



Custom Rates for 2025

Wisconsin Farm Operations

This report summarizes the 2025 Wisconsin custom rates and is intended to provide a reference for farmers, custom operators, and landowners when discussing and negotiating charges for custom agricultural services. Because many Wisconsin farms depend on custom work for field operations, current rate information can serve as a useful starting point during these discussions.

Launched in March 2026, the survey received responses from 135 Wisconsin farmers, farm managers and custom operators who either provided custom services, hired them, or were familiar with prevailing custom rates during the 2025 production season. Among respondents, approximately 16% performed custom work, 31% hired custom services, 13% had knowledge about custom rates and 40% did not indicate whether they performed, hired or knew about rates. Responses from operations with too few observations were excluded from the analysis. The reported rates include fuel costs. For each custom operation, the tables report five statistics:

- Average – the arithmetic mean of all reported rates.
- Range – the lowest and highest reported rates.
- Median – the middle-reported rate after ordering all observations.
- Responses – the number of usable survey responses included in the estimate.
- Percent change (% change) – the percentage difference between the current year's average rate and the corresponding average rate reported in the previous survey.

Custom rates may change over time as input costs, labor expenses, and machinery cost fluctuate. Users wishing to estimate rates for 2026 may adjust the reported values using either (1) the percentage change for comparable operations reported in the Iowa Custom Rate Survey from 2025 to 2026 or (2) the USDA Prices Paid Index for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW). For example, the custom rate for chisel plowing in Iowa was \$19.65/acre in 2025 and \$20.75/acre in 2026, a 5.6% $((20.75 - 19.65)/19.65)$ increase. Adjusting the 2025 Wisconsin chisel plowing rate of \$22.13/acre for inflation yields an estimated rate of \$23.37/acre for 2026 after multiplying by 1.056 $(1+5.6\%)$. The PPITW indices for May 2025 and May 2026 were 149.3 and 163.7 respectively. Accounting for this 9.6% $((163.7 - 149.3)/149.3)$ increase gives a rate of \$24.25/acre.

These adjustment methods provide approximate estimates and should be viewed as starting points for negotiations rather than fixed recommendations. Actual rates will continue to vary depending on local conditions, including fuel prices, machinery ownership and age, equipment availability, operator experience, field size and shape, crop type, soil conditions, and supply and demand for custom services.

We sincerely thank everyone who participated in the 2026 Wisconsin Custom Rate Survey. Your contributions provide valuable information that benefits Wisconsin's agricultural community.

The 2027 Wisconsin Custom Rate Survey will be conducted next year. If you would like to participate or be added to our contact list for future surveys, please contact Silva Gaku, Farm Financial Management Outreach Specialist, at silva.gaku@wisc.edu, 920-342-3180, or go.wisc.edu/silvagaku.

Table 1 Custom Land Tillage Services (\$/acre), 2025

	Average	Range		Median	Responses	% Change
Chisel Plowing	22.13	14.00	35.00	22.00	15	2%
Disk/ripper	25.00	18.00	35.00	24.00	9	14%
Disking with Harrow or Cultipacker	22.14	18.00	32.00	20.00	7	1%
Field Cultivating	18.82	10.00	32.00	18.00	17	6%
Vertical tillage	21.67	11.00	30.00	25.00	15	3%
Finishing disk	18.80	15.00	28.00	17.00	5	-8%
Offset Disk	21.75	15.00	32.00	20.00	4	7%
Subsoiling (16-20 in. deep)	25.14	20.00	35.00	24.00	7	-4%

Table 2 Custom Drilling Services (\$/acre), 2025

	Average	Range		Median	Responses	% Change
Conventional						
Alfalfa	21.28	15.00	30.00	22.00	16	15%
Soybeans	21.04	15.00	30.00	22.00	13	10%
Small Grains	22.42	15.00	30.00	22.00	12	10%
No Till						
Alfalfa	21.89	15.00	25.00	23.25	14	-4%
Soybeans	22.59	15.00	35.00	22.50	11	1%
Small Grains	22.29	15.00	35.00	22.25	14	-2%
Without Fertilizer						
Small Grains	22.80	16.00	30.00	23.00	10	11%

Table 3 Custom Seeding and Planting Services (\$/acre), 2025

	Average	Range		Median	Responses	% Change
Conventional						
Corn with fertilizer	25.41	15.00	37.50	25.00	17	2%
Soybeans with fertilizer	26.42	15.00	37.50	25.50	6	—
Corn without fertilizer	23.22	10.00	35.00	25.00	9	-1%
Soybeans without fertilizer	24.50	10.00	35.00	25.00	8	—
No Till						
Corn with fertilizer	27.18	17.50	35.00	28.00	19	9%
Soybeans with fertilizer	30.00	25.00	35.00	30.00	5	—
Corn without fertilizer	26.38	15.00	40.00	25.50	8	17%
Soybeans without fertilizer	25.86	17.00	35.00	25.00	7	—

