Used with permission.

Doane's Agricultural Report®

2003 Machinery Custom Rates Guide

These custom rates are based on an annual survey of the Doane Marketing Research Company's Countrywide Farm Panel.

Custom rates for 2003 are up only slightly from last year despite sharply higher fuel costs. Weather problems in 2002 and the difficult farm economy are among the factors making it hard for custom operators to raise rates.

We've averaged the percentage changes in various custom operations to provide a summary measure of the increase in rates. As illustrated, changes range from a decrease of 0.5% in the Northeast to increases of 2.8% in the Plains and South. The estimated average increase for the U.S. is only 1.5%, slightly less than the 1.9 % average rate of increase during the last five years.

CUSTOM RATES
Average change from 2002 to 2003

	% change
Northeast	-0.5
North Central	2.2
South	2.8
Plains	2.8
Mountain & Pacific	0.2

The farmers surveyed represent various sizes and types of commercial farms. The panel was asked to report rates they had paid, charged, or knew that a second party had charged.

Indicated data represent the median value of rates from the survey, excluding the extremes. The median is the midpoint in the range of data.

Local conditions can affect custom rates, so your best rate is likely to be the one in your particular neighborhood. If such a "going" rate is not available, this guide provides information that may be helpful in determining a rate

Job	Basis of Charge	Northeast	North Central	South	Plains	Mountain & Pacific
PLOWING AND CULTIVATING						
Moldboard plowing	acre	$15.00	$12.00	$14.00	$12.00	$18.00
Chisel plowing—8" to 12" deep	acre	12.50	10.00	10.00	8.00	12.00
Heavy disking	*acre*	*12.00*	*9.00*	*10.00*	*8.00*	*12.00*
V-ripping	acre	15.00	12.00	12.00	10.00	18.00
Tandem disking	acre	11.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	10.00
Spike tooth harrowing	*acre*	*9.00*	*5.00*	*6.00*	*5.00*	*5.00*
Field cultivating	acre	10.00	7.00	7.00	6.00	8.00
Row crop cultivating	acre	8.00	6.00	7.00	6.00	10.00
Rotary hoeing	acre	6.00	4.00	6.00	4.75	8.00
PLANTING AND DRILLING						
Planting corn	acre	12.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	12.00
Planting, no-till	acre	15.00	12.00	12.00	10.00	17.00
Drilling small grain	acre	12.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	10.00
Planting soybeans	acre	15.00	11.00	10.00	10.00	—
Planting cotton	acre	—	—	10.00	8.00	12.00
Seeding alfalfa, clover, etc.	acre	12.00	10.00	11.00	9.00	10.00
CHEMICAL APPLICATION (excluding materials)						
Spraying weeds and pasture	acre	7.50	5.00	5.00	4.00	6.00
Spraying crops,						
with insecticide	acre	8.00	4.50	4.50	4.00	6.50
with herbicide	*acre*	*7.50*	*4.50*	*4.75*	*4.00*	*6.00*
Spraying cattle	head	—	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Spreading fertilizer,						
bulk dry	acre	6.00	3.50	4.50	3.50	5.50
liquid	acre	7.00	4.00	5.00	3.50	6.00
sidedressing	*acre*	*7.50*	*6.00*	*5.00*	*5.00*	*9.00*
anhydrous ammonia	acre	7.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	8.00
manure application, dry	hour	45.00	30.00	25.00	35.00	40.00
manure application, liquid	hour	52.00	50.00	20.00	50.00	30.00

