

## Machinery Custom Rates

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The custom rates shown are averages from voluntary reports by custom operators and farmers throughout Pennsylvania. Most of the rates are stated per acre, cwt., ton, bale, or bushel rather than per hour to reduce the variation due to machinery size. Individual rates vary due to differences in working conditions, services performed, or even the operator's eagerness to do custom work. Therefore, the average rates shown should not be considered absolute indications of fair charges.

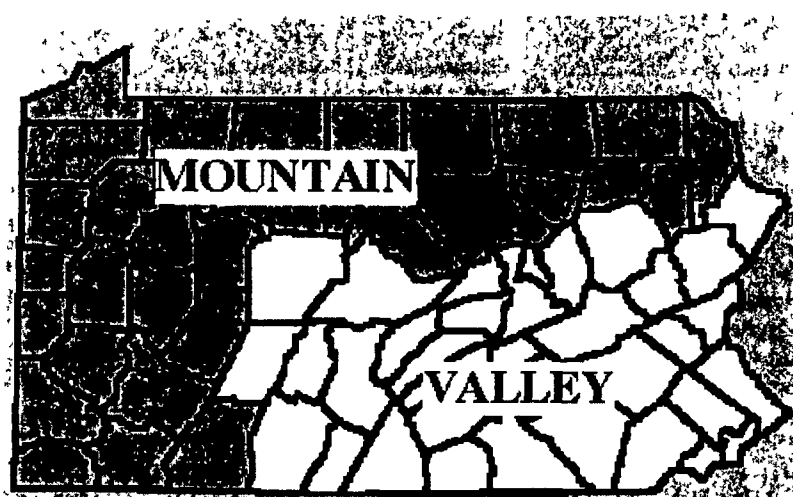
Acreage rates are shown separately for two regions of the state, labeled "Mountain" and "Valley". The differences in rates between regions reflect differences in terrain, soils and alternative opportunities for the labor and equipment used. Figures labeled "State" represent the straight average of all reports used regardless of geographic location.

Of the 72 rates reported with year-to-year comparisons, 53 increased, 10 decreased, and 9 are the same as last year. The overall average is up 3 percent from the previous year. This percentage increase was computed by adding the rates for all jobs, regardless of basis of charge, and dividing by last year's comparable total.