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

	Average	Range		Median	Responses	% Change
Fertilizer						
Bulk Dry - Broadcast	9.89	6.00	25.00	9.00	26	11%
Liquid - Broadcast	12.61	8.00	20.00	11.00	9	40%
Liquid - Side-Dressing with Drop Nozzles	15.88	11.25	30.00	15.00	10	19%
Lime Application (\$/ton)	31.71	10.00	75.00	22.00	7	55%
Fungicide Ground Application	12.17	9.00	25.00	11.00	16	2%
Herbicide						
Boom Sprayer	11.01	8.00	18.00	10.50	29	-4%
Broadcast or Banded (only) -liquid	13.50	10.00	20.00	13.00	6	40%

Table 5 Custom Harvesting and Combing Services – Flat Rate (\$/acre), 2025

	Average	Range		Median	Responses	% Change
Combining by Commodity						
Corn	38.47	26.00	55.00	38.00	34	0%
Small Grains from Swath	35.38	24.00	42.00	36.50	8	-10%
Small Grains Straight	37.12	25.00	50.00	38.00	17	1%
Soybeans	38.45	26.00	55.00	38.00	29	4%
Harvest						
Corn (Combine, grain cart, haul local to farm)	51.08	33.00	75.00	44.00	13	8%
Corn (Corn Stalks, large bales (\$/bale))	17.17	10.00	25.00	16.00	6	24%
Soybeans (Combine, grain cart, haul local to farm)	50.27	32.00	75.00	45.00	11	7%
Wheat (Combine, grain cart, haul local to farm)	48.18	32.00	75.00	42.00	11	4%
Swathing	17.75	13.00	28.00	15.00	4	—

Table 6 Custom Forage Harvesting Operations, 2025

	Average	Range		Median	Responses	% Change
\$/acre						
Mowing hay	18.27	13.00	25.00	17.00	11	13%
Mowing & conditioning hay	16.48	12.00	22.00	16.50	15	7%
Raking hay	11.77	5.00	18.00	12.00	11	24%
Tedding hay	9.83	5.00	18.00	10.00	9	-7%
Windrowing hay	13.40	10.00	17.00	13.25	10	7%
\$/bale						
Round Bales						
Small Bales	11.83	7.50	16.00	12.00	9	9%
Large Bales (>1500 pounds)	11.43	8.00	15.00	11.00	7	-5%
4x5	11.83	7.50	16.00	12.00	9	10%
5x6	13.40	8.00	20.00	12.00	5	—
Square Bales						
Large (>250 pounds)	13.22	8.00	16.50	14.00	9	21%
Other Harvest Services						
Moving large round bales from field to storage	4.00	1.50	5.00	4.75	4	—
\$/hour						
Chopping Only	801.25	275.00	1390.00	775.00	24	1%
Chopping and Hauling Only	785.00	450.00	1025.00	832.50	4	—
Self-Propelled Chopper	798.46	275.00	1050.00	850.00	13	-10%

Table 7 Custom Crop Hauling and Trucking, 2025

	Average	Range	Median	Responses	% Change	
\$/hour						
Corn silage	135.79	100.00	250.00	125.00	14	—
Silage	131.43	80.00	250.00	125.00	14	—
\$/bushel						
Corn	0.18	0.10	0.35	0.15	14	6%
Soybeans	0.22	0.10	0.50	0.18	15	22%
All Wheat	0.19	0.14	0.35	0.17	10	6%
Maximum One-Way Mileage (\$/bushel)						
Corn	16.14	8.00	25.00	15.00	7	-27%
Soybeans	17.50	10.00	25.00	17.50	4	-19%
All Wheat	17.00	8.00	25.00	17.50	4	-18%
Extra Charge (\$/bushel) per 10 Miles Over Base Mileage						
Corn	0.09	0.04	0.15	0.09	6	80%
Soybeans	0.10	0.05	0.15	0.10	4	100%

Table 8 Miscellaneous Custom Services, 2025

	Average	Range		Median	Responses	% Change
Corn Drying						
\$/bushel/point	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.06	4	0%
Manure Services						
Liquid Manure applied by drag line (\$/1000 gallon)	17.50	10.00	30.00	16.50	7	17%
Loading (\$/hour)	145.90	110.00	157.50	155.00	5	—
Spreading (\$/acre)	147.38	115.00	160.00	157.25	4	—
Agitation boat (\$/hour)	327.86	200.00	400.00	340.00	7	—
Aerating liquid manure in a storage tank (\$/hour)	345.00	300.00	380.00	350.00	4	—
Machine Rental (\$/hour)						
Tractors	52.00	25.00	85.00	49.00	4	—
2-wheel drive, 150-250 hp	71.33	35.00	200.00	44.00	6	—
4-wheel drive, < 175 hp	76.17	42.00	100.00	87.50	6	—
4-wheel drive, > 175 hp	117.44	50.00	250.00	125.00	9	—
Skid steer loader	67.50	25.00	85.00	80.00	4	33%