

WISCONSIN'S CUSTOM RATE GUIDE 2001

This publication summarizes rates paid by farmers for custom work in 2001. The figures are based on reports by: farmers who hire custom work, custom operators who perform work, and machinery dealers who rent out equipment.

Most of the rates in this release include the cost of hiring the machine with fuel and operator, but exclude the cost of any materials. No attempt was made to distinguish between rates charged by custom operators who perform these operations as their main source of income, and those who occasionally do custom work as a sideline. Rates charged by custom operators and implement dealers would likely trend to the higher side of the range.

The rates shown in this release can be used as a guide in making management decisions. The range is given, since there are many factors that can cause variations in the amount charged. Rates are influenced by: the availability of equipment, soil conditions, topography, field shape and size, traditional practices in an area, and type, size, and age of equipment.

To better determine an appropriate charge in your situation, you are encouraged to obtain Bulletin A3510, titled "Estimating Agricultural Field Machinery Costs" from your county UWEX office.

If less than ten reports were received for a particular custom operation, the data are marked with an asterisk(*). If there were less than three reports for a surveyed operation, the data were not published.

Price changes for machinery, fuel, and labor should be taken into account when using this 2001 data for another year. Fuel distributors were contacted in April, August, and October 2001 and asked for the average price of diesel fuel. The results were:

Average Price for Diesel Fuel
Bulk Delivery Excluding Taxes
Wisconsin, 2001

Dollars per gallon

April	1.15
August	1.12
October	1.21



Land Tillage, Chemical Applications, and Planting Operations

Rates are published by acre and include charges for hiring the machine with fuel and operator. The cost of materials, such as fertilizer, pesticides, or seed, is excluded. Planting rates were collected by three different methods: conventional till, mulch till, and no-till. Conventional till and no-till were the most common planting methods reported.

Land Tillage Operations, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Moldboard plowing	6.00 - 25.00	14.90
Subsoiling	7.00 - 25.00	14.60
Disk, subsoiler, harrow combination	9.00 - 25.00	15.00
Chisel plowing	5.00 - 30.00	13.10
Finishing disk	4.00 - 20.00	9.90
Offset disk	6.00 - 17.00	10.50
Disk with digger and drag	5.00 - 20.00	10.70
Field cultivator	4.50 - 18.00	9.05
Spike tooth harrow*	5.00 - 20.00	9.35
Soil finisher	5.00 - 18.50	10.50
Rotary hoe	3.00 - 12.00	5.80
Row cultivator with fertilizer	5.00 - 22.00	9.85
without fertilizer	4.00 - 15.00	7.10
Shredding corn stalks	3.00 - 14.00	9.45

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Applications of Fertilizer and Chemicals 1/ Wisconsin, 2001

Application	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Fertilizers		
Liquid	3.00 - 12.00	6.55
Dry	1.50 - 7.50	3.40
Anhydrous ammonia	5.00 - 15.00	8.60
Lime	2.00 - 11.00	6.20
Pesticides (spraying herbicides, insecticides and fungicides)	3.00 - 10.00	6.60

1/The prices listed reflect application only. Cost of materials is excluded.

Planting Operations, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Conventional till		
Small grains	7.00 - 20.00	11.90
Corn	7.00 - 20.00	12.50
Soybeans		
Row	6.00 - 20.00	12.70
Drill	6.00 - 20.00	12.50
Alfalfa, Clover, etc.	8.00 - 20.00	12.80
Mulch till		
Small grains	6.00 - 18.00	12.60
Corn	10.00 - 20.00	13.90
Soybeans		
Row	10.00 - 20.00	13.80
Drill	10.00 - 20.00	14.00
Alfalfa, Clover, etc.	10.00 - 20.00	14.30
No-till		
Small grains	9.00 - 20.00	14.60
Corn	7.00 - 22.00	15.20
Soybeans		
Row	10.00 - 22.00	14.90
Drill	9.00 - 20.00	14.90
Alfalfa, Clover, etc.	12.00 - 20.00	15.50

Harvesting Operations

Rates for combining corn and soybeans were based on whether a yield monitor was used. Approximately 35 percent of the reports for corn and soybean combining included a yield monitor.

