2004

EC04-826-A 2004 Nebraska Farm Custom Rates -- Part II

H. Douglas Jose

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Rates - Part II

H. Douglas Jose, Extension Farm Management Specialist
Lydee Jo Brown, Student Assistant

Every two years a survey of the custom operations is conducted to determine the current rates charged for specific machinery operations. The survey is divided into two parts: spring and summer operations, including planting and small grains harvest in Part I, and information about fall and miscellaneous operations in Part II.

The responses are reported by the Agricultural Statistics Districts shown on the map below. Custom rates reported include charges for the use of necessary equipment, fuel and supplies such as baling wire or twine provided by the custom operator, and labor. Seed, fertilizer and chemical costs are not included.

This survey is not based on a random sample of custom operators in Nebraska. Questionnaires were sent to all the names on our custom operators mailing list. Thus, the results reflect the average of those responding to the specific questions many may not be representative of the rates charged in a particular area. The Average Rate should provide an accurate estimate of the prevailing charge for a specific operation, particularly if there are a large number of responses. The Most Common Rate is the rate reported more often than any other for that practice. Usually the Average Rate and the Most Common Rate are similar. The Average Rate is calculated to the nearest cent, while the Most Common Rate is more generally reported to the nearest dollar. The Range gives the minimum and the maximum amounts reported. It indicates the range of conditions under which the work was performed. The range also may reflect the fact that some rates consider travel to and from the field while others do not.

The rates do not necessarily measure the full economic cost of performing the work specified. Some custom operators may only charge for the operating costs of fuel and labor. Other operators may charge for all costs including depreciation on equipment and a charge for risk. Field conditions such as size, terrain, and location vary, which will account for some of the range in the rates charged.

Estimates of the costs of owning and operating farm machinery are available from the authors to compare with these custom rates. One source of estimated costs of owning and operating machines is the “Minnesota Farm Machinery Economics Cost Estimates.” It is available electronically at:

The information presented here should be used only as a guide to rates charged in localized areas and under unique conditions. Rates change from year to year due to cost changes and the availability of custom operators. For example, the rates reported in this presentation were the prevailing rates in the Spring of 2004. In determining the rates for 2005, custom operators and farm owners should consider changes in the cost of machinery, labor and fuel.

Factoring in the difference in fuel cost is essential for obtaining an accurate estimate for the cost associated with custom farming. This survey was conducted when fuel prices ranged from $1.10 - $1.36. As the prices vary, fuel consumption rates and the change in fuel price can be used to update the custom rates to current prices. For example, if the farm diesel price is $1.10 per gallon with a consumption rate of .80 gallons per acre, $.88 would be allocated to the per acre custom rate. If farm diesel prices increased to $1.35 per gallon, the additional cost due to the fuel increase would be $.25 x .80 = $.20. This price then can be added to the previous custom rate. The Minnesota Web site provides fuel consumption estimates for each machinery operation. A table of change in the cost for each $.10 changes in fuel prices is available at:
http://lancaster.unl.edu/ag/crops/machine-cost.htm

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Elbert C. Dickey, Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.
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### 2004 Farm Custom Rates (Part II)
**Reported by Crop Reporting District, in Dollars Unless Otherwise Specified**

#### Harvesting Grain & Soybeans (Excluding Hauling to Storage)

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<td>25.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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</table>

#### COMBINING IRRIGATED CORN, flat charge per acre plus per bushel fee for all bushels harvested

| Number Reporting | 5 | # | 4 | 4 | 7 | # | 3 | 7 | 33 |
| Average Rate | 18.60 | — | 20.00 | 20.00 | 18.50 | 28.00 | — | 17.00 | 18.43 | 18.74 |
| Range | 15.00-25.00 | — | 10.00-25.00 | 10.00-25.00 | 10.00-25.00 | — | 13.00-20.00 | 14.00-22.00 | 10.00-25.00 |
| Most Common | 20.00 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.13 | — | 0.08 | 0.12 | — | — | — | 0.10 | 0.08 | 0.13 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.03-0.20 | — | 0.02-0.20 | 0.05-0.50 | 0.02-0.20 | — | 0.05-0.19 | 0.02-0.15 | 0.02-0.30 |

#### COMBINING DRYLAND CORN, flat charge per acre

| Number Reporting | 14 | 3 | 27 | 3 | 40 | 6 | 4 | 74 | 171 |
| Average Rate | 19.57 | 18.33 | 21.69 | 21.80 | 22.93 | 17.17 | 20.25 | 20.91 | 21.15 |
| Range | 13.00-25.00 | 15.00-20.00 | 18.00-30.00 | 17.00-20.00 | 18.00-60.00 | 10.00-20.00 | 16.00-25.00 | 12.00-26.00 | 10.00-60.00 |
| Most Common | 18.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 17.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 |

