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Custom Rates for Colorado Farms & Ranches in 2007

Agricultural operators may not own all the machinery, equipment, and land necessary to perform every farm and ranch operation. In some cases, labor is not available, and in others, owning the equipment is simply too costly for relatively small jobs. Therefore, many farms and ranches use custom operators, machinery rental, and/or pasture leases.

Colorado State University Extension conducts an annual survey of agricultural producers, land owners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents throughout Colorado. The results of this survey are a report of "custom rates" charged for various crop and livestock operations.

Survey results are reported according to three general geographic regions within Colorado. "Southeast" is the southeastern quadrant of the state, generally south of I-70 and east of the Continental Divide. "Northeast" is the northeastern quadrant of the state, generally north of I-70 and east of the Rocky Mountains. "Western, NW-Mtn, & SW" includes all of western Colorado. Insufficient data was reported for the San Luis Valley, so no custom rates are listed in this report.

Reported charges were used to determine a range of custom rate charges. "Most common" refers to the custom rate reported most often. "n/a" indicates that no information was available for that particular activity or the information was reported by a single source.

The rates charged do not necessarily measure the full economic cost of performing the work specified. Some custom operators may charge only for the costs of fuel and labor. Others may charge for all costs including depreciation on equipment and allowance for risk. Field

conditions, such as size, terrain, and location, may also account for variations in rates charged.

The rates reported in this report are not recommended rates, but simply indicate rates currently being charged throughout Colorado. They represent a variety of working conditions, machine and equipment sizes, and farm and ranch operations. The reported rates reflect only the survey results and should be used only as a guide.

Custom rates in 2007 generally increased over those charged in 2006. The primary reason for the increase was the higher prices operators paid for fuel. In some cases, custom operators and farmers reported that a "fuel charge" was charged in addition to the reported custom rate.

The authors would like to thank everyone who contributed to the custom rates survey and this report.

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2007Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Tillage				
Stalk Shredding Range Most Common	\$/Acre	8.00 - 12.00 8.00	10.00 - 12.00 10.00	8.00 - 10.00 8.00
Plow- Moldboard Range Most Common	\$/Acre	12.00 - 20.00 15.00	20.00 - 35.00 30.00	13.00 - 14.00 13.00
Plow - Deep Chisel (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	12.00 - 20.50 15.00	20.00 - 22.00 20.00	18.50 - 20.00 18.50
Plow - Deep Chisel (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	12.00 - 20.50 10.00	15.00 - 25.00 20.00	18.50 - 20.00 18.50
Plow - Surface Chisel (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	10.00 - 12.00 10.00	10.00 - 20.00 14.00	9.50 - 12.00 11.00
Plow - Surface Chisel (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	8.00 - 12.00 10.00	10.00 - 20.00 14.00	9.50 - 12.00 11.00
Plow - One Way Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	10.00 - 20.00 14.00	n/a n/a
Plow - Sweep Range Most Common	\$/Acre	6.50 - 7.50 6.50	10.00 - 20.00 14.00	6.75 - 7.50 7.00
Disc (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	7.00 - 12.00 8.00	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	9.00 - 10.25 9.00
Disc (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	7.00 - 8.00 7.00	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	9.00 - 10.25 9.00
Crust Busting Range Most Common	\$/Acre	6.00 - 10.00 n/a	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	n/a n/a
Mulching Range Most Common	\$/Acre	7.00 - 10.00 7.00	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	7.00 - 7.75 7.00
Harrow - Spike Tooth Range Most Common	\$/Acre	6.00 - 8.00 6.00	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	6.00 - 6.25 6.00
Cultivating - Field Range Most Common	\$/Acre	6.00 - 8.00 6.00	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	9.25 - 10.00 10.00

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Tillage, continued				
Cultivating - Bedding Range Most Common	\$/Acre	8.00 - 12.00 9.00	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	10.00 - 11.25 11.00
Rod Weeder Range Most Common	\$/Acre	4.50 - 8.00 6.50	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	4.00 - 10.00 5.00
Rotary Hoe Range Most Common	\$/Acre	4.50 - 8.00 7.00	10.00 - 20.00 14.00	5.00 - 6.75 6.00
Land Leveling (Floating) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	7.00 - 10.00 8.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00	9.00 - 10.50 10.00
Furrowing Range Most Common	\$/Acre	8.00 - 12.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 14.00	9.75 - 11.00 11.00
Strip Till (Tillage Only) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	11.00 - 12.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 16.00	11.00 - 20.00 12.00

