



Current Report

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Oklahoma Farm and Ranch Custom Rates, 2011-2012

Damona Doye
Regents Professor and Extension Economist

Roger Sahs
Extension Assistant Specialist

This Current Report summarizes data collected from Oklahoma farmers, ranchers and custom operators during the summer of 2011. Custom work is defined as machine operations performed for the customer with the custom operator furnishing the machine, fuel, labor and other inputs directly associated with the machine. Custom operators do not usually furnish materials such as seed or fertilizer unless it is explicitly stated. In general, custom rates have increased since the 2009 survey. Approximately 210 surveys were returned with usable data.

Summary Procedure

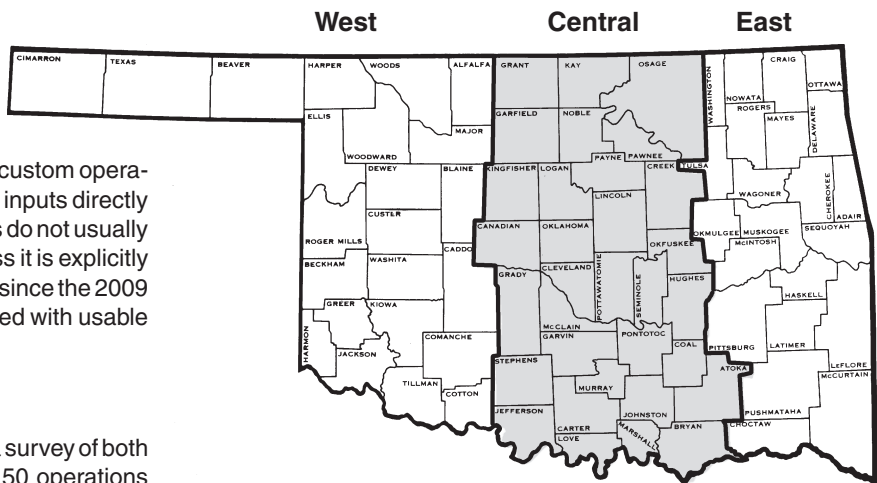
The rates quoted herein were collected by a survey of both farmers and custom operators. A list of over 150 operations was provided from which each respondent quoted rates for only selected operations. Some respondents quoted rates for only one or two operations while others were familiar with rates for many of the machines listed. "Fair" rates are negotiated. Regional or state average rates may be used as a beginning point for discussion. However, differences in operations, requirements, and circumstances may impact rates.

The rates summarized on the inside pages were edited to remove those replies for which the respondent's interpretation of the information being requested did not match the interpretation of other respondents.

Interpreting the Rate Tables

A statewide rate summary for each operation is quoted in the included table. If available, separate quotes are listed for each area of the state as shown in the map. The number of estimates obtained, the average rate, and the lowest and highest rates reported are shown. The cost of following up with individual surveys prohibited questioning or affirming doubtful replies. In most cases the number of observations was insufficient to allow statistical analysis. In general, large numbers of observations improve reliability. You must interpret these results, therefore, with these limitations in mind.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of survey responses for operations with at least 30 observations. For example, a distribution of 93 responses for baling large round bales is one



of several graphs shown. None of the respondents reported a rental rate less than \$8 per acre, 19% reported a rental rate between \$8 and \$11.49 per acre, 26% reported a rental rate between \$11.50 and \$14.99 per acre, 26% reported a rental rate between \$15 and \$18.49 per acre, 14% reported a rental rate between \$18.50 and \$21.99 per acre, and 15% of the respondents reported a rental rate of \$22 or more per acre.

If you are interested in a rate quotation for a specific operation in an area which shows a small number of reports, consider rates for other areas of the state where the operation is more common or refer to the statewide summary. Additional adjustments for field size and soil type may be necessary.

