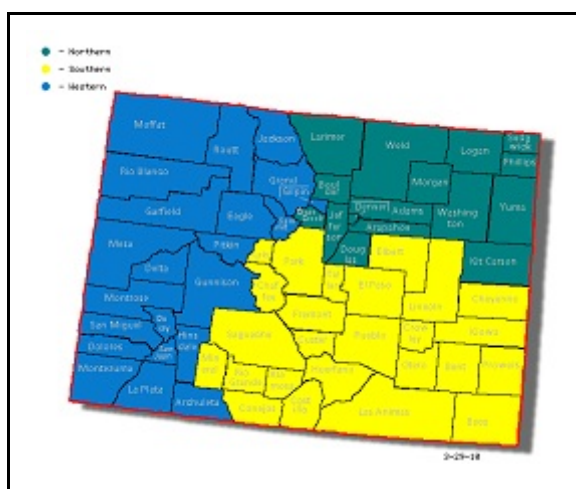

Custom Rates for Colorado Farms & Ranches in 2009

Colorado State University Extension conducts an annual survey of agricultural producers, land owners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents. The results of this survey are a report of “custom rates” charged for various crop and livestock operations in Colorado.

The survey results are reported by region: Northern, Southern, and Western. The Northern region generally includes those counties north of I-70 and east of the Rocky Mountains. It includes the Front Range. The Southern region includes the southeastern Colorado and the San Luis Valley. The Western region generally includes those counties in and west of the mountains.



The rates reported in this report are not recommended rates, but simply indicate rates currently being charged throughout Colorado, as reported in the survey. The information in this report should be used only as a guide.

Reported rates represent a variety of working conditions, machine and equipment sizes, and farm and ranch operations. They do not necessarily measure the full economic cost of performing the work specified. Some custom operators may charge only for the costs of fuel and labor. Others may charge for all costs including depreciation on equipment and allowance for risk. Field conditions, such as size, terrain, and location, may also account for variations in rates charged.

Reported charges were used to determine a range of custom rate charges. “Most common” refers to the custom rate reported most often. “n/a” indicates that insufficient information was available for that particular activity.

Custom rates in 2009 were generally the same or slightly lower than those charged in 2008. On reason for lower rates is that operators paid lower prices for fuel. Conversely, lower fuel prices may have been offset by higher repair and other costs.

The authors would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2009 custom rates survey.

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This report, decision tools, and other information pertaining to myriad farm and ranch management issues are available at the ABM web site: www.coopext.colostate.edu/ABM/.

