



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



# Custom Rates for 2024

## Wisconsin Farm Operations

In this report, we present the 2024 Wisconsin custom rates to facilitate negotiations because many farms rely on custom agricultural services. These rates are based on the 2024 Wisconsin Custom Rate Survey of Wisconsin farmers, farm managers and custom operators. This online survey launched in March 2025 and had 161 respondents who performed, hired or had knowledge of 2024 custom rates in Wisconsin. On average, 48% of respondents performed custom work, 31% paid for it, and 21% had knowledge of it. For this report, we excluded custom operations with insufficient responses and dropped survey responses from other states. The custom rates reported in this survey include fuel cost unless otherwise stated. In these tables, Average is the simple average of all reported rates, Range is the minimum and maximum reported values, and Responses is the number of usable responses.

To adjust rates for inflation, we suggest using either the percentage increase for a comparable operation between the 2024 and 2025 Iowa Custom Rate Surveys<sup>1</sup> or the USDA's Prices Paid Index for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW)<sup>2</sup>. For example, the custom rate for hay mowing in Iowa was \$13.85/acre in 2024 and \$14.00/acre in 2025, a  $(14.00 - 13.85)/13.85 = 1.1\%$  increase. To adjust the 2024 Wisconsin hay mowing rate of \$16.20/acre for inflation to 2025, multiplying by 1.011 (1+1.1%) gives an estimated rate of \$16.38/acre. The PPITW index for April 2024 was 140.3 and 148.4 for April 2025, for an increase of  $(148.4 - 140.3)/140.3 = 5.8\%$ , which gives a rate of \$17.14/acre. These differences indicate the inexact nature of inflation adjustments, and we suggest using these calculations as starting points for negotiation. Also, actual rates in 2025 will differ from those listed in this report due to many other factors that vary as well, such as fuel costs, equipment availability and age, operator skill and experience, field size and shape, and soil and crop conditions.

To all survey respondents, we are grateful for your participation. We will conduct the 2026 Custom Rates Survey next year. If you would like to be contacted for that survey, please reach out to Silva Gaku, the Extension Farm Financial Management Outreach Specialist at [silva.gaku@wisc.edu](mailto:silva.gaku@wisc.edu), 920-342-3180, or <https://go.wisc.edu/silvagaku/>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-10.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/c821gj76b?locale=en>

**Table 1 Custom Land Tillage Services (\$/acre), 2024**

	<b>Average</b>	<b>Range</b>		<b>Responses</b>
Chisel Plowing	21.69	12.00	30.00	16
Disk with Ripper	21.92	10.00	30.00	12
Disking with Harrow or Cultipacker	21.88	16.00	30.00	8
Field Cultivating	17.80	10.00	30.00	20
Vertical Tillage	21.02	14.00	30.00	21
Finishing Disk	20.46	10.00	29.10	11
Offset Disk	20.33	15.00	27.00	6
Row Cultivating	19.22	12.00	40.00	8
Row Cultivating with Fertilizer	22.39	15.00	50.00	7
Subsoiling (16-20 inches deep)	26.22	18.00	35.00	10
Strip Tillage	29.90	18.00	50.00	10

**Table 2 Custom Drilling Services (\$/acre), 2024**

	<b>Average</b>	<b>Range</b>		<b>Responses</b>
Conventional				
Alfalfa	18.57	10.00	28.00	15
Soybeans	19.15	13.00	26.00	17
Small Grains	20.41	10.00	32.00	16
No till				
Alfalfa	22.71	14.00	30.00	14
Soybeans	22.40	15.00	30.00	21
Small Grains	22.75	15.00	32.00	24
Without Fertilizer				
Small Grains	20.50	14.00	30.00	6
Tilling and Seeding	29.60	20.00	50.00	5