Mowing, conditioning, raking, and windrow merging of hay are done both by the acre and by the hour, with three times as many reporters quoting rates for this operation on a per acre basis. Rates per hour are more common for chopping haylage.

Grain Harvest Operations, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Small grain combining	11.00 - 36.00	22.80
Small grain swathing	6.00 - 12.00	8.60
Soybean combining		
With yield monitor	18.00 - 30.00	24.10
Without yield monitor	15.00 - 30.00	23.10
Corn combining		
With yield monitor	18.00 - 30.00	24.00
Without yield monitor	15.00 - 32.00	23.00
Picking ear corn	8.00 - 22.00	15.10
Chopping corn stalks	6.00 - 15.00	10.10
Dollars per bale		
Baling corn stalks	5.00 - 11.00	7.80
Dollars per 1-ton stack		
Stacking corn stalks	8.00 - 20.00	11.90
Dollars per hour		
Small grain combining*	60.00 - 98.80	83.60
Soybean combining		
Without yield monitor	85.00 - 125.00	101.00
Corn combining		
Without yield monitor	80.00 - 120.00	95.10

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Hay Harvest Operations, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Mowing and conditioning	4.60 - 15.00	9.80
Raking	2.00 - 10.00	4.55
Windrow merging	2.00 - 12.00	5.20
Dollars per hour		
Mowing and conditioning	30.00 - 110.00	64.30
Raking	15.00 - 80.00	40.40
Windrow merging	25.00 - 100.00	61.70

Hay Baling, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per bale		
Hay baling		
Square bales		
25-50 lbs.	0.20 - 1.30	0.41
600-800 lbs.	4.00 - 10.00	6.95
1,000 lbs. and over	5.50 - 10.00	7.50
Round bales		
Under 1,000 lbs.	3.00 - 10.00	6.25
1,000 lbs. and over	4.50 - 14.00	7.75
Dollars per acre		
Cost of entire operation		
Mowing to baling		
Square bales		
25-50 lbs.*	25.00 - 77.00	48.00
600 lbs. and over*	25.00 - 37.00	28.80
Round bales		
All sizes*	25.00 - 42.00	30.70

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Haylage Harvest Operations, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Chopping only	10.00 - 25.00	16.30
Chopping and hauling	19.00 - 30.00	26.40
Chop, haul, and fill		
silo (one operation)*	19.00 - 45.00	30.80
Cost of entire operation		
Mowing to chopping*	23.00 - 65.00	36.20
Mowing to filling silo	28.00 - 75.00	43.40
Dollars per hour		
Chopping only	50.00 - 265.00	142.00
Chopping and hauling	60.00 - 430.00	236.00
Chop, haul, and fill		
silo (one operation)	95.00 - 500.00	255.00
Cost of entire operation		
Mowing to chopping*	125.00 - 345.00	229.00
Mowing to filling silo*	150.00 - 540.00	314.00

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Corn Silage Harvest

Corn silage harvesting equipment was reported as pull-type or self-propelled. The categories were further divided based on whether a processor was used. Respondents could report cost per acre or cost per hour; the per hour costs were more common.

Most of the reports in this section were for self-propelled equipment with a processor.

Corn Silage Harvest Operations, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Pull-type equipment without processor		
Chopping*	24.50 - 50.00	37.90
Chopping and hauling*	35.00 - 50.00	42.80
Self-propelled equipment with processor		
Chopping*	27.50 - 90.00	51.80
Chopping and hauling*	45.00 - 100.00	72.00
Self-propelled equipment without processor		
Chopping*	22.00 - 45.00	34.30
Chopping and hauling*	50.00 - 86.00	65.30
Dollars per hour		
Pull-type equipment with processor		
Chopping*	75.00 - 150.00	106.00
Pull-type equipment without processor		
Chopping	50.00 - 110.00	84.00
Chopping, hauling, and filling silo*	100.00 - 160.00	122.00
Self-propelled equipment with processor		
Chopping	100.00 - 380.00	212.00
Chopping and hauling	175.00 - 440.00	316.00
Chopping, hauling, and filling silo	240.00 - 525.00	380.00
Self-propelled equipment without processor		
Chopping	115.00 - 265.00	195.00
Chopping and hauling*	175.00 - 415.00	310.00
Chopping, hauling, and filling silo*	230.00 - 475.00	339.00

