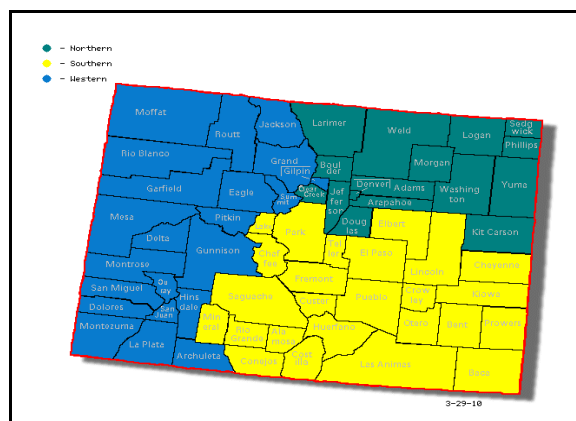


Custom Rates for Colorado Farms & Ranches in 2011

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

The survey results are reported by region: Northern, Southern, and Western. The Northern region generally includes those counties north of I-70 and east of the Rocky Mountains. It includes the Front Range. The Southern region includes the southeastern Colorado and the San Luis Valley. The Western region generally includes those counties in and west of the mountains.



The rates reported in this report are not recommended rates, but simply indicate rates currently being charged throughout Colorado, as reported in the survey. The information in this report should be used only as a guide.

Reported rates represent a variety of working conditions, machine and equipment sizes, and farm and ranch operations. They 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.

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 insufficient information was available for that particular activity.

Custom rates most commonly reported for 2011 were generally higher than those charged in 2010. Such increases were especially noted for those activities associated with tillage, chemical application, and harvesting operations. Reported costs for labor did not change from the previous year.

The authors would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2011 custom rates survey. It is hoped that this “custom rates” report is beneficial to making informed decision.

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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/.

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2011 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Tillage				
Stalk Shredding Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 10.00 8.50	8.00 - 14.00 10.50	10.00 - 14.00 10.50
Plow - Moldboard Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.00 - 16.00 15.25	20.00 - 40.00 25.00	15.00 - 30.00 26.00
Plow - Deep Chisel (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.00 - 16.00 16.00	18.00 - 22.00 20.00	15.00 - 30.00 18.00
Plow - Deep Chisel (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 12.50 12.25	18.00 - 20.00 20.00	15.00 - 30.00 18.00
Plow - Surface Chisel (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 12.50 12.25	11.00 - 15.00 12.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.00
Plow - Surface Chisel (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 12.50 12.25	11.00 - 15.00 12.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.00
Plow - One Way Range Most Common	\$/acre	13.50 - 15.50 14.00	11.00 - 15.00 12.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.00
Plow - Sweep Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 12.50 12.25	11.00 - 15.00 12.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.00
Disk (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 11.00 10.00	12.00 - 18.00 15.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.25
Disk (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 11.00 10.00	12.00 - 18.00 15.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.25
Crust Busting Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 10.00 8.50	8.00 - 10.00 8.25	10.00 - 30.00 12.00
Mulching Range Most Common	\$/acre	7.50 - 15.00 8.50	8.00 - 10.00 8.25	10.00 - 30.00 12.00
Harrow - Spike Tooth Range Most Common	\$/acre	6.00 - 8.00 7.00	8.00 - 12.00 12.00	10.00 - 30.00 12.00

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Tillage, continued				
Cultivating - Field Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.50 - 13.00 12.25	10.00 - 14.00 12.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.25
Cultivating - Bedding Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 12.75 12.25	10.00 - 14.00 12.00	15.00 - 30.00 15.25
Rod Weeder Range Most Common	\$/acre	6.00 - 8.00 7.25	6.00 - 10.00 7.00	10.00 - 30.00 12.00
Rotary Hoe Range Most Common	\$/acre	6.00 - 8.00 7.25	7.00 - 10.00 7.75	10.00 - 30.00 12.00
Land Leveling (Floating) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 15.00 11.00	10.00 - 20.00 20.00	11.00 - 20.00 15.25
Furrowing Range Most Common	\$/acre	11.00 - 15.00 13.00	11.00 - 20.00 20.00	10.00 - 30.00 12.00
Strip Till (Tillage Only) Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.50 - 20.00 18.25	12.50 - 20.00 18.00	11.00 - 20.00 15.00