Reporting Regions

Area rates are summarized for the State of Oklahoma as shown in the map above. Regional differences are apparent in the rate table with higher rates prevailing when:

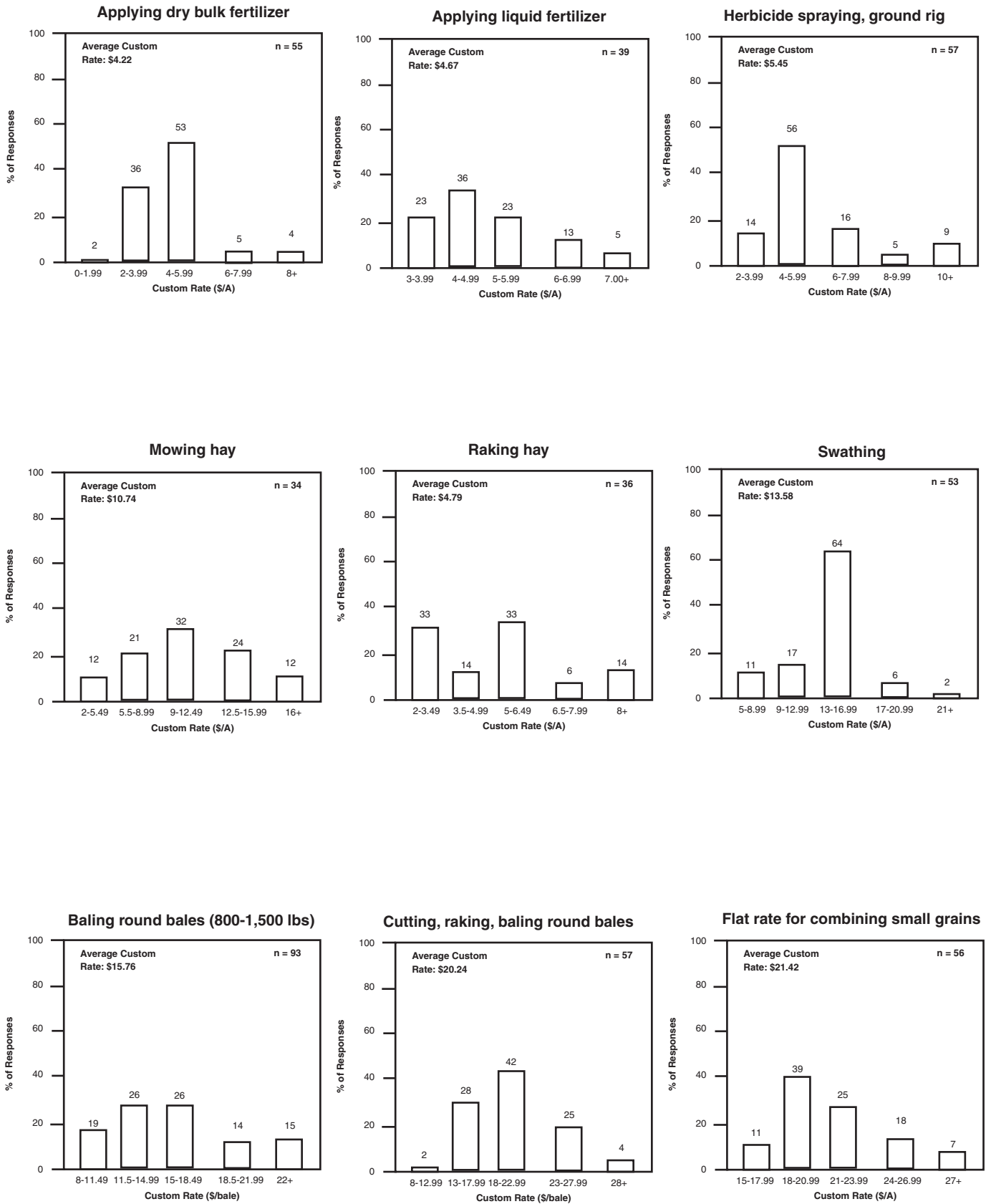
- Fields are small.
- Soils are heavy.
- Slopes are steep.
- Machines are scarce.
- Custom operators are not available.