#### COMBINING DRYLAND CORN, flat charge per acre plus per bushel fee for all bushels harvested

| Number Reporting | 4 | # | 5 | # | 6 | # | 4 | 5 | 23 |
| Average Rate | 16.25 | — | 20.60 | — | 18.83 | — | — | 18.60 | 23.02 |
| Range | 13.00-20.00 | — | 10.00-25.00 | — | 15.00-25.00 | — | — | 15.00-22.00 | 10.00-25.00 |
| Most Common | — | — | 25.00 | — | 15.00 | — | — | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.08 | — | 0.11 | — | 0.15 | — | — | 0.08 | 0.09 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.03-0.13 | — | 0.03-0.20 | — | 0.05-0.15 | — | — | 0.05-0.15 | 0.02-0.25 |

#### COMBINING DRYLAND CORN, flat charge per acre plus extra charge per bushel exceeding 84 bushels (avg reported)

| Number Reporting | 3 | # | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 20 |
| Average Rate | — | — | 22.50 | — | 22.50 | — | — | 18.88 | 20.83 |
| Range | — | — | 20.00-25.00 | — | 15.00-30.00 | — | — | 15.00-23.00 | 13.00-35.00 |
| Most Common | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | — | — | 0.08 | — | 0.09 | — | — | 0.08 | 0.09 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | — | — | 0.05-0.10 | — | 0.03-0.15 | — | — | 0.05-0.10 | 0.02-0.27 |

#### Picking Dryland Ear Corn (without shelling), flat charge per acre

| Number Reporting | # | # | 3 | # | # | # | # | # | 10 |
| Average Rate | — | — | 14.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 19.00 |
| Range | — | — | 10.00-18.00 | — | — | — | — | — | 8.00-45.00 |
| Most Common | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 15.00 |

#### Combining Soybeans, with flex platform, flat charge per acre

| Number Reporting | # | # | 13 | 5 | 17 | # | # | 32 | 72 |
| Average Rate | — | — | 21.77 | 23.00 | 24.29 | — | — | 21.98 | 22.49 |
| Range | — | — | 18.00-28.00 | 20.00-25.00 | 18.00-60.00 | — | — | 18.00-30.00 | 10.00-60.00 |
| Most Common | — | — | 20.00 | 25.00 | 20.00 | — | — | 20.00 | 20.00 |

#### Combining Soybeans, with flex platform, flat charge per acre plus extra charge per bushel exceeding 41 bushels

| Number Reporting | # | # | 3 | # | 4 | # | 4 | 15 |
| Average Rate | — | — | 19.33 | — | 21.25 | — | — | 20.00 | 20.33 |
| Range | — | — | 18.00-20.00 | — | 20.00-25.00 | — | — | 18.00-22.00 | 10.00-27.00 |
| Most Common | — | — | 20.00 | — | 20.00 | — | — | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | — | — | 0.25 | — | 0.02 | — | — | 0.06 | 0.15 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | — | — | 0.05-0.06 | — | 0.02-0.25 | — | — | — | — |

#### Combining Soybeans, with row crop head, flat charge per acre

| Number Reporting | # | # | 9 | 7 | 24 | 3 | # | 38 | 85 |
| Average Rate | — | — | 24.22 | 22.71 | 23.81 | 19.33 | — | 22.45 | 23.05 |
| Range | — | — | 20.00-30.00 | 20.00-27.00 | 20.00-35.00 | 16.00-28.00 | — | 18.00-30.00 | 10.00-35.00 |
| Most Common | — | — | 20.00 | 20.00 | 25.00 | 20.00 | — | 20.00 | 20.00 |

# Too few responses to publish
| COMBINING SOYBEANS, with row crop head, flat charge per acre plus extra charge per bushel exceeding 39 bushels |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 3 | 6 | 5 | 15 |
| Average Rate | 24.67 | 19.83 | 23.10 | 22.57 |
| Range | 21.00-30.00 | 18.00-22.00 | 17.50-30.00 | 17.50-30.00 |
| Most Common | 20.00 | 0.25 | 0.12 | 0.13 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.03-0.20 | 0.03-0.20 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.03-0.25 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.03-0.20 | 0.03-0.20 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.03-0.25 |

| COMBINING SOYBEANS, with platform head, flat charge per acre |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 5 | 18 | 4 | 14 |
| Average Rate | 23.20 | 22.56 | 20.71 | 20.81 |
| Range | 20.00-30.00 | 15.00-22.00 | 15.00-30.00 | 12.00-30.00 |
| Most Common | 20.00 | 0.06 | 0.13 | 0.09 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.02-0.10 | 0.02-0.10 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.02-0.15 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.02-0.10 | 0.02-0.10 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.02-0.15 |

| COMBINING GRAIN SORGHUM, (with platform head) flat charge per acre plus extra charge per bu exceeding 50 bu (avg reported) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 3 | 18 | 4 | 14 |
| Average Rate | 20.00 | 19.00 | 15.88 | 16.96 |
| Range | 17.00-20.00 | 15.00-20.00 | 15.00-17.50 | 13.00-23.00 |
| Most Common | 20.00 | 0.06 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.02-0.10 | 0.02-0.10 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.02-0.15 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.02-0.10 | 0.02-0.10 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.02-0.15 |