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Chemical & fertilizer Application (Does Not Include Materials)				
Dry Fertilizer Range Most Common	\$/acre	4.50 - 8.00 7.50	5.00 - 8.00 7.25	4.50 - 10.00 7.25
Liquid Fertilizer Range Most Common	\$/acre	5.00 - 8.00 7.40	5.00 - 8.00 7.25	3.00 - 10.00 5.75
Anhydrous Ammonia Range Most Common	\$/acre	7.50 - 22.00 11.00	8.00 - 12.00 10.25	7.55 - 20.00 10.75
Anhydrous Ammonia with Sweep Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 22.00 12.00	10.00 - 12.00 10.25	n/a n/a
Aerial Spraying Range Most Common	\$/acre	6.35 - 8.00 7.00	6.00 - 8.00 7.25	6.25 - 10.00 7.25
Boom Sprayer Range Most Common	\$/acre	5.50 - 8.00 7.00	5.00 - 8.00 7.25	5.00 - 10.00 7.25
Side-Dress Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.50 - 12.00 11.50	10.00 - 25.00 12.50	10.00 - 13.00 12.50

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Planting (Excludes Seed and Transplants)				
Seed Cleaning (Small Grains) Range Most Common	\$/bu	0.60 - 1.00 0.77	0.40 - 0.75 0.60	0.50 - 1.00 0.72
Plant - Drill Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 9.50 8.50	10.00 - 15.00 10.50	10.00 - 15.00 13.00
Plant - Row Crops (22-inch spacing) Range Most Common	\$/acre	11.00 - 14.00 11.50	10.00 - 22.00 18.50	10.00 - 35.00 21.25
Plant - Row Crops (30-inch spacing) Range Most Common	\$/acre	11.00 - 14.00 11.50	10.00 - 22.00 18.50	10.00 - 35.00 21.25
Plant - Air Seeder Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.00 - 15.00 13.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.50	10.00 - 15.00 13.00
Plant - Oilseeds and Dry Beans Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.00 - 20.00 13.00	12.00 - 18.00 13.00	10.00 - 20.00 13.00
Plant - Legumes Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	10.00 - 20.00 13.00
Plant - Grass Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.50	12.00 - 25.00 13.00
Plant - Strip Till Range Most Common	\$/acre	25.00 - 30.00 27.00	n/a n/a	12.00 - 35.00 30.00
Plant - Ridge Till Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	10.00 - 18.00 16.50
Plant - No Till (Row Crops) Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.00 - 15.00 14.00	12.00 - 18.00 13.00	10.00 - 18.00 16.50
Plant - No Till (Grain Crops) Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.00 - 15.00 14.25	12.00 - 18.00 13.00	10.00 - 15.00 13.00

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Grain Harvesting 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 23:23:23 (3 - 23s) – \$23 per acre plus \$0.23 for each bushel harvested in excess of 20 bushels per acre, plus \$0.23 per bushel for hauling.				
Combine - Corn/Sorghum (Irrigated) Range	\$/acre +	35.00 - 50.00 +	20.00 - 45.00 +	25.00 - 50.00 +
	\$/Bu	0.18	0.21 - 0.40	0.20 - 0.45
Most Common		47.00 + 0.18	24.50 + 0.33	35.00 + 0.42
Combine - Corn/Sorghum (Dryland) Range	\$/acre +	28.00 - 40.00 +	14.00 - 20.00 +	n/a
	\$/Bu	0.23	0.10 - 0.45	
Most Common		36.00 + 0.23	14.75 + 0.32	n/a
Combine - Small Grains (Irrigated) Range	\$/acre +	27.00 - 40.00 +	20.00 - 28.00 +	20.00 - 40.00 +
	\$/Bu	0.21	0.21 - 0.25	0.18 - 0.23
Most Common		36.00 + 0.21	26.50 + 0.23	23.75 + 0.20
Combine - Small Grains (Dryland) Range	\$/acre +	22.00 - 35.00 +	20.00 - 28.00 +	16.00 - 30.00 +
	\$/Bu	0.16 - 0.23	0.15 - 0.25	0.15 - 0.22
Most Common		22.00 + 0.22	26.50 + 0.25	23.75 + 0.21
Combine - Oilseeds and Dry Beans Range	\$/acre	35.00 - 60.00	n/a	n/a
Most Common		57.00	n/a	n/a
Combine - Soybeans Range	\$/acre	40.00 - 45.00	n/a	n/a
Most Common		45.00	n/a	n/a
Swath - Small Grains Range	\$/acre	12.00 - 13.00	7.00 - 20.00	n/a
Most Common		12.50	12.50	n/a
Haul - Grain Range	\$/bu	0.16 - 0.35	0.12 - 0.45	0.10 - 0.72
Most Common		0.19	0.20	0.30
Haul - Soybeans & Oilseeds Range	\$/bu	0.15 - 0.35	n/a	n/a
Most Common		0.19	n/a	n/a