Rates tend to be lower than expected when exchange work is common between relatives and neighbors. Under these

OPERATION	OKLAHOMA*				WEST				CENTRAL				EAST				
	No.	Avg.	Low	High	No.	Avg.	Low	High	No.	Avg.	Low	High	No.	Avg.	Low	High	
TILLAGE																	
Moldboard plowing	\$/acre	7	18.57	15.00	25.00					6	17.50	15.00	21.00				
Chisel plowing	\$/acre	20	11.90	8.50	16.00	8	11.69	10.00	16.00	9	12.17	8.50	15.00				
Surface chisel	\$/acre	11	10.86	6.00	16.50	5	11.80	8.00	16.50	5	10.10	6.00	13.00				
Discing stubble	\$/acre	26	10.15	4.00	16.00	9	11.22	9.50	14.00	10	10.30	5.00	15.00	2	7.00	6.00	8.00
Discing shallow	\$/acre	19	10.00	6.00	18.00	5	10.20	9.00	12.00	9	10.11	6.00	18.00	2	10.00	8.00	12.00
Blade or wide sweeps	\$/acre	11	10.95	6.00	18.00	7	10.64	8.00	13.50	3	13.33	10.00	18.00				
Spike tooth harrow	\$/acre	9	6.50	4.00	10.00	4	5.38	4.00	6.50	4	8.25	5.00	10.00				
Field cultivating	\$/acre	13	8.62	6.00	15.00	2	8.00	7.00	9.00	8	9.25	6.00	15.00				
Subsoiling	\$/acre	10	17.20	15.00	20.00	4	16.00	15.00	18.00	4	17.50	15.00	20.00				
FERTILIZER AND CHEMICAL APPLICATION																	
Applying bulk dry fertilizer	\$/acre	55	4.22	1.60	15.00	13	3.96	2.00	4.75	22	4.70	2.00	15.00	8	4.06	3.50	5.00
Renting bulk dry applicator	\$/acre	6	2.42	1.00	5.00					3	3.00	2.00	5.00				
Applying liquid fertilizer	\$/acre	39	4.67	3.00	9.00	15	4.37	3.50	6.00	10	5.15	3.00	9.00	4	5.08	4.00	6.32
Applying anhydrous	\$/acre	11	10.45	4.00	15.00	2	10.50	10.00	11.00	6	11.67	8.00	15.00				
Lime application	\$/acre	9	10.44	4.00	18.00					4	13.00	12.00	15.00	2	12.50	7.00	18.00
Lime application	\$/ton	5	13.60	8.00	25.00					3	16.00	8.00	25.00				
Ground appl., insect, fung.	\$/acre	18	4.93	3.50	10.00	7	4.46	3.75	6.00	5	5.50	4.00	10.00	3	5.00	5.00	5.00
Ground spraying for weeds	\$/acre	57	5.45	2.30	15.00	15	5.07	3.50	12.00	18	5.89	2.30	15.00	14	5.36	4.00	10.00
Aircraft spraying for weeds	\$/acre	11	7.41	3.00	14.00	3	6.00	5.00	8.00	5	7.70	3.00	13.00	2	5.50	4.00	7.00
PLANTING																	
Air seeder with fertilizer	\$/acre	12	15.88	10.00	22.00	6	15.58	12.00	22.00	4	17.75	15.00	20.00				
Air seeder without fertilizer	\$/acre	9	14.00	11.00	18.00	4	14.13	12.00	15.50	2	15.00	12.00	18.00				
Drill small grains, conventional	\$/acre	27	10.44	6.00	16.00	10	11.55	9.50	15.00	10	11.00	8.00	16.00	2	8.00	6.00	10.00
Drill small grains, no-till	\$/acre	23	13.22	4.00	20.00	7	15.57	12.00	2.00	12	12.83	4.50	18.00	3	9.67	4.00	13.00
Sod drill small grains into bermuda	\$/acre	6	12.50	10.00	18.00					3	13.33	10.00	18.00	3	11.67	10.00	13.00
Drill alfalfa and other legumes	\$/acre	10	14.50	10.00	24.00	2	15.00	15.00	15.00	7	14.29	10.00	24.00				
Broadcasting Seed	\$/acre	5	5.20	4.00	7.00					4	5.50	5.00	7.00				
Planting cotton	\$/acre	10	14.00	10.00	20.00	4	12.75	10.00	20.00	5	15.40	12.00	18.00				
Plant corn, conventional	\$/acre	7	14.57	9.00	20.00					5	16.60	14.00	20.00				
Plant corn, no-till	\$/acre	8	15.56	10.00	22.00					6	17.42	14.00	22.00				
Plant grain sorghum, conventional	\$/acre	7	14.71	10.00	18.00	3	13.33	10.00	15.00	4	15.75	14.00	18.00				
Plant grain sorghum, no-till	\$/acre	7	14.64	10.00	20.00	2	10.00	10.00	10.00	5	16.50	14.00	20.00				
Plant soybeans, conventional	\$/acre	9	14.33	9.00	20.00	2	15.00	10.00	20.00	5	15.60	14.00	18.00				
Plant soybeans, no-till	\$/acre	10	13.75	10.00	20.00					5	16.50	14.00	20.00	3	11.67	10.00	13.00
HAYING																	
Mowing hay	\$/acre	34	10.74	2.00	20.00	5	13.80	10.00	20.00	16	11.38	2.00	16.00	9	7.56	2.00	16.00