| COMBINING GRAIN SORGHUM, (with row crop head), flat charge per acre |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 3 | 18 | 4 | 9 |
| Average Rate | 14.00 | 12.00-15.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 14.00 |
| Range | 22.00 | 15.00 | 15.00-30.00 | 15.00 |
| Most Common | 22.00 | 0.09 | 0.13 | 0.09 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.02-0.10 | 0.02-0.10 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.02-0.15 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.02-0.10 | 0.02-0.10 | 0.10-0.15 | 0.02-0.15 |

| COMBINING MILLET, flat charge per acre |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 8 | 14.00 | 4 | 9 |
| Average Rate | 14.13 | 12.00-15.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 14.00 |
| Range | 13.00-18.00 | 12.00-15.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 14.00 |
| Most Common | 14.00 | 0.14 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 |

| COMBINING MILLET, flat charge per acre plus extra charge per bu exceeding 25 bushels |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 8 | 14.00 | 4 | 9 |
| Average Rate | 13.31 | 12.00-20.00 | 12.00-20.00 | 14.06 |
| Range | 12.00-14.00 | 12.00-15.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 14.00 |
| Most Common | 14.00 | 0.14 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Avg.Per Bushel Fee | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 |
| Range Per Bushel Fee | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 | 0.13-0.20 |

| COMBINING SUNFLOWERS, (with pans), flat charge per acre |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 6 | 15.00 | 4 | 12 |
| Average Rate | 19.00 | 18.00-22.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 19.83 |
| Range | 18.00-22.00 | 12.00-15.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 19.83 |
| Most Common | 18.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 12.00-27.00 | 18.00 |

| COMBINING SUNFLOWERS, (with row crop head), flat charge per acre |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 8 | 15.00 | 4 | 17 |
| Average Rate | 19.13 | 15.00-25.00 | 12.00-35.00 | 20.29 |
| Range | 15.00-25.00 | 18.00-20.00 | 12.00-35.00 | 20.29 |
| Most Common | 18.00 | 18.00-20.00 | 12.00-35.00 | 18.00 |

| DRYLAND GRAIN SWATHING, flat charge per acre |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 10 | 8.13 | 8.30 | 38 |
| Average Rate | 8.13 | 8.00 | 8.30 | 8.67 |
| Range | 6.50-12.00 | 8.50-12.00 | 7.50-10.00 | 9.03 |
| Most Common | 8.00 | 7.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

| IS A GRAIN CART PROVIDED WITH CUSTOM COMBINING? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number Reporting | 10 | 8.00 | 35 | 85 |
| YES | 7 | 12.67 | 15 | 53 |
| NO | 3 | 8.00 | 20 | 32 |

| HARVESTING OTHER CROPS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CUTTING DRY EDIBLE BEANS, per acre |
| Number Reporting | 4 | 9.00 | 12 |
| Average Rate | 9.00 | 12.67 | 13.08 |
| Range | 8.00-10.00 | 8.00-15.00 | 8.00-27.00 |
| Most Common | 9.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 |

# Too few responses to publish
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### Making Silage

**Field Chopping, Hauling, Filling and Packing Silo, flat charge per hour, Corn Silage Only**

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**Field Chopping, Hauling, Filling and Packing Silo, flat charge per ton, Corn Silage Only**

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**Field Chopping, Hauling, Filling and Packing Silo, flat charge per hour, Alfalfa Silage Only**

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**Field Chopping and Hauling with Wagons and Trucks, flat charge per hour, Corn Silage Only**

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**Field Chopping and Hauling with Wagons and Trucks, flat charge per ton, Corn Silage Only**

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**Field Chopping and Hauling with Wagons and Trucks, flat charge per hour, Alfalfa Silage Only**

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**Field Chopping and Hauling with Wagons and Trucks, flat charge per ton, Alfalfa Silage Only**

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**Field-Chopping Only, flat charge per hour, Corn Silage Only**

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**Field-Chopping Only, flat charge per ton, Corn Silage Only**

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**Field-Chopping Only, flat charge per hour, Alfalfa Silage Only**

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**Field-Chopping Only, flat charge per ton, Alfalfa Silage Only**

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### Hauling Silage

**Hauling Silage from Field to Silo by Truck, per hour**

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# Too few responses to publish

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**HAULING SILAGE FROM FIELD TO SILO BY TRUCK, per ton**

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**EXTRA CHARGE PER TON HAULS OVER 4 MILES (average distance reported)**

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**OTHER CUSTOM OPERATIONS**

**DRYING GRAIN, (exclude hauling) per point of moisture removed, per bushel**

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**CLEANING ONLY, WHEAT, per bushel**

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**CLEANING ONLY, SOYBEANS, per bushel**

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**TREATING SEED GRAIN, SOYBEANS, per bushel**

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**FEED GRINDING AND MIXING, ON FARM, (excluding cost of feed and feed activities)**

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**GRINDING HAY, PER TON**

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**CUSTOM OPERATOR INFORMATION**

**ACRES COVERED PER YEAR IN CUSTOM WORK**

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<th>22</th>
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<td>100-40000</td>
<td>30-4500</td>
<td>30-4000</td>
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<td>200-5000</td>
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<td>10-98000</td>
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**HOURS SPENT PER YEAR ON CUSTOM WORK OPERATION**

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# Too few responses to publish