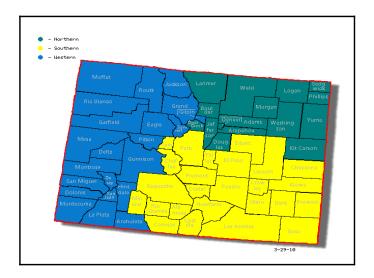
Jesse Russell, Norman Dalsted, Jeffrey E. Tranel, R. Brent Young, and Jackie Seyler^A

Colorado State University Extension annually conducts a survey of custom rates charged for various crop and livestock operations and lease arrangements in Colorado. Information is collected from agricultural producers, land owners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents.

The survey results are reported by region:

- Northern generally, those counties north of I-70 and east of the Rocky Mountains),
- Southern generally, the area south of I-70 and includes the San Luis Valley, and
- Western generally, those counties west of the mountains.



Reported rates represent a variety of working conditions, machine and equipment sizes, and farm and

ranch operations. Field conditions, field size, terrain, and location also account for some variations in rates charged. The reported rates do not necessarily measure the full economic cost of performing the specified work.

A possible additional charge (not reflected in this publication) associated with a custom operation is a "mileage fee". A custom operator, veterinarian, or other provider may have a per mileage rate for transporting equipment between fields or traveling to/from a work site.

The rates reported herein are not recommended rates. They simply reflect the range of rates as reported by those individuals surveyed. Some reported rates may seem unusually low or high which is due to very few respondents and/or the operation is not widely performed. The information in this report should be used only as a guide.

The authors would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2015 custom rates survey. It is hoped that this "custom rates" report is beneficial to making informed decision.

Authors:

Russell, Dalsted, Tranel, and Young are Agricultural and Business Management Economists with Colorado State University Extension and the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Seyler is a graduate of CSU's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

This report, decision tools, and other information pertaining to myriad farm and ranch management issues are available at the ABM web site: www.coopext.colostate.edu/ABM/.

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Tillage				
Stalk Shredding	\$/acre	8.00 – 10.00	10.00 - 14.00	12.00 – 14.00
Plow – Moldboard	\$/acre	14.00 – 16.00	22.00 – 27.00	18.00 – 30.00
Plow – Deep Chisel (irrigated)	\$/acre	12.00 – 16.00	18.00 – 20.00	25.00 – 30.00
Plow – Deep Chisel (dryland)	\$/acre	12.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 30.00
Plow – Surface Chisel (irrigated)	\$/acre	12.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 25.00
Plow – Surface Chisel (dryland)	\$/acre	10.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 20.00
Plow – Sweep	\$/acre	10.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 15.00	12.00 – 20.00
Disk (irrigated)	\$/acre	9.00 – 16.00	10.00 – 12.00	15.00 – 25.00
Disk (dryland)	\$/acre	9.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 20.00
Mulching	\$/acre	14.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 10.00	12.00 – 20.00
Harrow	\$/acre	14.00 – 16.00	n/a	12.00 – 20.00
Cultivating – Field	\$/acre	9.00 – 16.00	10.00 – 12.00	15.00 – 20.00
Cultivating – Bedding	\$/acre	10.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 12.00	15.00 – 20.00
Rod Weeder	\$/acre	7.00 – 10.00	8.00 – 12.00	n/a
Rotary Tillage	\$/acre	13.00 – 15.00	13.00 – 15.00	n/a
Land Leveling/Floating	\$/acre	9.00 – 12.00	15.00 – 20.00	11.00 – 18.00
Furrowing	\$/acre	10.00 – 18.00	13.00 – 15.00	12.00 – 18.00
Strip Till (tillage only)	\$/acre	10.00 – 25.00	12.00 – 18.00	15.00 – 20.00

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Planting (does not include seeds	and transplants)			
Seed Cleaning	\$/bushel	0.75 – 1.00	0.75 – 1.00	0.80 - 1.00
Plant – Drill	\$/acre	11.00 – 18.00	10.00 – 12.00	10.00 – 15.00
Plant – Drill (30-inch spacing)	\$/acre	14.00 – 20.00	12.00 – 16.00	10.00 – 15.00
Plant – Air Seeder	\$/acre	11.00 – 20.00	12.00 – 16.00	15.00 – 18.00
Plant – Strip Till (single operation)	\$/acre	12.00 – 30.00	11.00 – 16.00	15.00 – 20.00
Plant – No Till	\$/acre	11.00 – 18.00	15.00 – 16.00	15.00 – 25.00