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast		
Chemical & Fertilizer Applications (Excludes Material)						
Dry Fertilizer						
Range	\$/Acre	5.00 - 6.50	4.00 - 10.00	6.50 - 7.50		
Most Common		6.50	6.00	6.50		
Liquid Fertilizer						
Range	\$/Acre	4.75 - 5.50	6.00 - 10.00	5.50 - 5.75		
Most Common		5.50	6.00	5.50		
Anhydrous Ammonia						
Range	\$/Acre	7.00 - 7.50	6.00 - 15.00	6.50 - 7.50		
Most Common		7.50	8.50	7.00		
Anhydrous Ammonia with Sweep						
Range	\$/Acre	6.50 - 12.00	n/a	7.75 - 8.25		
Most Common		8.00	n/a	8.00		
Aerial Spraying						
Range	\$/Acre	4.25 - 5.50	10.00 - 15.00	5.50 - 8.00		
Most Common		5.50	12.50	5.50		
Boom Sprayer						
Range	\$/Acre	4.00 - 6.00	6.00 - 10.00	4.50 - 5.00		
Most Common		6.00	6.00	4.50		
Side-Dress						
Range	\$/Acre	6.00 - 8.50	10.00 - 15.00	9.00 - 10.00		
Most Common		8.50	12.00	9.00		

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Planting (Excludes Seed & Transplants	s)			
Seed Cleaning (Small Grains) Range Most Common	\$/Bu	0.60 - 0.75 0.65	0.60 - 1.25 0.75	0.60 - 0.70 0.65
Plant - Row Crops (22 inch spacing) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	20.00 - 24.00 20.00	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Plant - Row Crops (30 inch spacing) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	16.00 - 22.00 16.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00	12.00 - 16.00 14.00
Plant - Drill Range Most Common	\$/Acre	6.00 -10.00 6.00	8.00 - 20.00 10.00	6.00 - 7.75 7.00
Plant - Air Seeder Range Most Common	\$/Acre	8.00 - 11.00 9.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00	9.00 - 9.50 9.00
Plant - Vegetables Range Most Common	\$/Acre	25.00 - 100.00 75.00	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Plant - Oilseeds Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	10.00 - 20.00 12.00	n/a n/a
Plant - Dry Beans Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	10.00 - 20.00 12.00	n/a n/a
Plant - Legumes Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	10.00 - 20.00 12.00	n/a n/a
Plant - Grass Range Most Common	\$/Acre	7.50 - 15.00 15.00	10.00 - 25.00 12.00	7.75 - 9.25 8.00
Plant - Strip Till Range Most Common	\$/Acre	18.00 - 22.00 18.00	23.00 - 35.00 26.00	23.00 - 35.00 26.00
Plant - Ridge Till Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	10.00 - 20.00 12.00	n/a n/a
Plant - No Till (Row Crops) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	11.00 - 14.00 11.00	12.00 - 20.00 16.00	n/a n/a
Plant - No Till (Grain Crops) Range Most Common	\$/Acre	8.00 - 11.00 11.00	10.00 - 20.00 14.00	n/a n/a

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Grain Harvesting				
Combine - Corn/Sorghum (Irrigated) Range	\$/Acre + \$/Bu ^a	16.00 - 20.00 + 0.16 - 0.16	35.00 - 50.00	34.00 - 50.00 + 0.16 - 0.16
Most Common		16.00 + 0.16	45.50 + 0.00	45.00 + 0.16
Combine - Corn/Sorghum (Dryland) Range	\$/Acre + \$/Bu ^a	12.00 - 21.00 + 0.21 - 0.21	n/a	15.00 - 25.00 + 0.21 - 0.21
Most Common		12.00 +0.21	n/a	20.00 + 0.21
Combine - Small Grains (Irrigated) Range	\$/Acre + \$/Bu ^a	20.00 - 21.50	25.00 - 40.00 + 0.15 - 0.25	23.00 - 35.00
Most Common		20.00 + 0.21	35.00 + 0.00	35.00 + 0.21
Combine - Small Grains (Dryland) Range	\$/Acre + \$/Bu	13.00 - 18.00 + 0.13 - 0.18	18.00 - 30.00 + 0.10 - 0.20	18.00 - 26.00 + 0.16 - 0.18
Most Common	(bu>20) ^a	18.00 + 0.16	25.00	20.00 + 0.16
Combine - Dry Beans Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	30.00 - 40.00 35.00	40.00 - 60.00 40.00
Combine - Oilseeds Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	25.00 - 40.00 35.00	n/a n/a
Combine - Soybeans Range Most Common	\$/Acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	27.00 - 40.00 40.00
Swath - Small Grains Range Most Common	\$/Acre	10.00 - 16.00 10.00	n/a n/a	10.00 - 15.00 10.00
Haul - Grain Range Most Common	\$/Bu	0.10 - 0.20 0.15	0.10 - 0.21 0.16	0.10 - 0.18 0.10
Haul - Soybeans Range Most Common	\$/Bu	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	0.15 - 0.25 0.15
Haul - Oilseeds Range Most Common	\$/Cwt	n/a n/a	0.25 - 0.60 0.45	n/a n/a

In some locales there is both a fixed rate per acre and a variable rate per bushel charged for combining. For example, the costs for harvesting dryland wheat may be 16:16:16 – \$16 per acre, \$0.16 per bushel for bushels greater than 20, and \$0.16 per bushel for hauling.