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Hay and Silage Harvesting				
Silage Chopping & Hauling Range Most Common	\$/acre	35.00 - 75.00 57.00	20.00 - 75.00 55.00	35.00 - 80.00 57.00
Mowing Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.50 - 13.00 12.15	10.00 - 20.00 18.00	8.00 - 20.00 18.00
Swathing Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 12.50 12.20	10.00 - 14.00 12.75	10.00 - 22.00 17.50
Raking Range Most Common	\$/acre	4.00 - 10.00 4.50	3.00 - 8.00 7.75	3.00 - 16.00 7.00
Baling - Small Square (about 70 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	0.50 - 2.20 1.00	0.50 - 1.50 1.00	0.60 - 2.20 0.95
Baling - Med. Square (3x3, 800 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	18.00 - 22.00 21.00	15.00 - 20.00 16.00	12.00 - 20.00 15.00
Baling - Large Square (4x4, 1750 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	18.50 - 25.00 20.00	15.00 - 22.00 16.00	12.00 - 30.00 18.00
Baling - Round (about 1500 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	11.00 - 16.00 12.00	10.50 - 15.00 11.25	10.00 - 25.00 12.25
Loading/Stacking - Sm Sq Bales Range Most Common	\$/bale	0.40 - 0.95 1.00	0.20 - 2.50 1.20	0.40 - 1.00 0.75
Haul - Small Square Bales Range Most Common	\$/ton	12.25 - 15.00 14.50	9.50 - 15.00 12.50	13.20 - 26.00 16.50
Haul - Med & Large Bales Range Most Common	\$/ton	9.50 - 15.00 10.50	4.00 - 10.00 10.00	n/a n/a
Haul - Round Bales Range Most Common	\$/bale	9.50 - 15.00 10.50	12.00 - 16.00 12.50	n/a n/a
Tub Grinding Range Most Common	\$/ton	13.00 - 18.00 16.00	10.00 - 22.00 13.00	12.00 - 20.00 16.00

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Equipment Transport Charges				
Range	\$/mile	2.75 - 4.00	3.75 - 7.00	n/a
Most Common		3.65	5.35	n/a

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Orchard				
Apples - Pruning				
Range	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	200 - 280
Most Common		n/a	n/a	225
Apples - Thinning				
Range	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	250 - 375
Most Common		n/a	n/a	300
Apples - Picking				
Range	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	1.10 - 1.60
Most Common		n/a	n/a	1.50
Peaches - Picking				
Range	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	1.50 - 1.75
Most Common		n/a	n/a	1.60
Grapes - Pruning				
Range	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	300 - 385
Most Common		n/a	n/a	350
Grapes - Picking				
Range	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	525 - 600
Most Common		n/a	n/a	575

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Labor: The reported rates do not include any benefits given employees, including such items as health insurance, contributions to retirement, house, utilities, beef, produce, cattle grazing privileges, horse maintenance privileges, etc.				
Hired Labor - High Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	9.00 - 12.75 12.00	9.00 - 20.00 15.00	9.00 - 15.00 10.00
Hired Labor - Low Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	8.00 - 10.00 9.00	8.00 - 15.00 10.00	8.00 - 10.00 9.00
Tractor Drivers - High Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	8.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 15.00 13.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.75
Tractor Drivers - Low Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	8.00 - 10.00 9.00	8.00 - 12.00 10.00	8.00 - 12.00 10.00
Irrigators - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/hour	8.00 - 16.00 15.00	10.00 - 15.00 15.00	10.00 - 15.00 15.00
Irrigators - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/hour	8.00 - 10.00 10.00	8.00 - 12.00 10.00	9.00 - 12.00 10.00
Hired Labor - Year Round Employees Range Most Common	\$/month	3,000 - 5,000 3,500	3,200 - 5,500 4,000	3,500 - 5,000 4,000
Foreman - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	3,000 - 4,000 4,000	2,000 - 4,000 5,000	2,500 - 4,000 5,000
Foreman - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	2,080 - 3,500 3,000	1,700 - 4,000 4,000	2,000 - 4,000 4,000
Manager - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	4,000 - 5,000 5,000	4,000 - 5,000 5,000	4,000 - 5,000 5,000
Manager - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	3,500 - 4,500 4,000	4,000 - 4,500 4,000	3,500 - 4,000 4,000