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Chemical and Fertilizer Applicati	on (does not inclu	ude material)		
Dry Fertilizer	\$/acre	5.00 – 7.00	5.00 – 7.00	5.00 – 8.00
Liquid Fertilizer	\$/acre	4.00 – 7.00	4.00 – 7.00	4.00 - 8.00
Anhydrous Ammonia	\$/acre	6.00 – 12.00	7.00 – 12.00	8.00 – 20.00
Anhydrous Ammonia with Sweep	\$/acre	7.00 – 14.00	7.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00
Aerial Spraying	\$/acre	6.00 – 7.00	6.00 - 8.00	6.00 – 12.00
Boom Sprayer	\$/acre	5.00 – 7.00	5.00 - 8.00	5.00 – 10.00
Side-Dress	\$/acre	5.00 – 7.00	8.00 – 12.00	10.00 – 12.00

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Hay and Silage Harvesting				
Silage Chopping & Hauling	\$/acre	45.00 – 60.00	45.00 – 70.00	50.00 - 80.00
Hay – Mowing	\$/acre	10.00 – 14.00	15.00 – 20.00	15.00 – 20.00
Hay – Swathing	\$/acre	12.00 – 16.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 25.00
Hay – Raking	\$/acre	3.00 – 5.00	4.00 - 8.00	5.00 – 10.00
Baling – Small Square Bales	\$/bale	0.60 - 1.50	0.50 - 1.50	0.50 - 1.50
Baling – 3x3x8 or 4x4x8 Bales	\$/bale	10.00 – 20.00	8.00 – 18.00	8.00 – 20.00
Baling – Round Bales	\$/bale	10.00 – 13.00	8.00 – 10.00	5.00 – 10.00
Loading/Stacking – Sm Sq Bales	\$/bale	0.40 - 0.80	1.00 – 1.50	0.50 - 1.00
Hauling – Large Square Bales	\$/loaded mile	3.50 – 4.25	3.50 – 4.25	3.75 – 5.00
Hauling – Round Bales	\$/loaded mile	3.50 – 4.25	3.50 – 4.25	3.00 – 5.00
Tub Grinding	\$/ton	12.00 – 18.00	12.00 – 15.00	12.00 – 16.00

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Grain Harvesting In some locales the For example, the costs for harvesting dryl bushel harvested in excess of 20 bushels p	and wheat may be k	nown as "23-23-23" or		
Combine –	\$/acre	27.00 – 30.00	18.00 – 25.00	25.00 – 45.00
Corn/Sorghum (irrigated)	\$/bushel	0.25 – 0.32	0.25 - 0.32	0.25 – 0.32
Combine –	\$/acre	20.00 – 30.00	18.00 – 22.00	20.00 – 40.00
Corn/Sorghum (dryland)	\$/bushel	0.25 – 0.32	0.25 - 0.32	0.25 – 0.32
Combine – Small Grains (irrigated)	\$/acre	30.00 – 40.00	30.00 – 40.00	30.00 – 40.00
Combine –	\$/acre +	20.00 – 25.00	22.00 – 25.00	20.00 – 40.00
Small Grains (dryland)	\$/bushel	0.20 - 0.30	0.22 – 0.25	0.20 – 0.25
Combine –				
Oil Seeds, Soybeans, Dry Beans	\$/acre	40.00 – 55.00	n/a	40.00 – 60.00
Swath – Small Grains	\$/acre	12.00 – 15.00	n/a	15.00 – 23.00
Hauling - Grains	\$/bushel	0.22 – 0.28	0.22 – 0.28	0.22 – 0.28