Raking hay	\$/acre	36	4.79	2.00	10.00	3	6.67	5.00	10.00	18	4.17	2.00	7.00	10	5.90	2.00	10.00
Swathing	\$/acre	53	13.58	5.00	22.00	17	15.26	12.50	22.00	22	13.41	7.50	18.00	4	10.00	5.00	15.00
Cutting to stacking for one ton	\$/ton	7	39.24	15.69	60.00					2	35.00	30.00	40.00	4	36.17	15.69	50.00
Small square bales																	
Baling small square bales	\$/bale	26	1.32	0.40	2.50	2	0.63	0.50	0.75	12	1.53	0.60	2.50	6	1.21	0.40	2.00
Cutting to stacking for a small square bale	\$/bale	9	4.18	2.00	11.50					3	5.67	2.50	11.50	5	3.52	2.00	6.00
Flat rate for hauling small square bale	\$/bale	13	0.91	0.65	1.25					8	0.89	0.75	1.00				
Base rate for hauling small square bale	\$/bale	5	1.13	0.65	1.50					3	1.33	1.00	1.50				
extra charge per bale	\$/bale	5	0.24	0.03	0.50					3	0.37	0.10	0.50				
for a distance over XX miles	miles	5	6.20	2.00	20.00					3	8.67	3.00	20.00				
Large square bales (4'X4'X8')																	
Baling a large square bale (4'X4'X8')	\$/bale	14	17.25	11.00	24.00	4	17.63	14.50	20.00	5	17.00	15.00	20.00	3	18.33	11.00	24.00
Large round bales (800 to 1500 lb.)																	
Baling a large round bale (800-1500 lb.)	\$/bale	93	15.76	8.00	26.00	17	14.97	10.00	22.00	30	15.57	8.50	26.00	23	16.27	8.00	24.75
Baling a giant round bale (1500-3000 lb.)	\$/bale	16	15.44	8.00	24.00	3	14.00	13.00	15.00	12	16.17	8.00	24.00				
Cutting, raking, baling large round bales	\$/bale	57	20.24	8.00	30.00					24	21.48	14.00	30.00	21	19.12	8.00	26.00
Flat rate for hauling a large round bale (800-1500 lb.)	\$/bale	18	5.78	2.00	10.00					10	6.20	2.00	10.00	4	5.75	3.00	10.00
Base rate for hauling a large round bale (800-1500 lb.)	\$/bale	16	4.56	2.50	7.00					8	4.81	3.50	7.00	5	3.90	2.50	5.00
extra charge per bale	\$/bale	16	2.01	0.10	5.00					8	2.33	0.10	5.00	5	1.72	0.10	5.00
for a distance over XX miles	miles	16	7.06	2.00	20.00					8	7.88	2.00	20.00	5	5.20	3.00	10.00
SMALL GRAIN AND SOYBEAN HARVEST																	
Combining wheat & small grains (flat rate)	\$/acre	56	21.42	15.00	30.00	11	20.64	17.00	25.00	21	22.52	15.00	30.00	8	21.31	18.00	27.50
Swathing small grains	\$/acre	7	14.86	8.00	25.00					4	15.25	15.00	16.00				
Base rate for combining small grain	\$/acre	28	21.61	18.00	27.00	16	21.06	18.00	25.00	7	23.29	21.00	27.00				
extra charge per bushel	\$/bu.	28	0.21	0.18	0.25	16	0.21	0.18	0.25	7	0.22	0.20	0.25				
for excess over XX bushels/acre	bu./acre	28	20.39	15.00	30.00	16	20.63	20.00	30.00	7	20.71	20.00	25.00				
Small grains (fieldwork through harvesting)	\$/acre	6	86.67	20.00	150.00					3	113.33	90.00	150.00				
Combining soybeans (flat rate)	\$/acre	11	25.18	20.00	31.00					3	29.33	27.00	31.00	5	23.80	20.00	27.50
Flat rate for hauling small grains, soybeans	\$/bu.	22	0.22	0.18	0.30	11	0.21	0.18	0.24	6	0.23	0.18	0.30				
Base rate for hauling small grains, soybeans	\$/bu.	9	0.23	0.19	0.25	2	0.22	0.19	0.25	4	0.23	0.20	0.25				
extra charge per bushel	\$/bu.	9	0.10	0.01	0.21	2	0.03	0.01	0.05	4	0.12	0.02	0.21				
for excess over XX miles	miles	9	13.11	3.00	30.00	2	10.00	5.00	15.00	4	9.50	3.00	20.00				
CORN, GRAIN SORGHUM HARVEST																	
Combining corn (flat rate)	\$/acre	12	26.13	20.00	30.00					6	26.17	20.00	30.00	3	27.50	25.00	30.00
Base rate for combining grain sorghum	\$/bu.	6	24.17	18.00	30.00	3	22.67	18.00	30.00	3	25.67	22.00	30.00				
extra charge per bushel	\$/bu.	6	0.22	0.15	0.30	3	0.23	0.18	0.30	3	0.21	0.15	0.25				
for excess over XX bushels/acre	bu./acre	6	30.83	15.00	50.00	3	43.33	30.00	50.00	3	18.33	15.00	20.00				