Custom Rates: Selected Farming Operations, Pennsylvania, 2000

Job	Basis of Charge	Mountain Section	Valley Section	State
<b>Harvesting</b>				
Corn Picking	Acre	23.00	21.80	22.30
Corn Combining	Acre	25.70	24.40	24.70
Corn Drying (23 Percent)	Bushel	0.29	0.29	0.29
Combining Small Grains	Acre	23.50	23.20	23.30
Combining Soybeans	Acre	25.50	24.60	24.80
Hay Making				
Mowing	Acre	10.20	9.70	9.90
Mowing & Conditioning	Acre	11.60	11.50	11.50
Raking	Acre	6.20	5.80	6.00
Pick up Baling (Twine)	Bale	0.42	0.39	0.40
Cut, Rake, Bale & Store	Bale	1.10	1.00	1.00
Large Round Baler (Avg. = 900 Lbs)	Bale	6.80	6.00	6.30
Stacker Wagon (Avg. = 1800 Lbs)	Stack	14.80	14.90	14.90
Wrapping Bales	Bale	5.20	5.00	5.10
<b>Stage Making:</b>				
Pull Type Chopper & Tractor	Hour	46.50	47.60	47.40
Self Propelled Chopper	Hour	89.50	95.80	92.70
Blower	Hour	8.50	8.70	8.60
1 Man, 2 Wagons, 1 Tractor	Hour	36.30	36.50	36.40
2 Men, 2 Wagons, 2 Tractors	Hour	57.90	58.00	58.00
Field Chop, Heal & Fill Silo	Ton	8.00	6.20	6.70
Bagging Stage	Foot	5.10	4.40	4.50
<b>Plowing &amp; Cultivating</b>				
<b>Plowing Moldboard Plow</b>				
Spring Stubble	Acre	12.10	12.30	12.20
Sod	Acre	13.40	13.10	13.30
Fall Stubble	Acre	12.40	12.20	12.30
Sod	Acre	13.80	13.20	13.40
Plowing, Deep (10 Inches or More)	Acre	14.20	15.20	15.00
Plowing Chisel	Acre	12.40	12.10	12.20
Plowing Disk	Acre	12.80	12.10	12.30
Disking Tandem	Acre	11.10	11.00	11.00
With Harrow or Cultivator	Acre	12.50	12.60	12.50
<b>Harrowing:</b>				
Spike Tooth	Acre	9.10	8.50	8.80
Spring Tooth	Acre	8.90	9.40	9.20
Cultivating	Acre	8.80	9.30	9.00
<b>Planting &amp; Drilling</b>				
<b>Planting Corn With Fertilizer</b>				
Conventional-Till	Acre	12.10	13.10	12.80
Reduced-Till	Acre	13.70	14.10	13.90
No-Till	Acre	15.00	15.00	15.00
<b>Planting Soybeans, Without Fertilizer</b>				
Conventional-Till	Acre	10.50	12.70	12.20
Reduced-Till	Acre	13.40	14.20	14.00
No-Till	Acre	14.80	15.40	15.40
<b>Drilling Small Grains:</b>				
Without Fertilizer	Acre	9.90	12.40	11.80
With Fertilizer	Acre	11.50	12.80	12.40
With Fertilizer & Cloverseed	Acre	12.20	13.80	13.10
Seeding Alfalfa, Clover, Etc	Acre	11.30	13.50	12.80

# 2000 Machinery Custom Rates



Custom Rates: Selected Farming Operations, Pennsylvania, 2000, Continued

Job	Basis of Charge	Mountain Section	Valley Section	State
<b>Planting &amp; Drilling (Continued)</b>				
Broadcast Seeding (On Grain Fields)	Acre	6.50	7.70	7.20
Cleaning Grain Seed				
With Treatment	Bushel	0.86	1.00	0.86
Without Treatment	Bushel	0.61	0.78	0.69
<b>Spraying</b>				
<b>Ground Equipment:</b>				
Spraying for Weed Control				
Excluding Cost of Material	Acre	7.90	7.10	7.30
Spraying for Corn Borer				
Including Cost of Material	Acre	12.10	12.00	12.00
Excluding Cost of Material	Acre	7.80	7.20	7.30
Spraying for Spittle Bug or Ailanthus Weevil				
Including Cost of Material	Acre	12.70	11.80	11.70
Excluding Cost of Material	Acre	7.20	7.10	7.10
<b>Aerial Application (Excluding Material)</b>				
Fixed Wing	Acre	9.20	9.70	9.50
Helicopter	Acre	10.40	8.20	8.70
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
<b>Grain Handling:</b>				
Local	Bushel	0.15	0.13	0.13
Long Distance	Bushel	0.32	0.25	0.27
Grain Storage	Bushel Per Month	0.04	0.04	0.04
Stalk Shredding P.T.O.	Acre	9.30	8.90	9.00
<b>Spreading Bulk Fertilizer</b>				
Dry	Acre	5.80	5.80	5.80
Liquid	Acre	6.90	7.10	7.00
Side Dressing	Acre	6.70	7.10	7.00
<b>Grinding Feed:</b>				
Corn Oats or Barley	Hundredweight	0.76	0.57	0.65
Corn & Cobs	Hundredweight	0.88	0.58	0.67
Cobs	Hundredweight	0.65	0.57	0.61
Additional Charge for Mixing	Hundredweight	0.35	0.27	0.30
<b>Machine Tiling (No Tile)</b>				
Back Hoe	Hour	41.40	44.20	43.00
Sawing Wood, Chain Saw	Hour	15.40	15.30	15.40
Post Hole Digging	Hole	1.80	1.50	1.50
Manure Loading, Solid	Hour	30.50	33.10	32.10
Manure Spreading, Solid	Hour	27.00	29.00	28.10
Manure Pumping	Hour	25.40	20.10	22.00
Manure Spreading, Liquid	Hour	36.70	45.60	43.80
Building (Avg. H.P. 100)	Hour	58.40	58.80	58.20

