



NASS

Agriculture Counts

By Marc Tosiano
Pa. State Statistician

Editor's note: This is a monthly column from the Pennsylvania Ag Statistics Service (PASS), a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA). The Website is www.usda.gov/nass/.

DON'T LET PA. GET SHORTCHANGED
Don't let Pennsylvania be undercounted in the Ag Census! It could have an impact on the future funding of the ag services or programs that you use right here in Pennsylvania.

Here is a partial list of items

that are affected by counts from the Census of Agriculture: Extension funding and staffing, ag research grants, farm bill programs, crop insurance, farm loans by private lenders, small farm programs, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, programs run by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and much more.

I wish to thank the thousands of people in Pennsylvania who have already sent in their completed Ag Census form.

However, growers in about 15-20 other states are doing better at returning their Ag Census forms. We want to be fairly represented compared to other states because an undercount will short-change Pennsylvania agriculture for the next five years.

That's why, in the next week or two, we are mailing a third form to those who have not yet responded. Although we don't want to bother you at home, after that, we will have to make phone calls or farm visits to ask for your help.

Within our borders, county statistics from the Ag Census will often be the only information about your county until the next Ag Census, which is five years away. A complete count is needed for every county so that your county is properly represented compared to the rest.

So far, Centre, Elk, and Franklin counties are leading the Pennsylvania responses, but many counties are way behind these leaders. Any county that comes up short in the final tally may not get fair consideration for extension services or other decisions that affect Pennsylvania growers.

Remember small, part-time, and hobby farms must be counted, too. Call toll-free (888) 4AG-STAT or (888) 424-7828 if you did not receive a census form or if you need any help completing the form.

Pa. Custom Rates Published

This annual report shows the state average rates for more than

80 contracted services, including plowing and cultivating, planting and drilling, spraying, harvesting, and more. Averages are also published for mountain and valley regions of the state.

New features in this report include 13 new items added for 2003. We are also publishing the range of reported charges after removing the highest 10 percent and lowest 10 percent across the state.

This popular report was funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture but it is only possible thanks to voluntary reports by custom operators and Pennsylvania farmers. Thank you!

The results of the Custom Rates survey can be found here in this issue of *Lancaster Farming* or at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ by clicking on "Publications and Releases."

2002 Trout Summary Published Feb. 28

Pennsylvania 2002 trout production ranks fifth in the nation based on the value of trout sold. Pennsylvania sales account for 7 percent of national trout sales. Only Idaho, North Carolina, Washington, and California had more trout sales.

Thank you to all the producers who helped us with your response to the annual trout survey conducted every January. The survey contacted all known producers and hatcheries.

Pennsylvania's 61 commercial trout growers sold 1.64 million pounds of trout valued at \$4.56 million during 2002. This was down from the 1.88 million pounds valued at \$4.89 million sold in 2000. Only Wisconsin has more trout growers than Pennsylvania, with 65 operations.

Pennsylvania ranks first in the nation for the value of trout distributed for conservation and recreational purposes. With a value of \$10.8 million, Pennsylvania accounts for 16.6 percent of the nation's distributed trout. This includes trout released by state hatcheries, cooperative nurseries, and private fishing clubs.

The complete report includes statistics for the 20 major trout-producing states. The tables include trout sales by size of fish, first point of sale by size of fish, trout losses by reason for loss, distributed trout by size of fish, and trout eggs both sold and distributed.

For the complete Trout report, search for "Trout" in the commodity list at www.usda.gov/nass/search.htm.

2002 Honey Summary Published Feb. 28

Honey statistics are compiled for producers with five or more colonies. Thank you to all the producers who helped us with your response to the annual honey survey conducted every December. The survey contacted all large producers and a sample of smaller honey operations.

Pennsylvania honey production in 2002 totaled 1.026 million pounds, up 6 percent from the 969,000 pounds in 2001. This honey was pulled from 18,000 colonies statewide, up 1,000 from last year. The average yield was 57 pounds per colony, same as 2001.

Total Pennsylvania stocks of honey, as of Dec. 15, 2002, were 513,000 pounds, about the same as the previous year.

Pennsylvania honey producers received an average price of \$1.30 per pound, compared to 92 cents last year.

Nationwide, there were 2,524 million colonies producing honey in 2002. National honey production totaled 171 million pounds, down 8 percent from previous year. Yield per colony averaged 67.8 pounds, compared to 74.0 pounds in 2001.

National producer honey stocks were 39.05 million pounds on Dec. 15, 2002, down 40 percent from a year earlier.

Prices for the 2001 U.S. honey crop averaged \$1.29 per pound, compared to 70.4 cents last year.