**Table 3 Custom Seeding and Planting Services (\$/acre), 2024**

	Average	Range		Responses
Conventional				
Aerial Seeding	19.00	15.00	24.00	9
Corn	24.92	18.00	32.00	12
Small Grains	23.43	14.00	40.00	7
Soybeans	25.56	14.00	40.00	9
Air Seeding (without Fertilizer)	22.71	18.00	28.00	7
Corn	25.40	20.00	30.00	5
Small Grains	20.44	13.00	25.00	9
Soybeans	23.09	14.00	25.00	11
Broadcasting Seed	13.29	7.00	20.00	7
Planting				
Alfalfa, Clover, etc.	21.73	15.00	28.00	11
Corn (with Fertilizer)	24.99	18.00	35.00	31
Corn (without Fertilizer)	23.36	14.00	35.00	14
Forages	20.71	15.00	25.00	7
Small Grains	22.00	15.00	25.00	8
No Till				
Aerial Seeding	19.14	15.00	25.00	7
Corn	26.11	22.00	32.00	9
Soybeans	26.86	20.00	45.00	7
Air Seeding (without Fertilizer)	21.50	18.00	30.00	6
Corn	23.86	18.00	30.00	7
Soybeans	24.44	18.00	30.00	9
Broadcasting Seed	14.60	7.00	20.00	5
Planting				
Alfalfa, Clover, etc.	22.12	18.00	30.00	8
Corn (with Fertilizer)	25.02	17.00	33.00	26
Corn (without Fertilizer)	22.54	14.00	28.00	12
Forages	23.25	20.00	30.00	6
Small Grains	23.55	15.00	30.00	10

**Table 4 Custom Application of Fertilizers and Chemicals (\$/acre), 2024**

	Average	Range		Responses
Fertilizer				
Bulk Dry Broadcast	8.90	5.75	17.00	43
Liquid Broadcast	9.00	4.50	10.50	11
Liquid Side-Dressing with Drop Nozzles	13.35	8.00	17.50	20
Lime Application (\$/acre)	17.14	12.00	31.00	7
Lime Application (\$/ton)	20.41	5.00	65.00	11
Fungicide Ground Application	11.90	8.00	20.00	41
Herbicide				
Boom Sprayer	11.48	6.75	40.00	42
Broadcast or Banded (only)	9.66	6.75	11.50	8

**Table 5 Custom Harvesting and Combining Services – Flat Rate (\$/acre), 2024**

	Average	Range		Responses
Combining by Commodity				
Corn	38.39	26.00	76.00	46
Soybeans	37.13	26.00	55.00	46
Small Grains from Swath	39.17	32.00	46.00	6
Small Grains Straight	36.80	26.00	46.00	30
Harvest				
Corn	41.71	30.00	50.00	7
Combine, grain cart, haul local to farm	47.36	35.00	65.00	14
Corn Stalks, large bales (\$/bale)	13.90	10.50	17.00	5
Soybeans (Combine, grain cart, haul local to farm)	47.07	35.00	65.00	14
Wheat (Combine, grain cart, haul local to farm)	46.50	38.00	65.00	8

**Table 6 Custom Forage Harvesting Operations, 2024**

	Average	Range		Responses
\$/acre				
Mowing hay	16.20	13.00	22.00	10
Mowing and conditioning hay	15.42	10.00	20.00	19
Raking hay	9.46	4.00	16.00	12
Tedding hay	10.57	5.50	18.00	10
Windrowing hay	12.58	10.00	17.50	6
Round Bales	11.29	8.00	16.00	7
Small Bales	10.86	8.00	12.00	7
Large Bales (>1500 pounds)	12.07	8.00	15.00	10
4x5	10.75	8.00	12.00	8
Large (>250 pounds)	10.90	8.50	16.00	10
\$/hour				
Chopping Only	789.79	300.00	1100.00	7
Self-Propelled Chopper	887.40	707.00	1000.00	5
1-man 1 truck	132.74	113.70	150.00	5

**Table 7 Custom Crop Hauling and Trucking, 2024**

	Average	Range		Responses
Dollars (\$) per bushel				
Corn	0.17	0.08	0.29	32
Soybeans	0.18	0.10	0.29	27
Wheat	0.18	0.10	0.25	15
Maximum One-Way Mileage				
Corn	22.00	10.00	50.00	15
Soybeans	21.69	10.00	50.00	13
Wheat	20.83	10.00	50.00	6
Extra Charge (\$/bushel) per 10 Miles Over Base Mileage				
Corn	0.05	0.02	0.10	6
Soybeans	0.05	0.02	0.10	5

**Table 8 Miscellaneous Custom Services, 2024**

	Average	Range		Responses
Corn Drying				
\$/bushel	0.10	0.02	0.20	6
\$/bushel/point	0.06	0.04	0.07	8
Manure Services				
Liquid Manure applied by drag line (\$/1000 gallon)	14.90	10.00	30.00	10
Machine Rental				
Skid steer loader (\$/hour)	50.83	35.00	85.00	6