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Silage Bagging

Rates for silage bagging include the cost of the machine only. They are published as a cost per linear foot and are based on whether the bag is included. Reporters specified the cost for a certain diameter and length of bag. Due to a variety of lengths, the costs were converted to a price per linear foot. The most common size bag reported was 9 X 200 feet.

Silage Bagging, Wisconsin, 2001 1/

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Cost per linear foot		
Cost of bag included		
8-foot bag	2.65 - 6.65	4.60
9-foot bag	3.25 - 6.00	4.65
10-foot bag	3.75 - 7.35	5.60
12-foot bag*	6.00 - 10.00	7.90
Cost of bag excluded		
9-foot bag	1.50 - 3.35	2.30
10-foot bag*	2.25 - 3.80	3.15

1/Prices exclude the cost of fuel and labor. *Less than 10 reports summarized.

Wrapping Bales

Bale wrapping includes the cost of hiring the machine with fuel and labor. Bales of any size are included for square and round bales. Charges for individual bales versus line wrapping (tubing) are included.

Bale Wrapping, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per bale		
Individual bales		
Square bales	3.50 - 8.00	6.10
Round bales	2.00 - 11.00	5.35
Line wrapping/tubing		
Square bales*	4.00 - 8.00	5.00
Round bales*	2.50 - 6.00	4.65

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Land Tillage Operations, Wisconsin, 2001
Average Price as Reported by Districts 1/

Operation	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	State
	Dollars per acre									
Moldboard plowing	13.10	13.80	17.60	12.50	12.80	15.50	15.30	16.00	18.30	14.90
Subsoiling	14.10	-	-	12.90	18.80	15.30	14.40	12.40	17.80	14.60
Disk/subsoiler/harrow combination	14.00	-	-	14.80	13.30	17.30	-	13.80	17.80	15.00
Chisel plowing	11.60	12.80	14.40	12.60	12.30	14.30	13.40	11.80	14.00	13.10
Finishing disk	8.75	8.35	10.60	10.80	9.70	8.90	9.75	9.95	14.00	9.90
Field cultivator	8.00	10.00	11.00	8.95	8.65	8.30	9.40	8.20	11.80	9.05
Soil finisher	-	-	-	10.80	-	9.60	8.45	11.00	-	10.50
Rotary hoe	-	-	-	4.50	4.75	5.95	4.75	5.35	-	5.80
Cultivator w/o fert attach	-	8.00	-	5.65	-	6.85	-	8.65	8.75	7.10
Shredding corn stalks	-	-	-	9.10	8.00	9.65	-	9.95	-	9.45

1/Estimates were published if there were three or more reports in the district.

Fertilizer and Chemical Applications and Planting Operations, Wisconsin, 2001
Average Price as Reported by Districts 1/