OPERATION	OKLAHOMA*				WEST				CENTRAL				EAST				
	No.	Avg.	Low	High	No.	Avg.	Low	High	No.	Avg.	Low	High	No.	Avg.	Low	High	
LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS																	
Spraying	\$/head	12	1.88	0.30	4.00					4	2.25	1.00	4.00	3	1.27	0.30	3.00
Dehorning	\$/head	15	3.35	0.50	8.00					7	3.00	0.50	7.00	4	3.50	1.00	8.00
Branding	\$/head	15	2.27	0.50	5.00					8	2.25	0.50	5.00	3	1.83	1.00	2.50
Castrating	\$/head	22	2.86	0.50	8.00	2	4.50	4.00	5.00	9	2.72	0.50	5.00	6	2.83	1.00	8.00
Worming	\$/head	22	3.44	1.00	10.00					10	3.95	1.00	10.00	7	3.29	1.00	5.00
Artificial insemination	\$/head	7	12.07	5.00	20.00	2	10.00	10.00	10.00	3	11.67	5.00	20.00				
MISCELLANEOUS																	
Picking up pecans (% for owner)	%	9	44.78	33.00	50.00					3	46.67	40.00	50.00	4	43.25	33.00	50.00
Welding	\$/hour	27	34.48	12.00	75.00					14	36.57	12.00	75.00	8	34.38	20.00	50.00
Building new fence with materials (5-wire, steel posts)	\$/mile	19	4545	1500	8500					7	3457	1500	6000	5	4950	1750	8500
Building new fence w/o materials (5-wire, steel posts)	\$/mile	15	2475	600	5280	2	2250	2000	2500	6	2170	600	5280	4	2425	1400	4200
Digging line fence post holes	\$/hole	8	7.38	1.00	20.00					2	5.50	5.00	6.00	2	3.00	1.00	5.00
Brush hogging	\$/hour	20	40.25	10.00	75.00					8	36.13	10.00	75.00	6	34.67	20.00	50.00
Dozing (D6 or smaller)	\$/hour	28	92.14	50.00	140.00					13	92.31	50.00	140.00	6	85.00	65.00	125.00
Dozing (D7 or larger)	\$/hour	18	102.50	50.00	175.00					5	102.00	85.00	150.00	7	103.57	50.00	175.00
Clearing cedar trees	\$/hour	14	84.64	45.00	150.00					8	103.13	45.00	150.00	2	50.00	50.00	50.00
Sawing wood, chainsaw	\$/hour	8	14.38	10.00	30.00					4	17.50	10.00	30.00	3	11.67	10.00	15.00
Hauling cattle flat truck, capacity Per mile (one-way load)	lb. \$/mile	12	37750	14000	52000	3	40333	31000	50000	7	34286	14000	50000				
Hauling cattle belly semi-truck, capacity Per mile (one-way load)	lb. \$/mile	16	49953	45000	60000	6	49167	45000	50000	7	49893	48000	55250				
Gooseneck trailer, length capacity	feet lb.	24	26.71	20.00	40.00					14	26.79	16.00	40.00	4	22.00	20.00	24.00
rate per mile	\$/mile	24	16500	8000	37000					14	18286	8000	37000	4	10250	9000	12000
	\$/mile	24	2.83	1.00	5.00					14	2.88	1.00	5.00	4	3.33	1.50	5.00
TRACTOR RENTAL																	
2 wheel drive-between 100 and 150 hp	\$/hour	5	53.00	40.00	75.00					4	53.75	40.00	75.00				
MACHINERY RENTAL																	
No-till drill	\$/acre	9	8.06	4.00	15.00					4	9.13	4.50	15.00	3	8.00	4.00	10.00