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Crop Share Rental Arrangements Listed crop share arrangements are the most common and do not specify which expenses, if any, are paid by the land owner.				
Corn and Sorghum (Irrigated) Tenant Land owner		2/3 1/3	2/3 1/3	2/3 1/3
Corn and Sorghum (Dryland) Tenant Land owner		2/3 1/3	2/3 1/3	2/3 1/3
Small Grains (Irrigated) Tenant Land owner		2/3 1/3	2/3 1/3	2/3 1/3
Small Grains (Dryland) Tenant Land owner		3/4 1/4	3/4 1/4	3/4 1/4
Oilseeds & Millet (Dryland) Tenant Land owner		3/4 1/4	3/4 1/4	3/4 1/4
Alfalfa (Irrigated) Tenant Land owner		1/2 1/2	1/2 1/2	1/2 1/2
Dry Beans (Irrigated) Tenant Land owner		2/3 1/3	n/a n/a	2/3 1/3
Other (Irrigated) Tenant Land owner		3/4 1/4	3/4 1/4	2/3 1/3
Other (Dryland) Tenant Land owner		n/a n/a	n/a n/a	2/3 1/3

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Cash Rental Arrangements Listed cash rental arrangements are the most common and do not specify which expenses, if any, are paid by the land owner.

Irrigated Crop Production - Alfalfa Range Most Common	\$/acre	130 - 160 142	130 - 160 140	130 - 160 140
Irrigated Crop Production - Corn Range Most Common	\$/acre	130 - 160 147	130 - 160 150	130 - 160 150
Irrigated Crop Production - Beets Range Most Common	\$/acre	140 - 200 190	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Dryland Crop Production Range Most Common	\$/acre	20 - 35 30	20 - 40 25	20 - 40 25

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Livestock				
Shearing - Lambs Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	3.00 - 8.00 5.00
Shearing - Ewes Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	3.00 - 7.00 3.00	6.00 - 10.00 6.00
Shearing - Rams Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	6.00 - 12.00 6.00	6.00 - 12.00 8.00
Tagging - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	1.00 - 3.00 1.50
Fertility Testing - Rams Range Most Common	\$/head	42.00 - 45.00 45.00	15.00 - 35.00 15.00	25.00 - 45.00 25.00
Fertility Testing - Bulls Range Most Common	\$/head	25.00 - 45.00 25.00	25.00 - 35.00 25.00	20.00 - 45.00 25.00
Pregnancy Testing - Cows Range Most Common	\$/head	2.50 - 8.00 5.00	3.00 - 9.00 4.50	2.50 - 10.00 5.50
(There may be an additional charge of \$0.50 - \$1.50 per mile)				
Ultrasound Diagnosis - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/head	2.20 - 4.00 3.00	1.50 - 4.00 2.00	3.00 - 6.00 3.75
Shoeing (with shoes) - Horse Range Most Common	\$/head	55.00 - 85.00 75.00	65.00 - 145.00 85.00	85.00 - 110.00 85.00
Hoof Trimming - Horse Range Most Common	\$/head	25.00 - 45.00 35.00	20.00 - 50.00 45.00	25.00 - 55.00 40.00
Haul Livestock Range Most Common	\$/loaded mile	4.50 - 6.50 5.90	4.00 - 6.50 5.75	4.00 - 7.00 5.75
Building Fence (including materials) Range Most Common	\$/mile	3,500 - 7,500 7,000	3,500 - 7,500 7,000	3,000 - 7,000 7,000

2011 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Livestock Grazing The costs of grazing on pastures of all types depends greatly on the provider (landowner or renter) of items such as fencing, water, salt and minerals, and care.				
Cows - Native Range Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	25.00 - 27.00 27.00	11.00 - 24.00 14.00	15.00 - 30.00 20.00
Cows - Irrigated Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	12.00 - 25.00 20.00	25.00 - 30.00 26.00	15.00 - 30.00 20.00
Cows - Wheat Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	18.00 - 22.00 20.00	12.00 - 15.00 15.00	12.00 - 30.00 20.00
Cows - Corn/Milo Stalks Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	7.00 - 10.00 10.00	12.00 - 20.00 16.50	18.00 - 30.00 20.00
Cows - Crop Stubble & Aftermath Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	15.00 - 30.00 20.00
Yearlings - Native Range Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	12.00 - 15.00 13.00	10.00 - 21.00 18.00
Yearlings - Irrigated Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	10.00 - 15.00 12.00	n/a 15.00	10.00 - 25.00 18.00
Yearlings - Wheat Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	13.00 - 20.00 16.00	9.00 - 20.00 18.00
Yearlings - Corn/Milo Stalks Range Most Common	\$/hd/day	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	0.25 - 0.70 0.60
Yearlings - Stubble & Aftermath Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	10.00 - 22.00 18.00
Yearlings - All Pasture Types Range Most Common	\$/lb of gain	n/a n/a	0.35 - 0.75 0.55	0.35 - 0.70 0.60
Sheep - All Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/day	n/a n/a	0.03 - 0.10 0.07	0.10 - 0.25 0.18