



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# 2008 Machinery Custom Rates

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
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March 2008

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Published Feb 2009

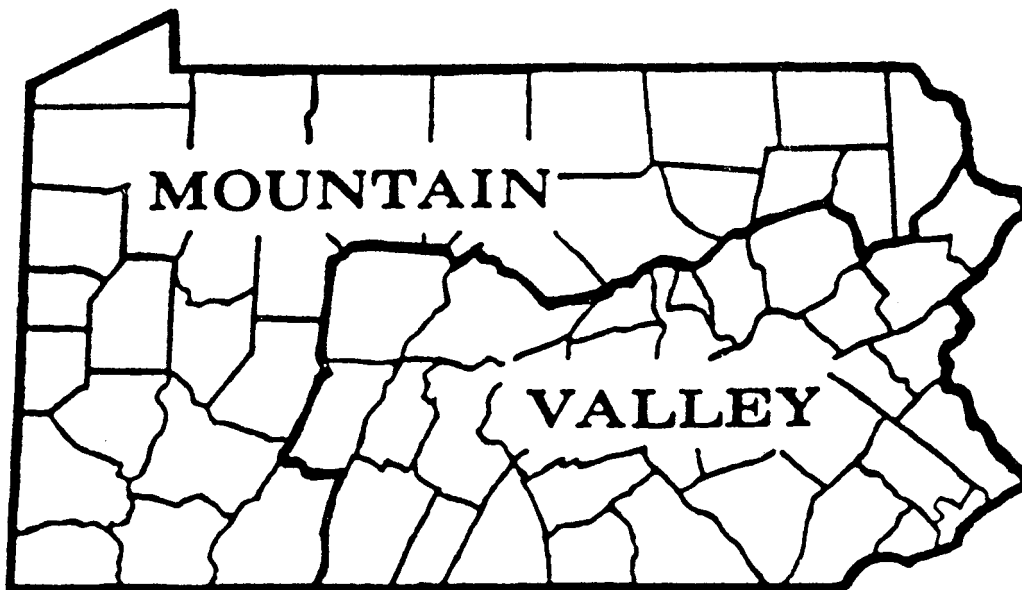
# Pennsylvania's 2008 Machinery Custom Rates

By Adam W. Pike, Agricultural Statistician

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. The rates shown include the cost of hiring machine with fuel and operator and exclude the cost of seed, fertilizer, and other materials used unless otherwise specified. 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.

Average 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 almost 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 included. 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
		Mountain Section	Valley Section	Range <sup>1</sup>	State	State (Dollars)
<b>----- Harvesting -----</b>						
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 ft.....	Foot	-	-	3.00 – 5.00	4.10	4.40
Greater than 9.0 ft.....	Foot	-	-	3.00 – 8.75	5.35	5.00
<b>----- Plowing &amp; Cultivating -----</b>						
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
<b>----- Planting &amp; Drilling -----</b>						
Planting Corn, With Fertilizer:						
Conventional-Till .....	Acre	17.20	17.20	12.00 – 20.00	17.20	16.70
Minimum-Till.....	Acre	19.20	17.80	14.00 – 22.00	18.10	17.20
No-Till.....	Acre	23.50	18.20	15.00 – 24.00	19.10	18.40
Planting Corn, Without Fertilizer:						
Conventional-Till .....	Acre	17.00	16.50	12.00 – 20.00	16.70	15.30
Minimum-Till.....	Acre	18.60	16.70	12.58 – 20.00	17.10	16.50
No-Till.....	Acre	22.00	17.50	14.00 – 22.00	18.20	17.30
Planting Soybeans, Without						
Conventional-Till .....	Acre	14.90	16.50	12.00 – 20.00	16.20	15.00
Minimum-Till.....	Acre	15.90	17.50	14.00 – 20.00	17.30	16.20
No-Till.....	Acre	20.40	17.80	14.50 – 22.00	18.10	16.90
Drilling .....	Acre	17.10	17.70	14.00 – 22.00	17.60	16.10

See footnote at end of table.