Figure 1. Relative frequency of responses for selected operations, 2011-2012.



circumstances, fixed costs of ownership such as depreciation and interest on investment (sometimes even labor) tend to be discounted when a rate is established for a particular job.

Custom Service vs. Ownership

Individual circumstances—cash flow, ownership and operating costs, labor availability, reliability and timeliness of custom operators, pride of ownership—will influence an individual's decision on whether to buy or lease machinery and equipment or custom hire work done. A worksheet at the end of this article is designed to help evaluate the cost of machinery ownership and operation. Software to help evaluate the cost of owning and operating farm machinery is available online at agmach.okstate.edu.

Possible Advantages of Using Custom Operations

- Ownership costs are avoided.
- Capital and labor can be channeled to other uses.
- Machine use can be readily adjusted to changes in crop mix and market conditions.
- Specialized operations may benefit from experience and skilled operator.
- Jobs may be completed faster using several machines.

Possible Disadvantages of Using Custom Operations

- Service may not be available at the best time.
- Reliability of the custom operator may not be known.
- Rates may be excessive in special situations.

Each manager must choose the best combination of owned and hired machines. The quotations here will be helpful in estimating custom costs and to provide a base figure for agreement on a rate when well established local rates are not available. If you have questions, ask your Extension Educator- Agriculture or Area Agricultural Economics Specialist for additional information.

Considerations to Keep in Mind

Keep in mind there is a wide variation in rates charged for most jobs, even within the same geographic area, partly because some custom work is done for friends, relatives, and neighbors at reduced rates, partly because *some* custom work is done late by farmers who do their own work first and therefore do not attempt to include the full cost of machine ownership in their rates, and partly because it is easy to under-estimate the full cost of ownership and operation of machinery.