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Silage & Hay Making				
Silage Chopping & Hauling Range Most Common	\$/Acre	15.00 - 32.00 27.00	25.00 - 40.00 35.00	30.00 - 40.00 35.00
Hay Mowing Range Most Common	\$/Acre	9.00 - 16.00 10.00	10.00 - 18.00 12.00	10.00 - 12.00 10.00
Swathing Range Most Common	\$/Acre	12.00 - 15.00 12.00	14.00 - 20.00 16.00	7.00 - 10.50 10.00
Raking Range Most Common	\$/Acre	7.00 - 8.00 7.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.00	3.75 - 5.25 4.00
Baling - Small Square (about 70 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/Bale	0.50 - 0.80 0.65	0.65 - 0.80 0.70	0.60 - 0.80 0.65
Baling - Med. Square (3x3, 800 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/Bale	10.00 - 18.00 16.00	n/a n/a	18.00 - 20.00 18.00
Baling - Big Square (4x4, 1750 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/Bale	15.00 - 18.00 15.00	15.00 - 20.00 16.00	17.00 - 20.00 17.00
Baling - Round (about 1500 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/Bale	12.00 - 16.00 12.00	14.00 - 20.00 14.00	14.00 - 16.00 15.00
Loading/Stacking - Sm Sq Bales Range Most Common	\$/Bale	0.35 - 0.45 0.35	0.40 - 0.60 0.55	0.30 - 0.40 0.37
Haul - Small Square Bales Range Most Common	\$/Ton	9.00 - 12.00 10.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00	12.00 - 15.00 13.00
Haul - Med & Big Square Bales Range Most Common	\$/Ton	14.00 - 16.00 16.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00	10.00 - 12.50 11.00
Haul - Round Bales Range Most Common	\$/Ton	5.00 - 18.00 15.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00	11.00 - 15.00 12.00
Tub Grinding Range Most Common	\$/Ton	11.00 - 18.00 11.00	15.00 - 20.00 17.00	13.00 - 16.00 15.00

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Orchard				
Apples - Pruning				
Range	\$/Acre	n/a	225 - 280	n/a
Most Common		n/a	250.00	n/a
Apples - Thinning				
Range	\$/Acre	n/a	300 - 375	n/a
Most Common		n/a	350.00	n/a
Apples - Picking				
Range	\$/Bu	n/a	1.10 - 1.60	n/a
Most Common		n/a	1.50	n/a
Peaches - Picking				
Range	\$/Bu	n/a	1.50 - 1.75	n/a
Most Common		n/a	1.60	n/a
Grapes - Pruning				
Range	\$/Acre	n/a	300 - 385	n/a
Most Common		n/a	350.00	n/a
Grapes - Picking				
Range	\$/Acre	n/a	525 - 600	n/a
Most Common		n/a	575.00	n/a

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Labor				
Hired Labors - High Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/Hour	7.00 - 15.00 15.00	n/a n/a	9.00 - 11.50 10.00
Hired Labor - Low Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/Hour	7.00 - 12.00 7.00	n/a n/a	7.00 - 11.00 9.00
Tractor Drivers - High Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/Hour	9.50 - 15.00 15.00	n/a n/a	10.00 - 14.00 10.00
Tractor Drivers - Low Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/Hour	7.00 - 15.00 7.00	n/a n/a	8.00 - 11.75 8.00
Irrigators - High Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/Hour	9.00 - 15.00 15.00	n/a n/a	10.00 - 15.00 10.00
Irrigators - Lowest Paid Positions Range Most Common	\$/Hour	8.00 - 10.00 8.00	n/a n/a	8.00 - 10.00 8.00
Hired Labor - Other Range Most Common	\$/Hour	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Year Round Employees Range Most Common	\$/Month	2,500 - 5,000 n/a	n/a n/a	3,000 - 5,000 3,000
Foreman - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/Month	2,000 - 4,000 4,000	n/a n/a	2,000 - 3,500 3,500
Foreman - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/Month	1,700 - 3,000 1,700	n/a n/a	2,000 - 3,000 3,000
Manager - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/Month	4,000 - 5,000 5,000	n/a n/a	4,000 - 5,000 5,000
Manager - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/Month	4,000 - 4,500 4,000	n/a n/a	4,000 - 4,500 4,500