Job	Basis of Charge	Northeast	North Central	South	Plains	Mountain & Pacific
SILAGE AND HAY MAKING						
Field chop, furnishing chopper and blower with:						
1 man, 2 wagons, 1 tractor	hour	$60.00	$75.00	$55.00	$75.00	—
2 men, 2 wagons, 2 tractors	hour	100.00	100.00	80.00	100.00	—
Silo filling, upright	ton	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	—
trench	ton	5.50	5.00	6.00	5.00	6.00
Mowing hay	acre	10.00	8.00	8.00	7.00	10.50
Raking hay	acre	6.00	4.00	5.00	3.00	5.00
Mowing and conditioning hay	acre	12.00	9.00	10.00	8.00	12.00
S P windrower	acre	12.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	12.00
Pickup baling (conventional bales)						
twine	bale	0.50	0.37	0.50	0.50	0.50
wire	bale	—	0.45	0.60	0.60	0.45
Baling with loader or wagon	bale	0.60	0.44	0.60	0.50	—
Haul bales to barn, and store	bale	—	0.75	0.60	0.70	—
Baling giant round bales	bale	6.50	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Mow, bale, haul and store						
regular bales	bale	1.25	1.00	1.50	1.25	1.75
giant round bales	bale	8.00	10.00	14.00	12.00	12.00
regular/giant round	ton	12.00	15.00	17.00	22.00	25.00
Machine stacking in field	1 ton stack	—	10.00	—	9.00	—
HARVESTING						
Corn picking	acre	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	35.00
Combining						
corn	acre	25.00	22.00	25.00	20.00	30.00
soybeans	acre	25.00	22.00	25.00	20.00	—
wheat	acre	25.00	20.00	25.00	14.00	25.00
grain sorghum	acre	—	20.00	25.00	15.00	—
other small grains	acre	25.00	20.00	25.00	15.00	25.00
sunflowers	acre	—	19.00	25.00	15.00	—
Cotton picking	acre	—	—	60.00	50.00	—
Cotton stripping	acre	—	—	36.00	30.00	—
Crop handling						
dry corn	point	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	—
dry corn	bu	0.25	0.10	0.15	0.14	—
dry sorghum	point	—	—	—	0.05	—
shelling corn	bu	—	0.10	0.20	0.10	—
hauling grain to local elevator	bu	0.15	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.12
MISCELLANEOUS						
Mowing setaside acres	acre	12.00	8.00	10.00	7.00	10.00
Bulldozing, D6 or smaller	hour	60.00	65.00	60.00	65.00	60.00
Bulldozing, D7 or larger	hour	80.00	80.00	80.00	85.00	85.00
Bush hogging pastures	acre	12.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	12.00
Post hole digging	*hole*	*1.50*	*1.50*	*1.00*	*1.00*	*1.50*
Sawing wood, chain saw	hour	15.00	15.00	12.00	15.00	15.00
CUSTOM FARMING (growing and harvesting)						
Corn	acre	—	70.00	60.00	66.00	—
Soybeans	acre	—	60.00	60.00	60.00	—
Wheat, oats, barley	*acre*	—	*46.00*	50.00	30.00	50.00
RENTAL RATES (no labor or fuel)						
Tractors, wheel type						
160 pto hp and over	hour	40.00	35.00	35.00	30.00	35.00
130-159 hp	hour	25.00	29.00	30.00	25.00	30.00
90-129 hp	hour	*25.00*	*25.00*	*26.00*	*20.00*	27.50
60-89 hp	hour	20.00	20.00	20.00	18.00	25.00
Tractor loader	hour	35.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	35.00
Dry fertilizer spreader	acre	4.00	2.00	3.50	1.25	2.00
Anhydrous ammonia applicator	acre	—	2.00	3.50	2.00	3.00
Self-propelled combine with:						
platform head	acre	*24.00*	20.00	25.00	12.00	25.00
corn head	acre	25.00	20.00	25.00	14.00	25.00
Trailer sprayer	acre	—	3.50	4.25	3.25	3.00
Hay conditioner	acre	8.00	7.00	8.00	5.00	7.00
Stalk shredder, pto	acre	7.00	6.00	7.00	5.00	8.00
Hi-boy sprayer	acre	—	5.00	5.00	4.25	6.00
No-till grain drill	*hour*	—	10.00	10.00	8.00	—
No-till planter	hour	—	10.00	12.00	10.00	—
No-till drill	acre	—	8.50	10.00	8.00	—

Doane's Agricultural Report newsletter - Copyrighted in 2003. This material is based on factual information believed to be accurate but not guaranteed. Action taken as a result of this information solely the responsibility of the user.