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

Job	Basis of Charge	2008 (Dollars)				2007
		Mountain Section	Valley Section	Range <sup>1</sup>	State	State (Dollars)
<b>----- Planting &amp; Drilling (Continued) -----</b>						
Drilling Small Grain, Without Fertilizer						
Conventional-Till.....	Acre	14.70	15.50	10.00 – 20.00	15.30	14.30
Minimum-Till.....	Acre	18.00	16.80	12.00 – 20.00	17.10	16.00
No-Till.....	Acre	19.20	17.00	11.00 – 20.00	17.30	16.40
Seeding Alfalfa, Clover, Etc.....	Acre	17.20	16.40	10.00 – 20.00	16.60	15.80
Broadcast Seeding (On Grain Fields).....	Acre	10.50	11.10	8.00 – 15.00	10.80	9.80
Cleaning Grain Seed:						
With Treatment.....	Bu.	1.55	1.40	0.85 – 2.00	1.45	1.41
Without Treatment.....	Bu.	0.75	0.83	0.43 – 1.25	0.80	0.77
<b>----- Spraying -----</b>						
Ground Equipment:						
Spraying for Weed Control Excl. Material...	Acre	10.60	9.20	7.00 – 12.00	9.50	8.80
Spraying for Corn Borer.....	Acre	10.90	9.70	7.00 – 15.00	9.90	9.80
Spraying for Spittle Bug or Alfalfa Weevil ...	Acre	9.70	9.05	6.95 – 12.00	9.10	8.40
<b>----- Miscellaneous -----</b>						
Grain Hauling:						
Local.....	Bu.	0.21	0.19	0.12 – 0.25	0.19	0.18
Long Distance.....	Bu.	0.46	0.35	0.25 – 0.55	0.37	0.32
Local.....	Mile	-	-	0.50 – 3.50	1.95	1.55
Long Distance.....	Mile	-	-	0.75 – 3.00	1.90	1.60
Grain Storage.....	Bu./Month	0.06	0.05	0.03 – 0.10	0.05	0.05
Stalk Shredding, P.T.O.....	Acre	16.50	12.80	7.00 – 20.00	13.40	13.90
Bushhogging.....	Acre	25.20	19.60	10.00 – 40.00	21.40	21.20
Spreading Bulk Fertilizer:						
Dry.....	Acre	9.75	8.90	5.00 – 12.50	9.15	7.70
Liquid.....	Acre	12.10	10.10	7.00 – 15.00	10.40	9.00
Side Dressing.....	Acre	9.70	9.75	8.00 – 12.50	9.75	8.90
Lime.....	Acre	15.00	11.30	5.00 – 25.00	12.40	10.10
Grinding Feed:						
Corn, Oats or Barley.....	Cwt.	0.98	0.92	0.30 – 1.50	0.94	0.85
Corn & Cobs.....	Cwt.	0.88	1.00	0.30 – 1.44	0.97	0.84
Cobs.....	Cwt.	0.86	0.80	0.70 – 1.00	0.82	0.81
Additional Charge for Mixing.....	Cwt.	0.44	0.60	0.22 – 1.00	0.53	0.51
Machine Tiling (No Tile).....	Foot	-	-	0.30 – 1.50	0.86	0.97
Back Hoe.....	Hour	54.70	60.60	40.00 – 75.00	58.80	54.80
Sawing Wood, Chain Saw.....	Hour	21.00	26.50	13.00 – 40.00	24.20	21.20
Post Hole Digging.....	Hole	4.15	3.35	1.00 – 8.00	3.65	2.70
Manure Loading, <i>Solid</i> .....	Hour	37.70	46.40	25.00 – 65.00	44.10	39.40
Manure Spreading, <i>Solid</i> .....	Hour	36.90	51.10	20.00 – 80.00	47.30	44.20
Manure Pumping.....	Hour	29.80	35.20	10.00 – 78.00	34.40	28.30
Manure Spreading, <i>Liquid</i> .....	Hour	64.40	77.40	55.00 – 100.00	75.80	70.60
Bulldozing.....	Hour	71.70	79.20	50.00 – 100.00	76.80	73.00
Average Size.....	HP	100 HP	110 HP	50 – 165 HP	107 HP	106 HP
Tractor Rental Rates:						
Less than 80 HP.....	Hour	29.80	26.90	15.00 – 45.00	27.70	24.70
80 to 120 HP.....	Hour	41.10	29.40	15.00 – 50.00	32.30	29.50
120 to 160 HP.....	Hour	48.10	35.70	18.50 – 60.00	37.80	34.50
Greater than 160 HP.....	Hour	55.10	47.20	30.00 – 72.50	48.70	42.10

<sup>1</sup> 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.

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