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Crop Share Rental Arrangements (expenses, if any, are paid by the		ngements are the most	t common and do not speci-	fy which
Corn & Sorghum (Irrigated)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/3
Corn & Sorghum (Dryland)				
Tenant		3/4	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/4	1/3	1/3
Small Grains (Irrigated)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/3
Small Grains (Dryland)				
Tenant		3/4	2/3	3/4
Land owner		1/4	1/3	1/4
Oilseeds & Millet (Dryland)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	3/4
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/4
Alfalfa (Irrigated)				
Tenant		1/2	1/2	1/2
Land owner		1/2	1/2	1/2
Dry Beans (Irrigated)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/3
Other (Irrigated)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	70
Land owner		1/3	1/3	30
Other (Dryland)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	3/4
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/4
Cash Rents (Cash rental arrangement number of cash rents listed in the				nsignificant
Irrigated Crop Production Range	\$/acre	110.00 - 145.00	80.00 - 180.00	127.00 - 155.00
Dryland Crop Production Range	\$/acre	20.00 - 25.00	n/a	20.00 - 45.00

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Livestock				
Shearing - Lambs Range Most Common	\$/Head	n/a 2.50	2.00 - 5.00 3.00	n/a n/a
Shearing - Ewes Range Most Common	\$/Head	n/a 2.50	3.00 - 6.00 3.50	n/a n/a
Shearing - Rams Range Most Common	\$/Head	n/a 5.00	4.00 - 10.00 6.00	n/a n/a
Tagging - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/Head	n/a n/a	1.00 - 3.00 1.50	n/a n/a
Fertility Test - Rams Range Most Common	\$/Head	22.00 - 25.00 22.00	20.00 - 35.00 25.00	42.00 - 45.00 45.00
Fertility Test - Bulls Range Most Common	\$/Head	27.00 - 35.00 35.00	15.00 - 45.00 35.00	25.00 - 45.00 25.00
Pregnancy Test - Cows Range Most Common	\$/Head	2.00 - 2.75 2.25	3.00 - 6.00 4.00	2.20 - 4.00 2.20
Ultrasound Diagnosis - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/Ewe	n/a 45.00	40.00 - 60.00 45.00	45.00 - 45.00 45.00
Horse Shoeing (with shoes) Range Most Common	\$/Head	45.00 - 75.00 70.00	55.00 - 100.00 60.00	45.00 - 75.00 75.00
Hoof Trimming (Horse) Range Most Common	\$/Head	40.00 - 70.00 55.00	25.00 - 50.00 35.00	30.00 - 35.00 35.00
Haul Livestock Range Most Common	\$/Loaded Mile	2.50 - 3.50 3.00	2.50 - 4.00 3.00	2.50 - 3.50 3.00
Building Fence (including materials) Range Most Common	\$/Mile	5,500 - 7,500 6,500	5,000 - 7,500 6,500	5,500 - 7,500 6,500

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Livestock Grazing				
Native Range - Cows Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	18.00 - 25.00 18.00	12.00 - 30.00 18.00	25.00 - 27.00 25.00
Native Range - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	7.50 - 18.00 12.00	9.00 - 21.00 14.00	n/a n/a
Native Range - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Lb of Gain	n/a n/a	0.30 - 0.60 0.45	n/a n/a
Native Range - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	n/a 1.75	3.00 - 6.00 4.00	n/a n/a
Irrigated Pasture - Cows Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	25.50 - 28.50 25.50	12.00 - 30.00 20.00	22.00 - 30.00 22.00
Irrigated Pasture - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	n/a n/a	9.00 - 25.00 15.00	n/a n/a
Irrigated Pasture - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Lb of Gain	n/a n/a	0.30 - 0.60 0.45	n/a n/a
Wheat Pasture - Cows Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	11.00 - 18.00 13.00	10.00 - 30.00 18.00	18.00 - 22.00 18.00
Wheat Pasture - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	n/a n/a	8.00 - 21.00 14.00	n/a n/a
Wheat Pasture - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Lb of Gain	n/a n/a	0.30 - 0.60 0.45	n/a n/a
Wheat Stubble - Cows Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	10.00 - 18.00 12.00	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Wheat Stubble - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a

2007 Activity	Basis For Charge	Southeast	Western NW-MTN & SW	Northeast
Livestock Grazing (continued)				
Corn/Milo Stalks - Cows Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	13.50 - 19.50 13.50	20.00 - 30.00 25.00	7.00 - 10.00 7.00
Corn/Milo Stalks - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	n/a n/a	15.00 - 21.00 17.00	12.50 - 18.00 12.50
Corn/Milo Stalks - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Day	n/a n/a	0.25 - 0.60 0.50	n/a n/a
Other Aftermath - Cattle Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	n/a n/a	15.00 - 30.00 18.00	n/a n/a
Other Aftermath - Yearlings Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Month	n/a n/a	9.00 - 21.00 14.00	n/a n/a
All Forage - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/Hd/Day	0.05 - 0.10 0.06	0.10 - 0.20 0.14	n/a n/a