

# Pa. Ag Department Lists Custom Rates

If you haven't planted all your corn yet you might be thinking about hiring a custom operator to help you finish. If you do, you can plan on paying him \$3.15 an acre for planting without fertilizer, and \$3.55 for planting with fertilizer. And the same for soybeans. At least that's what the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture says in a pamphlet entitled "1973 Machinery Custom Rates."

Most custom rates are higher this year according to the report, up some six percent from a year ago. Rates were computed for two broad areas across the state. The mountain area is made up of the northern and western parts of the state, while the southeastern corner is considered the valley section.

Average rates for some operations are higher in the mountain section and lower in the valley. Other operations are just the reverse, although the price differential was usually less than 10 percent. In some instances, such as drilling small grain with fertilizer, the custom rate was \$3.40 an acre in both sections.

The biggest spread was in field chopping silage with one man, one tractor and two wagons. Farmers in the mountain section can expect to pay \$14.30 an hour for this operation while farmers in the valley section may pay nearly 25 percent more, or \$17.75 an hour.

Here are some average per acre custom rates for typical operations: Corn picking, \$8.40; corn picking and shelling, \$10.65;

corn combining, \$11.15; combining small grains, \$7.90.

Moldboard plowing in stubble will cost \$5.35 an acre in the spring, \$5.50 in the fall. Plowing sod will cost about \$5.90 in the spring, \$6.05 in the fall. Discing will run \$5.40 an acre, harrowing will cost \$3.05 to \$3.10, and cultivating will be about \$3.40.

Planting potatoes should cost about \$5.80 an acre, seeding alfalfa or clover will be about \$2.55 and broadcast seeding on grain fields will run about \$1.90.

Rates for spraying included the cost with materials and the cost without, except for weed control, which was listed only as costing \$2.30 an acre without materials. Spraying for corn borers cost \$4.20 with materials, \$2.45 without. Comparable figures for spittle bug or alfalfa weevil spraying were \$4.05 and \$2.40. For potatoes, the costs were \$6.05 and \$2.85.

The most expensive per-acre rate listed was potato harvesting, at \$65 an acre.

Hay making rates included \$3.05 an acre for mowing, \$4.55 for mowing and conditioning and \$2.25 for raking. Pick up baling cost \$0.12 per bale tied with twine, \$0.15 for wire bales. Cutting, raking, baling and storing commanded a price of \$29 per bale.

A copy of Pamphlet CRS-59 can be had by writing to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Crop Reporting Service, 2301 North Cameron St., Harrisburg, Pa. 17120.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in Pennsylvania and the nation. Ask your heart association for information on stroke prevention.

High blood pressure increases risk of heart attack and stroke. Your heart association urges you to have a medical checkup, including a check on blood pressure.

## Check Pastures After Storms

Almost every livestock pasture has a few wild cherry trees growing along its fences. These trees become deadly livestock killers following summer storms.

The leaves of damaged branches may become sources of deadly cyanide poison. When the leaves wither a normally harmless substance in them changes to deadly hydrocyanic acid and sugar. Cattle and sheep eat the sweet withering leaves with relish. It takes only a few leaves in the proper stage to kill a cow or sheep. Death occurs very rapidly

because the poison interferes with the oxygen-carrying ability of the blood. Treatment is possible, but the animals are usually found dead in the pasture.

The only way to eliminate the danger of wild cherry poisoning is to eliminate the trees. This is best done when the trees are dormant in late fall or early spring. Checking the wild cherry trees for fallen limbs after summer storms is a simple precaution which could save a cow or a whole herd.

Jay W. Irwin  
Associate County Agent

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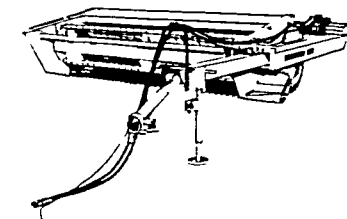
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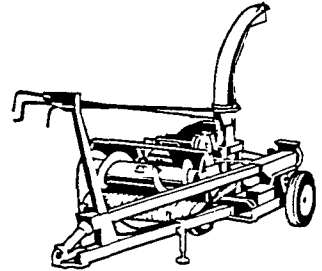
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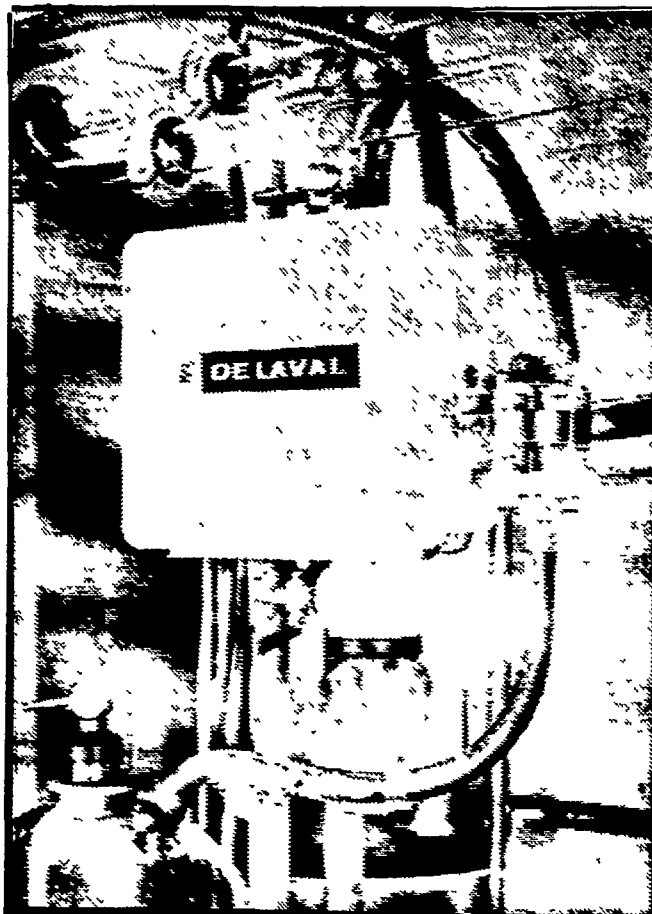
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