Operation	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	State
	Dollars per acre									
Applying liquid fertilizer	6.65	7.15	-	6.25	-	6.35	-	6.75	6.10	6.55
Applying dry fertilizer	2.80	3.20	3.05	4.20	3.40	3.35	3.25	3.45	-	3.40
Spraying pesticides	6.00	7.25	6.70	6.60	6.50	6.65	6.80	6.60	6.50	6.60
Planting operations										
Conventional till										
Small grains	12.50	10.00	10.30	10.40	11.90	12.20	13.60	11.70	12.80	11.90
Corn	11.10	12.20	12.10	12.60	11.50	12.60	14.10	12.20	13.40	12.50
Soybeans row	11.00	-	12.90	13.30	-	13.00	15.10	11.40	12.60	12.70
Soybeans drill	13.20	-	10.00	11.80	12.40	12.70	13.10	12.10	13.60	12.50
Alfalfa	10.00	-	11.30	13.90	-	12.80	14.10	14.30	-	12.80
Mulch till										
Corn	12.30	13.30	-	13.80	-	14.30	16.40	12.80	-	13.90
No-till										
Small grains	17.30	18.20		14.00	15.30	14.60	13.30	13.50	16.30	14.60
Corn	15.40	-	14.80	14.40	15.20	15.50	16.00	14.90	16.10	15.20
Soybeans row	16.00	-	-	13.80	-	16.00	15.00	14.50	-	14.90
Soybeans drill	15.30	-	-	14.10	14.60	15.10	14.30	14.80	16.10	14.90
Alfalfa	-	-	-	16.10	-	15.50	14.60	15.00	-	15.50

1/Estimates were published if there were three or more reports in the district.

Harvesting Operations, Wisconsin, 2001
Average Price as Reported by Districts 1/

Operation	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	State
	Dollars per acre									
Small grain combining	22.70	20.50	22.80	23.40	22.50	22.40	24.10	22.70	25.60	22.80
Soybean combining										
With yield monitor	-	-	24.80	23.90	22.60	24.60	-	25.30	25.20	24.10
Without yield monitor	24.00	20.80	24.40	22.70	22.00	23.40	22.80	22.80	24.90	23.10
Corn combining										
With yield monitor	-	23.70	-	23.90	23.90	24.40	-	25.00	24.60	24.00
Without yield monitor	23.40	21.70	24.10	23.20	22.10	23.70	22.30	22.60	-	23.00
Hay Harvest										
Mowing & conditioning	10.10	10.20	8.60	10.60	10.00	9.55	9.35	9.35	10.70	9.80
Raking	4.70	-	4.65	4.95	-	4.60	3.40	4.40	4.65	4.55
Windrow merging	6.00	-	5.65	6.25	-	4.95	-	5.90	-	5.20
	Dollars per bale									
Hay baling										
25-50 lbs.	0.44	0.38	0.55	-	0.35	0.34	0.35	0.35	-	0.41
600-800 lbs.	6.35	7.40	6.90	6.80	7.25	6.85	7.65	6.65	-	6.95
1,000 lbs. and over	7.15	-	8.15	7.80	-	7.45	6.70	7.40	-	7.50
Round bales										
Under 1,000 lbs.	6.40	6.70	-	6.00	6.65	6.85	5.60	6.45	-	6.25
1,000 lbs. and over	7.35	7.30	-	8.00	6.90	8.15	7.50	9.00	-	7.75

1/Estimates were published if there were three or more reports in the district.

Farm Labor and Cropland Rental, Wisconsin, 2001
Average Price as Reported by Districts 1/

Operation	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE	State
	Dollars per hour									
General farm labor	9.00	8.20	8.55	9.10	8.95	9.25	8.50	8.85	8.60	8.85
	Dollars per acre									
Cropland rental	36.30	39.70	43.40	63.30	48.20	55.90	80.20	92.00	61.70	66.00

1/Estimates were published if there were three or more reports in the district.

Machinery Rental, Wisconsin, 2001 1/

Equipment size	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per machine hour		
Tractors		
Under 75 HP	10.00 - 50.00	19.90
75 - 120 HP	10.00 - 60.00	24.80
120 - 150 HP	14.00 - 75.00	27.00
Over 150 HP	15.00 - 60.00	32.00
4-wheel drive		
Under 175 HP	15.00 - 80.00	34.30
Over 175 HP	20.00 - 100.00	35.60
Dollars per hour		
Combines		
4-row and smaller	65.00 - 150.00	91.70
6-row and larger	65.00 - 175.00	106.00
With small grain head	65.00 - 175.00	101.00
Skid steer (Bobcat, etc.)	12.00 - 65.00	28.70

1/Above rates for machinery use only. Fuel and operator are provided by the user.

