11.40	\$15.70
Field Cultivator			\$6.65	\$11.10	\$15.55
Land Leveling			\$5.25	\$11.70	\$18.15
Subsoiling			\$13.00	\$18.15	\$23.25
V-Ripping			\$13.20	\$18.30	\$23.35
Strip Tillage			\$13.10	\$17.30	\$21.55
Fertilizer Application - Ground					
Dry Bulk /A			\$3.40	\$5.15	\$6.90
Liquid - Knifed/A			\$4.20	\$7.65	\$11.10
Liquid - Sprayed/A			\$4.60	\$6.45	\$8.30
Annhydrous /A			\$7.40	\$10.30	\$13.25
Lime /A			\$4.10	\$6.40	\$8.70
Lime /T			\$5.05	\$13.10	\$21.10
Chemical Control of Weeds or Insects / Per Acre					
Spraying - self propelled			\$4.90	\$6.20	\$7.50
Spraying - pull type			\$4.45	\$6.05	\$7.65
Highboy spraying			\$3.70	\$7.00	\$10.20
Mechanical Weed Control / Per Acre					
Rotary Hoeing			\$3.25	\$7.00	\$10.75
Conventional Cultivation			\$5.95	\$10.35	\$14.70
Aerial Application / Per Acre					
Apply Crop Protection Chemicals			\$6.80	\$8.30	\$9.75

Planting Operations / Per Acre						
Conventional Till						
Plant Corn 30"				\$10.55	\$15.70	\$20.85
Plant Corn w/ Fertilizer Attachments 30"				\$12.40	\$16.90	\$21.35
Plant Soybeans 15"				\$11.05	\$15.75	\$20.45
Drill Soybeans				\$10.10	\$14.80	\$19.45
Drill Small Grains				\$9.85	\$14.80	\$19.75
No-Till						
Plant Corn 30"				\$11.25	\$16.00	\$20.80
Plant Corn w/ Fertilizer Attachments 30"				\$12.90	\$18.10	\$23.30
Plant Soybeans 15"				\$11.30	\$16.10	\$20.90
Drill Soybeans				\$10.70	\$14.85	\$19.00
Drill Small Grains				\$10.75	\$15.20	\$19.60
Grass/Legume/Pasture Seeding						
Broadcast				\$2.95	\$5.60	\$8.25
Grain drill				\$8.90	\$14.30	\$19.65
Grain Harvest / Per Acre						
Harvest Corn (Combine, cart, haul to farm storage)				\$22.00	\$27.90	\$33.70
Harvest Soybeans (Combine, cart, haul to farm storage)				\$21.15	\$27.10	\$33.00
Harvest Wheat (Combine, cart, haul to farm storage)				\$20.05	\$26.65	\$33.25
Combine Corn				\$20.25	\$25.70	\$31.15
Combine Soybeans				\$19.85	\$25.50	\$31.15
Combine Small Grains				\$19.40	\$24.65	\$29.85
Grain Cart				\$3.25	\$4.75	\$6.25

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Grain Storage - On Farm			Low	Average	High
Storage/month			\$0.02	\$0.04	\$0.06
Storage/year			\$0.08	\$0.18	\$0.28
Grain Drying					
Cost per point of moisture removed per bushel			\$0.02	\$0.05	\$0.08
Grain Haul					
Farm to market / cost per bushel			\$0.09	\$0.16	\$0.22
Farm to market / average miles - one way			3.20	28.50	53.80
Field to farm / cost per bushel			\$0.06	\$0.10	\$0.13
Field to farm / average miles - one-way			4.40	8.60	12.80
Custom Farming					
(All machinery operations for tillage, planting, spraying, tending & harvest)					
Corn			\$55.90	\$97.95	\$139.95
Soy			\$53.30	\$86.65	\$120.05
Small Grains			\$50.60	\$82.10	\$113.55
Hay/Straw Harvest / Per Acre					
Mowing			\$6.85	\$11.15	\$15.50
Mowing / Conditioning			\$8.25	\$12.80	\$17.35
Raking			\$3.10	\$6.75	\$10.35
Tedding			\$3.08	\$6.45	\$9.85
Baling					
Small Square Bales					
Bale/Drop in Field			\$0.26	\$0.65	\$1.00
Bale/Load on Wagon			\$0.26	\$0.80	\$1.35
Bale/Load/Haul/Store			\$0.86	\$1.70	\$2.55

Large Round Bales ~ 1500#					
Bale/Left in Field			\$7.75	\$10.60	\$13.50
Bale/NetWrap			\$7.75	\$11.40	\$16.00
Bale & Wrap wet			\$12.40	\$16.10	\$19.75
Large Round Bales ~ 1000#					
Bale/Left in Field			\$5.35	\$6.80	\$8.25
Bale/NetWrap			\$5.75	\$7.70	\$9.65
Large Square					
Bale/Left in Field			\$6.90	\$9.40	\$11.85
Complete Hay Harvest					
% of Crop to Custom Provider			47.00%	55.00%	64.00%
Silage Harvest					
Chop Corn Silage / Per ton			\$4.00	\$5.30	\$6.60
Chop Haylage / Per ton			\$4.65	\$6.65	\$8.60
Fill Silage Bag / Per ton			\$4.10	\$4.65	\$5.25
Hired Labor					
Machinery Operation / Per Hour			\$7.50	\$11.95	\$16.45
Milking Cows / Per Hour			\$7.60	\$9.45	\$11.30
General Farm Labor / Per Hour			\$7.85	\$9.90	\$11.95
Average Hours Worked / Per Week			22.00	37.00	51.00