



Baling – Small Squares - per bale	Low	Average	High
Bale – Left in Field	0.25	0.75	1.25
Bale – Load on Wagon	0.25	0.95	1.65
Bale, Load, Haul, Store	0.40	1.25	2.20
Haul and store	0.05	0.30	0.55

Baling – Large Round 1000#/bale	Low	Average	High
Bale – Left in Field	6.00	7.50	9.00
Bale – Net/Wrap	6.50	8.00	9.50

Complete Hay Harvest	Low	Average	High
% of Crop to Custom Provider	50%	50%	50%

Hired Labor	Low	Average	High
Machinery Operation per hour	10.25	13.85	17.50
Milking Cows - per hour	8.00	10.20	12.50
General Farm Labor per hour	8.70	11.50	14.50
Average Hours Worked/week	23	40	56

DRAINAGE & TILE INSTALLATION	Low	Average	High
Drain Plow - without materials 4" Plastic – per foot	0.08	0.35	0.62
Drain Plow – with materials 4" Plastic – per foot	0.48	0.56	0.64

Miscellaneous	Low	Average	High
Bush Hogging – per acre	7.70	21.50	35.50
Track Hoe – per hour	75.00	98.00	121.00
Snow removal: Blade – per hour	30.00	60.00	93.50
Hauling Livestock, loaded – per mile	1.65	2.20	2.80
Bulldozing per foot of blade – per hour	6.80	10.00	12.60
Soil testing – per sample	9.50	10.00	11.70
Grid soil sampling – per acre	3.00	8.00	13.00

Machinery Rental	Low	Average	High
Tractor/\$ per horsepower – per hour	0.12	0.29	0.46
Corn Planter: Conventional – per acre	9.50	13.75	18.00
Corn Planter: No-till – per acre	9.65	14.00	17.50
Combine/Separator Hour	56.00	140.00	225.00
Grain Drill: Conventional – per acre	6.00	10.50	14.00
Grain Drill: No-till – per acre	8.60	12.00	15.50
Skid Loader – per day	64.00	145.00	225.00
Dry Bulk Fertilizer Applicator – per acre	3.40	4.50	5.75
Liquid Fertilizer Applicator – per acre	3.60	5.00	5.70

OHIO FARM CUSTOM RATES - 2012

By Barry Ward, Leader, Production Business Management, Ohio State University Extension, Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics

A large number of Ohio farmers hire machinery operations & 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 here are based on a statewide survey of 122 farmers, custom operators, farm managers, and landowners conducted in 2012. These rates, except where noted, include the implement and tractor if required, all variable machinery costs such as fuel, oil, lube, twine etc., & 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 have a wide range. Possible explanations are the type or size of equipment used, size/shape of fields, condition of crop (for harvesting operations), the value of labor, the mix of labor and equipment used, and the different income needs of full-time customer 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 – <http://faculty.apec.umn.edu/wlazarus/documents/machdata.pdf>

Machinery economics - <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, & rates may fluctuate based on large movements in fuel prices. Approximate price of diesel fuel at the time of this survey was \$3.75-\$4.00/gallon for off-road (farm) usage.

For the custom rates reported here, the average is the simple average of all the survey responses. The “Low” and “High” rates represent +/- 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.)

Soil Preparation – per acre	Low	Average	High
Stalk Chopper	8.30	10.40	12.60
Moldboard Plow	13.10	18.20	23.30
Chisel Plow	10.50	15.10	19.60
Disk Chisel	13.20	17.90	22.50
Disk-Tandem	10.20	13.70	17.10
Disk-Offset	14.75	15.20	16.00
Soil Finishing	10.10	14.20	18.30
Field Cultivator	8.30	11.30	14.40
Subsoiling	16.70	20.30	23.90
V-Ripping	17.70	22.10	26.50
Strip Tillage	15.80	19.00	22.30

Fertilizer Application - Ground	Low	Average	High
Dry Bulk per acre	4.30	5.80	7.30
Liquid – Sprayed per acre	5.40	6.00	6.60
Anhydrous Ammonia per acre	9.00	12.10	15.20
Lime per acre	4.10	7.20	10.30

Chemical Control of Weeds/Insects	Low	Average	High
Spraying, self propelled – per acre	5.30	7.00	8.60
Spraying, pull type – per acre	4.00	6.10	8.30
Highboy Spraying – per acre	5.00	7.30	9.60

Mechanical Weed Control – per acre	Low	Average	High
Rotary Hoeing	6.30	8.00	8.90

PLANTING OPERATIONS – PER ACRE

Conventional Till – per acre	Low	Average	High
Plant Corn 30”	12.80	15.60	18.30
Plant Corn with Fertilizer Attachments 30”	13.40	18.20	23.10
Plant Soybeans 15”	12.90	16.00	19.10
Drill Soybeans	11.20	15.50	19.80
Drill Small Grains	10.80	15.40	19.80

No-Till – per acre	Low	Average	High
Plant Corn 30”	13.80	16.60	19.40
Plant Corn with Fertilizer Attachments 30”	14.60	18.70	22.70
Plant Soybeans 15”	12.80	17.10	21.40
Drill Soybeans	13.30	16.70	20.00
Drill Small Grains	11.60	15.40	18.70

Grass/Legume/Pasture Seeding	Low	Average	High
Broadcast – per acre	5.60	8.10	10.60
Grain Drill – per acre	9.40	15.70	22.00

Grain Harvest – per acre	Low	Average	High
Harvest Corn*	24.00	31.00	37.00
Harvest Soybeans*	24.00	28.50	33.00
Harvest Wheat*	23.00	28.00	33.00
Combine Corn	21.00	27.00	33.00
Combine Soybeans	20.50	26.00	32.00
Combine Small Grains	20.00	25.00	30.00
Grain Cart	3.00	5.00	7.00

* combine, cart, haul to farm storage

Grain Storage – On Farm	Low	Average	High
Storage per bushel, per month	0.02	0.04	0.06
Storage per bushel, per year	0.19	0.30	0.42

Grain Haul	Low	Average	High
Farm to market – per bushel, 1-way	\$0.08	\$0.17	\$0.26
Farm to market – avg. miles, 1-way	3	30	63
Field to farm – per bushel, 1-way	\$0.04	\$0.10	\$0.16
Field to farm – avg. miles, 1-way	3	8	14

Grain Drying	Low	Average	High
Cost per point of moisture removed per bushel	0.05	0.08	0.11

CUSTOM FARMING

All machinery operations for tillage, planting, spraying, tending, & harvest	Low	Average	High
Corn per acre	74.00	121.00	168.00
Soybeans per acre	65.00	105.00	144.00
Small Grains per acre	61.00	93.00	126.00

Hay/Straw Harvest – per acre	Low	Average	High
Mowing	4.70	11.00	17.30
Mowing/Conditioning	11.10	13.00	14.90
Raking	3.90	6.60	9.40
Tedding	2.50	5.70	8.90

Baling – Large Square – per bale	Low	Average	High
Bale – Left in Field	8.30	9.50	10.50