For the complete Honey report, search for "Honey" in the commodity list at www.usda.gov/nass/search.htm.

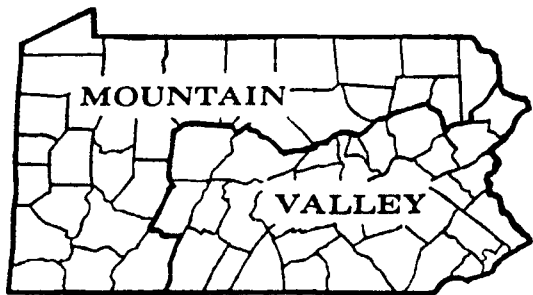
Pennsylvania Machinery Custom Rates 2003

By Scott W. Shimmin
Agricultural Statistician

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.

Average 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 63 rates reported with year-to-year comparisons, 41 increased, 16 decreased, and 6 are the same as last year. Thirteen new items were added to the survey this year. Because of the potential variation in size and overall productivity of equipment, a range of reported rates for each job has been added. The range represents the middle 80 percent of all reported rates for each job; thus the lowest 10 percent and the highest 10 percent of all reported values were excluded.



Custom Rates: Selected Farming Operations, Pennsylvania, 2003

Job	Basis of Charge	Mountain Section (Dollars)	Valley Section (Dollars)	State (Dollars)	Range (Dollars)
----- Harvesting -----					
Corn Picking	Acre	22.70	21.90	22.20	13.50 - 28.00
Corn Combining	Acre	25.60	25.00	25.20	22.00 - 29.00
Combining (23 Percent)	Bu	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.12 - 0.40
Combining Small Grains	Acre	24.10	24.30	24.30	22.00 - 27.00
Combining Soybeans	Acre	25.50	24.90	25.00	22.00 - 28.00
----- Hay Making -----					
Mowing	Acre	10.40	11.00	10.80	8.00 - 14.00
Mowing & Conditioning	Acre	11.80	12.00	11.90	9.00 - 15.00
Raking	Acre	7.00	5.75	6.30	4.00 - 8.00
Small Square Baling	Bale	0.49	0.48	0.48	0.30 - 0.75
Chop, Make Bale & Store	Bale	1.05	1.15	1.10	0.80 - 1.40
Large Round Baling	Bale	6.85	6.10	6.40	5.00 - 9.00
Size	Lbs	1,020 lbs	850 lbs	930 lbs	600 - 1,350 lbs
Large Square Baling	Bale	7.65	7.10	7.25	5.00 - 10.00
Size	Lbs	960 lbs	920 lbs	930 lbs	650 - 1,400 lbs
Wrapping Bales	Bale	5.70	5.10	5.35	3.25 - 7.00
----- Silage Making -----					
Pull Type Choppe & Tractor	Hour	59.30	65.80	64.10	37.50 - 100.00
Self Propelled Chopper	Hour	173.40	167.10	169.60	100.00 - 240.00
Less than 350 HP	Hour			138.00	70.00 - 200.00
Greater than 350 HP	Hour			206.30	50.00 - 260.00
Blower	Hour	8.30	9.20	9.00	5.00 - 15.00
1 Man 2 Wagons 1 Tractor	Hour	47.70	51.60	50.60	30.00 - 90.00
2 Men 2 Wagons 2 Tractors	Hour	73.60	76.20	75.10	45.00 - 100.00
1 Man Tractor	Hour	46.70	44.30	45.20	35.00 - 50.00
Felt Chopp Haul & Hill Silc	Ton	7.55	5.00	6.00	3.00 - 10.00
Bagging Silage	Foot	5.60	4.70	4.95	2.50 - 8.60
Large Dumpster	Foot			8.5 feet	
----- Plowing & Cultivating -----					
Plowing Moldboard Plow					
Stubble	Acre	12.30	13.00	12.70	10.00 - 16.00
Sod	Acre	14.10	14.30	14.20	12.00 - 7.00
Plowing Deep (10 Inches or More)	Acre	14.10	15.70	15.10	2.00 - 18.00
Plowing Chisel	Acre	12.60	12.30	12.40	10.00 - 15.00
Power Disk	Acre	13.40	12.40	12.70	0.00 - 5.00
Disking Tandem	Acre	11.10	10.70	10.80	7.50 - 14.00
With Harrow Cultipack	Acre	12.20	11.60	11.80	8.00 - 15.00
Harrowing	Acre	9.40	9.20	9.30	5.00 - 12.00
Chiseling	Acre	8.90	8.10	8.40	5.00 - 10.00
----- Planting & Drilling -----					
Planting Corn Without Fertilizer					
Conventional Till	Acre	14.80	14.60	14.70	0.00 - 19.00
Minimum Till	Acre	16.50	14.60	15.00	2.00 - 18.00
No Till	Acre	17.70	15.90	16.30	11.00 - 20.00
Planting Corn Without Fertilizer					
Conventional Till	Acre	13.80	13.60	13.70	10.00 - 16.00
Minimum Till	Acre	15.50	13.60	14.50	11.00 - 18.00
No Till	Acre	16.90	15.00	16.00	13.00 - 18.00
Planting Soybeans Without Fertilizer					
Conventional Till	Acre	12.10	14.00	13.80	10.00 - 16.00
Minimum Till	Acre	14.50	14.10	14.10	10.00 - 18.00
No Till	Acre	15.80	15.50	15.70	11.00 - 20.00
Drilling	Acre	13.10	11.60	12.40	10.00 - 18.00