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Labor				
Hand Labors	\$/hour	9.00 – 14.00	9.00 – 20.00	8.00 – 20.00
Tractor Drivers	\$/hour	12.00 – 15.00	10.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00
Irrigators				
Experienced	\$/hour	8.00 – 16.00	14.00 – 15.00	12.50 – 20.00
Less Experienced	\$/hour	8.00 – 10.00	8.00 – 10.00	8.00 – 10.00
Full Time (year round) Employees	\$/month	2,500 – 3,200	3,000 – 5,200	3,000 – 4,000
Foreman	\$/month	2,500 – 3,500	1,700 – 3,000	3,000 – 5,000
Managers	\$/month	2,500 – 4,500	4,000 – 5,000	3,000 – 5,000

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Livestock Handling				
Sheep - Shearing	\$/head	n/a	4.00 – 5.00	2.00 – 10.00
Sheep – Fertility Testing Rams	\$/head	20.00 – 45.00	22.00 – 25.00	20.00 – 45.00
Sheep – Ultrasound Diagnosis	\$/head	3.00 – 4.00	3.00 - 5.00	3.00 - 8.00
Beef – Fertility Testing Bulls	\$/head	25.00 – 45.00	35.00 – 40.00	25.00 – 45.00
Beef – Pregnancy Testing Cows	\$/head	3.00 – 4.00	3.00 – 4.00	2.00 - 6.00
Horses – Shoeing (with shoes)	\$/head	80.00 - 100.00	85.00 - 100.00	85.00 - 100.00
Horses – Hoof Trimming	\$/head	40.00 – 65.00	45.00 – 75.00	35.00 – 75.00
Livestock Hauling	\$/Loaded mile	3.70 – 5.00	3.50 - 5.00	3.50 – 5.00
Fence Building (4 wires)	\$/mile	5,000 – 9,300	5,000 – 10,200	8,000 – 12,000

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Livestock Land Rental Arrangeme	ents			
Sheep – Grazing				
All Pasture Types	\$/head/day	n/a	n/a	0.15 - 0.30
Beef Cows – Grazing				
Native Range	\$/head/month	18.00 – 30.00	18.00 – 25.00	19.00 – 35.00
Irrigated Pasture	\$/head/month	18.00 – 30.00	18.00 – 20.00	20.00 – 30.00
Wheat Pasture	\$/head/month	15.00 – 22.00	18.00 – 20.00	n/a
Corn/Milo Stalks	\$/head/month	15.00 – 30.00	18.00 – 25.00	20.00 – 25.00
Yearling Cattle – Grazing				
All Pasture Types	\$/head/month	15.00 – 25.00	12.00 – 20.00	15.00 – 30.00
All Pasture Types	\$/head/day	0.25 – 0.90	0.40 - 0.90	0.60 - 0.80

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Crop Land Cash Rents				
Irrigated Land				
Corn/Sorghum	\$/acre	200 – 300	250 – 350	120 – 250
Small Grains	\$/acre	200 – 300	n/a	120 – 250
Alfalfa	\$/acre	160 – 200	170 – 250	120 – 250
Sugar Beets	\$/acre	250 – 350	n/a	n/a
Non-Irrigated Land (Dryland)				
Corn/Sorghum	\$/acre	45 – 50	45 – 55	20 – 50
Small Grains	\$/acre	45 – 50	45 – 55	20 – 50
Oil Seed and Millet	\$/acre	45 – 50	45 – 55	20 – 50
Alfalfa	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	120 – 190

	Basis For	Northern	Southern	Western
Activity	Charge	Region	Region	Region
Crop Land Share Rents The first numshare of production and expenses.	nber represents the t	enant's share and the s	second number repres	ents the landowner's
Irrigated Land				
Corn/Sorghum		67% - 33%	67% - 33%	67% - 33%
Small Grains		75% - 25%	75% - 25%	75% - 25%
Alfalfa		60% - 40%	60% - 40%	60% - 40%
Sugar Beets		75% - 25%	75% - 25%	n/a
Non-Irrigated Land (Dryland)				
Corn/Sorghum		67% - 33%	67% - 33%	67% - 33%
Small Grains		75% - 25%	75% - 25%	67% - 33%
Oil Seed and Millet		75% - 25%	75% - 25%	75% - 25%
Alfalfa		n/a	n/a	60% - 40%