

# Machinery Custom Rates, 2008

By Adam W. Pike

The custom rates shown are averages from voluntary reports by custom operators and farmers throughout Pennsylvania. Most of the rates are stated per acre, cwt., ton, bale, or bushel rather than per hour to reduce the variation due to machinery size. Individual rates vary due to differences in working conditions, services performed, or even the operator's eagerness to do custom work. Therefore, the average rates shown should not be considered absolute indications of fair charges.

Acreage rates are shown separately for two regions of the state, labeled "**Mountain**" and "**Valley**". The differences in rates between regions reflect differences in terrain, soils and

alternative opportunities for the labor and equipment used. Figures labeled "**State**" represent the straight average of all reports used regardless of geographic location.

Of the 82 rates reported with year-to-year comparisons, 76 increased, 4 decreased, and 2 are virtually unchanged from last year. Overall, custom rates were up about 8 percent from the previous year. Because of the potential variation in size and overall productivity of equipment, a range of reported rates for each job has been added. The range represents the middle 80 percent of all reported rates for each job, thus the lowest 10 percent and the highest 10 percent of all reported values were excluded.

## Custom Rates: Selected Farming Operations, Pennsylvania, 2007-2008

Job	Basis of Charge	2008 (Dollars)				2007 State (Dollars)
		Mountain Section	Valley Section	Range <sup>1</sup>	State	
----- Harvesting -----						
Corn Picking.....	Acre	26.40	25.80	20.00 – 30.00	26.00	24.50
Corn Combining.....	Acre	30.20	28.40	25.00 – 32.00	28.70	27.60
Corn Drying (23 Percent).....	Bu.	0.39	0.40	0.17 – 0.60	0.40	0.36
Combining Small Grains.....	Acre	28.20	27.80	24.00 – 31.00	27.90	26.90
Combining Soybeans.....	Acre	30.20	28.50	25.00 – 32.00	28.80	27.60
Hay Making:						
Mowing.....	Acre	12.60	13.70	9.00 – 18.00	13.40	13.10
Mowing & Conditioning.....	Acre	14.40	14.40	10.00 – 18.00	14.40	13.40
Raking.....	Acre	8.95	8.40	5.00 – 12.00	8.55	7.80
Small Square Baling.....	Bale	0.86	0.71	0.46 – 1.20	0.75	0.67
Cut, Rake, Bale & Store.....	Bale	1.90	1.75	1.00 – 2.50	1.80	1.60
Large Round Baling.....	Bale	7.25	6.65	5.00 – 9.00	6.85	6.60
Size.....	Lbs.	900 lbs.	840 lbs.	600 – 1,200 lbs.	860 lbs.	860 lbs.
Large Square Baling.....	Bale	7.70	7.70	6.00 – 10.00	7.70	7.70
Size.....	Lbs.	840 lbs.	840 lbs.	650 – 1,100 lbs.	840 lbs.	850 lbs.
Wrapping Bales.....	Bale	6.20	6.25	4.00 – 8.00	6.20	6.30
Silage Making:						
Pull-Type Chopper & Tractor.....	Hour	68.10	90.50	40.00 – 120.00	82.30	78.70
Self-Propelled Chopper.....	Hour	229.00	204.00	100.00 – 300.00	208.00	195.00
Less than 365 HP.....	Hour	-	-	100.00 – 280.00	185.00	160.00
Greater than 365 HP.....	Hour	-	-	160.00 – 325.00	238.00	223.00
Blower.....	Hour	15.60	14.90	6.00 – 25.00	15.00	12.60
1 Man, 2 Wagons, 1 Tractor.....	Hour	46.00	59.40	40.00 – 80.00	55.60	50.10
2 Men, 2 Wagons, 2 Tractors.....	Hour	77.60	95.00	50.00 – 125.00	90.80	87.40
1 Man, 1 Truck.....	Hour	54.30	57.50	45.00 – 65.00	56.70	53.60
Field Chop, Haul & Fill Silo.....	Ton	10.20	9.65	4.50 – 12.00	9.80	9.10
Bagging Silage.....	Foot	5.95	4.50	3.00 – 7.50	4.75	4.70
Less than 9.0.....	Foot	-	-	3.00 – 5.00	4.10	4.40
Greater than 9.0.....	Foot	-	-	3.00 – 8.75	5.35	5.00
----- Plowing & Cultivating -----						
Plowing, Moldboard Plow:						
Stubble.....	Acre	17.50	18.40	12.00 – 25.00	18.00	16.40
Sod.....	Acre	19.60	20.20	13.00 – 26.00	20.00	17.70
Plowing, Deep (10 Inches or More).....	Acre	21.00	22.70	15.00 – 30.00	22.30	19.30
Plowing, Chisel.....	Acre	17.70	15.60	11.00 – 20.00	16.10	14.90
Plowing, Disk.....	Acre	17.90	16.50	12.00 – 20.00	16.90	16.00
Disking, Tandem.....	Acre	15.60	14.80	10.00 – 20.00	15.10	13.50
With Harrow or Cultipacker.....	Acre	17.20	15.70	11.50 – 22.00	16.10	14.70
Harrowing:	Acre	14.00	13.80	8.00 – 20.00	13.90	12.30
Cultivating.....	Acre	13.20	14.80	9.00 – 20.00	14.40	12.50

See footnote at end of table.