Custom Rates: Selected Farming Operations, Pennsylvania, 2003, Continued

Job	Basis of Charge	Mountain Section (Dollars)	Valley Section (Dollars)	State (Dollars)	Range (Dollars)
----- Planting & Drilling (Continued) -----					
Drilling Small Grain Without Fertilizer					
Conventional Till	Acre	11.90	12.40	12.30	8.00 - 15.50
Minimum Till	Acre	13.20	13.70	13.60	10.00 - 16.00
No Till	Acre	14.70	15.00	15.00	11.00 - 18.00
Seeding Alfalfa Clover Etc	Acre	13.50	14.50	13.80	10.00 - 19.00
Broadcast Seeding (On Grain Fields)	Acre	7.20	7.00	7.10	2.50 - 11.00
Cleaning Grain Seed					
With Treatment	Bu	1.10	1.40	1.25	0.85 - 1.65
Without Treatment	Bu	0.65	0.90	0.80	0.50 - 1.30
----- Spraying -----					
Ground Equipment					
Spraying for Weed Control Excl. Material	Acre	8.10	7.60	7.75	6.00 - 10.00
Spraying for Corn Borer	Acre	8.40	7.90	8.00	6.00 - 10.00
Spraying for Spittle Bug or Alfalfa Weevil	Acre	7.75	7.30	7.40	6.00 - 9.00
----- Miscellaneous -----					
Grain Hauling					
Local	Bu	0.14	0.13	0.14	0.10 - 0.18
Long Distance	Bu	6.10	0.26	0.27	0.15 - 0.40
Grain Storage	Bu Per Month	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.02 - 0.10
Stalk Shredding P T O	Acre	10.40	9.95	10.10	7.00 - 13.00
Bushhogging	Acre	12.00	13.00	12.70	6.50 - 20.00
Spreading Bulk Fertilizer					
Dry	Acre	6.35	6.15	6.20	5.00 - 8.00
Liquid	Acre	8.15	7.45	7.55	5.00 - 9.00
Slick Drilling	Acre	8.15	7.80	7.90	6.00 - 10.00
Lime	Acre	9.60	8.20	8.80	5.00 - 13.00
Grinding Feed					
Corn Oats or Barley	Cwt	0.70	0.95	0.85	0.50 - 1.00
Corn & Cobs	Cwt	0.70	0.65	0.70	0.30 - 1.00
Cobs	Cwt	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.30 - 1.00
Additional Charge for Mixing	Cwt	0.45	0.40	0.40	0.15 - 0.70
Machine Tiling (No Tile)	Foot	0.65	1.05	0.80	0.50 - 1.00
Back Hoe	Hour	45.20	49.30	47.80	35.00 - 65.00
Sawing Wood Chain Saw	Hour	14.80	19.60	17.70	10.00 - 25.00
Post Hole Digging	Hole	1.40	1.50	1.50	0.50 - 2.00
Manure Loading Solid	Hour	37.90	31.40	35.20	25.00 - 48.00
Manure Spreading Solid	Hour	35.50	37.50	37.10	20.00 - 55.00
Manure Pumping	Hour	2.50	23.40	23.80	10.00 - 50.00
Manure Spreading Liquid	Hour	52.70	63.20	60.60	40.00 - 90.00
Bulldozing	Hour	7.80	75.50	67.90	45.00 - 87.00
Average Size	HP	11 HP	125 HP	120 HP	68 - 180 HP
Tractor Rental Rate					
Less than 80 HP	Hour	4.10	18.30	20.30	16.00 - 35.00
80 to 120 HP	Hour	25.30	23.10	23.70	12.00 - 38.00
120 to 150 HP	Hour	28.20	25.50	26.40	15.00 - 40.00
Greater than 150 HP	Hour	31.50	29.90	31.30	20.00 - 43.00