N/A = Insufficient Data

## Farmers to Visit Harrisburg In Support of Legislative Goals

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.)—About 300 farmers from across the state traveled to Harrisburg Tuesday, March 21 to meet with their state legislators on issues affecting agriculture.

The face-to-face meetings with lawmakers took place during the annual Harrisburg Legislative Tour conducted by the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

The day's visits were followed by a banquet for state legislators at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers hosted by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Guy Donaldson, president of the farm group, addressed the banquet at the conclusion of the Harrisburg tour.

"With prices for some farm commodities at their lowest level in over two decades, farmers are looking for assistance from many areas to help them survive economically," Donaldson said. "Coming off last year's devastating drought and having concerns about the growing season this year has added to the uncertainty farmers have about their future.

"Farm Bureau members will be meeting with their state senators and representatives to recommend solutions to the problems facing agriculture," Donaldson said. "The recommendations are based on grassroots policy developed by Farm Bureau members."

Here are the issues Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members will be discussing with legislators during the Harrisburg Tour:

•State inheritance tax. State inheritance taxes harshly impact the financial ability of farm families to pass the business on to the next generation. Unlike federal estate taxes, which exempt a portion of a person's estate from taxation, state inheritance taxes are imposed on the first dollar of the estate's taxable value. Payment of the tax, which is assessed at a rate of 6 percent for close relatives and 15 percent for others, is required to be made in cash. If the farm business does not have available cash, the farm family must sell off farm assets to pay the tax. If land

must be sold to pay estate taxes, succeeding generations will inherit farms that are less productive and less able to survive in the future. Farm Bureau policy calls for the elimination of the state inheritance tax. Farm Bureau members will be asking their legislators to support legislation which eliminates or reduces the inheritance tax burden.

•Regional planning and zoning. Implementation of land use planning and zoning on a countywide or regional basis can significantly impact agriculture. On one hand, regional planning can effectively control residential development and prevent conflicts which may arise when developments intrude into areas that were traditionally agriculture. On the other hand, unreasonably restrictive land use regulations can prevent farmers from adopting farming practices which may be unpopular with local residents but are needed to stay in business. Unrestricted regional land use planning can

also prevent a farmer from developing a portion of the farm if he or she decides to do so. Regional planning legislation, S.B. 300, has been amended in the Senate to address several concerns voiced by Farm Bureau. The amended bill is now in the House. Farm Bureau is asking representatives to oppose any effort to remove the amendments which protect agriculture's ability to make future changes needed to remain competitive.

•Local income taxes. Recent interpretations of state income tax laws would require farms to report as "business income" all income that is generated from interest on business assets, sales of farm livestock, and sales of farm machinery. Income from many of these assets is not required to be reported as business income under federal law. Since many municipalities and school districts base "earned income" tax liability on state, rather than federal, "business income," farmers will pay more local

income taxes. If municipalities and school districts increase local income tax rates, which is allowed under the "homestead" tax reform, farmers will be paying even more in local income taxes. Farm Bureau is supporting S.B. 390 which would require local tax authorities to follow federal guidelines in computing income subject to local "earned income" taxes. The bill has passed the Senate, however its support has been diluted by amendments relating to amusement taxes added in the House. Farm Bureau wants the Senate to pass a version of S.B. 390 that accomplishes its goals for changing local income tax laws.

•Tort reform. The U.S. civil justice system has created the attitude that anyone who sues can make large sums of money. As a result, more and more people are bringing marginal, frivolous and even fraudulent lawsuits in an effort to get rich. Lawsuit abuse has clogged our

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