A small number of reports for a given machine in a particular area may not be representative. In this case, it is particularly important to check rates in other areas or statewide where a larger number of reports are found.

Costs of Ownership and Operation

The management decision to own a machine, to custom hire operations performed, or to custom perform operations is partially determined by cost, which is heavily influenced by the amount of use realized over the period of machine ownership. Estimates of fixed and variable costs per hour can be approximated using the following steps. Unless accurate records are used to estimate costs, variability in machine and operator efficiencies can cause actual results to be significantly different from estimated results.

A. Acres per hour = Acres covered in normal day ÷ hours in normal day = _____ acres ÷ _____ hours = _____

B. Average investment = (Original cost + Trade-in value) ÷ 2 = (\$ _____ + \$ _____) ÷ 2 = \$ _____

C. Depreciation = $\frac{\text{Annual Original cost} - \text{Trade-in value}}{\text{Number of years owned}}$ = (\$ _____ - \$ _____) ÷ _____ years = \$ _____

D. Interest = Average Investment x Interest rate = \$ _____ x _____% = \$ _____

E. Taxes = Average Investment x Tax rate (1) = \$ _____ x _____% = \$ _____

F. Insurance = Average Investment x Insurance rate (2) = \$ _____ x _____% = \$ _____

G. Total Annual Ownership Costs (Sum of C through F) = \$ _____

H. Costs per acre = $\frac{\text{Ownership Annual Costs}}{\text{Acres Per Year}}$ = \$ _____ ÷ _____ acres/year = \$ _____

I. Per acre = $\frac{\text{Repairs (3) Acres}}{\text{Per Year}}$ = \$ _____ ÷ _____ acres/year = \$ _____

J. Per acre = $\frac{\text{Fuel Cost Fuel Gallons}}{\text{Price x Per Hour} \div \text{Per Hour}}$ = (\$ _____/gal. x _____ gal./hour) ÷ _____ acres/hour = \$ _____

K. Per acre = $\frac{\text{Labor costs Daily}}{\text{Wage} \div \text{Per day}}$ = \$ _____/day ÷ _____ acres/day = \$ _____

L. Total Cost Per Acre = Sum of items H through K above = \$ _____

- (1) Use local tax rate if known. One to two percent is a reasonable "guesstimate".
- (2) Use own insurance rate if known. One-half to one percent is a reasonable "guesstimate".
- (3) Use your repair expense data, if available. One percent of original price for each year machine is kept is a rough estimate; e.g., 10% per year if machine is to be used for 10 years.

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

Bringing the University to You!

The Cooperative Extension Service is the largest, most successful informal educational organization in the world. It is a nationwide system funded and guided by a partnership of federal, state, and local governments that delivers information to help people help themselves through the land-grant university system.

Extension carries out programs in the broad categories of agriculture, natural resources and environment; family and consumer sciences; 4-H and other youth; and community resource development. Extension staff members live and work among the people they serve to help stimulate and educate Americans to plan ahead and cope with their problems.

Some characteristics of the Cooperative Extension system are:

- The federal, state, and local governments cooperatively share in its financial support and program direction.
- It is administered by the land-grant university as designated by the state legislature through an Extension director.
- Extension programs are nonpolitical, objective, and research-based information.
- It provides practical, problem-oriented education for people of all ages. It is designated to take the knowledge of the university to those persons who do not or cannot participate in the formal classroom instruction of the university.
- It utilizes research from university, government, and other sources to help people make their own decisions.
- More than a million volunteers help multiply the impact of the Extension professional staff.
- It dispenses no funds to the public.
- It is not a regulatory agency, but it does inform people of regulations and of their options in meeting them.
- Local programs are developed and carried out in full recognition of national problems and goals.
- The Extension staff educates people through personal contacts, meetings, demonstrations, and the mass media.
- Extension has the built-in flexibility to adjust its programs and subject matter to meet new needs. Activities shift from year to year as citizen groups and Extension workers close to the problems advise changes.

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