Farm Labor, Wisconsin, 2001

Category	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars		
Relief milker		
Rate per hour	5.00 - 25.00	11.70
Rate per cow*	0.50 - 1.50	0.80
Dollars per hour		
General farm labor	5.00 - 15.00	8.85

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Land Rental, Wisconsin, 2001

Category	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per acre		
Cropland	18.00 - 150.00	66.00
Tillable pasture	17.00 - 70.00	40.20
Non-tillable pasture	10.00 - 50.00	21.10

Grain Drying, Wisconsin, 2001

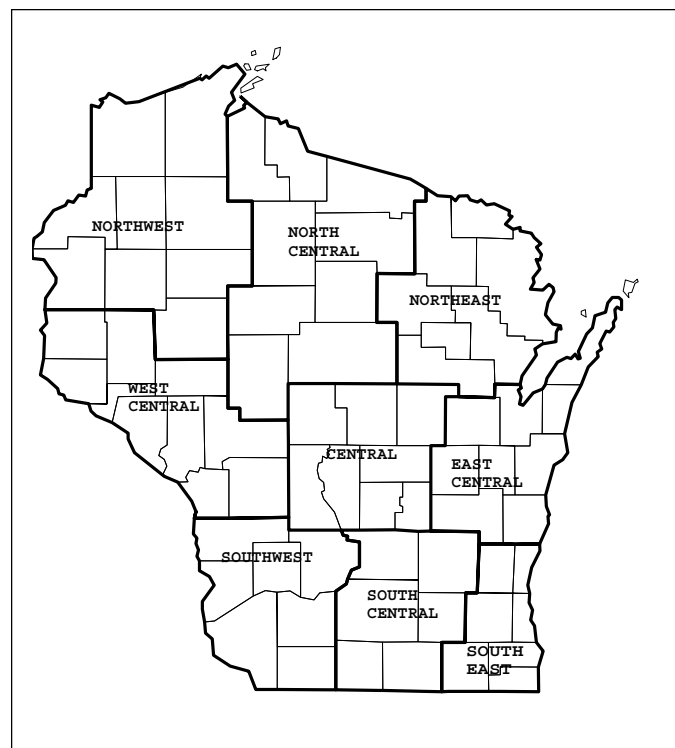
Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per point of moisture removed		
Grain drying		
Corn	0.010 - 0.050	0.025
Soybeans*	0.015 - 0.050	0.034

*Less than 10 reports summarized.

Miscellaneous Custom Rates, Wisconsin, 2001

Operation	Range in rates	Average rate
Dollars per head per month		
Building rental		
Dairy barn for milking*	10.00 - 15.00	13.00
Livestock barn with feed storage*	2.50 - 5.00	3.90
Dollars per month		
Machinery storage	10.00 - 150.00	51.60
Dollars per bushel per month		
Grain storage	0.010 - 0.038	0.025
Dollars per hour		
Bulldozer use	50.00 - 160.00	80.30
Chain sawing*	10.00 - 25.00	19.10

*Less than 10 reports summarized.



Survey Procedure

This publication is the result of a mail survey conducted by the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service during the fall of 2001. County agents were asked to help rebuild the list of custom operators. Approximately 400 reports from farmers, custom operators, and machinery dealers were summarized to derive state and district averages. A report was used no matter how many categories had positive entries.

The rates in this release are ranges and averages of the actual reported data, not official estimates. Due to cost restraints, no attempt was made to call a respondent to verify questionable data. However, reports were edited to remove items for which the respondent's figures were widely outside the range of other respondent's replies.

This is a very popular report. County extension offices, as well as the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, receive many requests for data on rates charged for custom work throughout the year.

Your input is important to us. If you have any comments or suggestions regarding this report, please call 608/224-4848 or write to the Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service, P.O. Box 8934, Madison, WI 53708-8934. E-mail address: nass-wi@nass.usda.gov

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