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Tillage				
Stalk Shredding Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 9.00 8.00	8.00 - 14.00 10.00	8.00 - 14.00 10.00
Plow - Moldboard Range Most Common	\$/acre	14.00 - 15.50 15.00	18.00 - 40.00 20.00	18.00 - 35.00 25.00
Plow - Deep Chisel (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/acre	18.50 - 20.00 20.00	15.00 - 22.00 20.00	15.00 - 25.00 20.00
Plow - Deep Chisel (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/acre	15.00 - 20.00 20.00	12.00 - 20.00 15.00	12.00 - 25.00 20.00
Plow - Surface Chisel (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.50 - 12.00 12.00	12.00 - 15.00 14.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00
Plow - Surface Chisel (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.50 - 12.00 12.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00
Plow - One Way Range Most Common	\$/acre	13.50 - 15.50 14.00	12.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 30.00 12.00
Plow - Sweep Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 12.00 12.00	5.50 - 10.00 8.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00
Disk (Irrigated) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 10.25 10.00	10.00 - 25.00 15.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00
Disk (Dryland) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 10.25 10.00	10.00 - 25.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00
Crust Busting Range Most Common	\$/acre	8.00 - 10.00 8.00	8.00 - 10.00 10.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00
Mulching Range Most Common	\$/acre	7.00 - 15.00 8.00	10.00 - 15.00 15.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00
Harrow - Spike Tooth Range Most Common	\$/acre	6.00 - 6.25 6.00	6.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Tillage, continued				
Cultivating - Field Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.25 - 12.50 12.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00
Cultivating - Bedding Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 12.50 12.00	8.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00
Rod Weeder Range Most Common	\$/acre	5.00 - 8.00 7.00	4.00 - 14.00 10.00	8.00 - 20.00 12.00
Rotary Hoe Range Most Common	\$/acre	6.75 - 7.00 7.00	8.00 - 14.00 10.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00
Land Leveling (Floating) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 15.00 10.00	10.00 - 25.00 15.00	10.00 - 20.00 15.00
Furrowing Range Most Common	\$/acre	11.00 - 12.00 12.00	8.00 - 25.00 18.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00
Strip Till (Tillage Only) Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.25 - 18.00 18.00	12.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Chemical & fertilizer Application (Does Not Include Materials)				
Dry Fertilizer Range Most Common	\$/acre	4.00 - 8.00 6.00	5.00 - 8.00 n/a	5.00 - 10.00 6.00
Liquid Fertilizer Range Most Common	\$/acre	5.50 - 8.00 5.50	4.50 - 8.00 n/a	5.00 - 10.00 6.00
Anhydrous Ammonia Range Most Common	\$/acre	7.50 - 12.00 10.00	8.00 - 12.00 10.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.50
Anhydrous Ammonia with Sweep Range Most Common	\$/acre	7.75 - 11.00 10.00	10.00 - 12.00 10.00	n/a n/a
Aerial Spraying Range Most Common	\$/acre	5.50 - 8.00 7.50	6.00 - 8.00 8.00	7.00 - 15.00 10.00
Boom Sprayer Range Most Common	\$/acre	4.50 - 8.00 6.50	4.50 - 8.00 7.00	5.00 - 10.00 6.00
Side-Dress Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 10.00 10.00	10.00 - 60.00 10.00	10.00 - 10.00 10.00

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Planting (Excludes Seed and Transplants)				
Seed Cleaning (Small Grains) Range Most Common	\$/bu	.60 - .75 .75	0.35 - 0.75 .50	.50 - .90 .70
Plant - Row Crops (30-inch spacing) Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 18.00 18.00	10.00 - 30.00 18.00	12.00 - 35.00 20.00
Plant - Drill Range Most Common	\$/acre	7.00 - 8.50 8.00	8.00 - 10.00 10.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.50
Plant - Air Seeder Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.00 - 14.00 10.00	8.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.50
Plant - Oilseeds and Dry Beans Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	10.00 - 16.00 n/a	10.00 - 20.00 12.00
Plant - Legumes Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	10.00 - 20.00 12.00
Plant - Grass Range Most Common	\$/acre	7.75 - 8.50 8.00	8.00 - 18.00 10.00	12.00 - 25.00 15.00
Plant - Strip Till Range Most Common	\$/acre	23.00 - 27.00 27.00	n/a n/a	15.00 - 35.00 28.00
Plant - Ridge Till Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	12.00 - 20.00 15.00
Plant - No Till (Row Crops) Range Most Common	\$/acre	15.00 - 18.00 18.00	10.00 - 18.00 10.00	10.00 - 18.00 15.00
Plant - No Till (Grain Crops) Range Most Common	\$/acre	9.50 - 11.00 10.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.00

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Grain Harvesting In some locales there is both a fixed rate per acre and a variable rate per bushel charged for combining. For example, the costs for harvesting dryland wheat may be 23:23:23 (3 - 23s) – \$23 per acre plus \$0.23 for each bushel harvested in excess of 20 bushels per acre, plus \$0.23 per bushel for hauling.				
Combine - Corn/Sorghum (Irrigated) Range	\$/acre + \$/Bu	35.00 - 50.00 + 0.16 - 0.16	18.00 - 45.00 + 0.21 - 0.40	30.00 - 50.00 + 0.21 - 0.40
Most Common		50.00 + 0.16	25.50 + 0.35	35.00 + 0.40
Combine - Corn/Sorghum (Dryland) Range	\$/acre + \$/Bu	27.00 - 35.00 + 0.21 - 0.30	12.00 - 20.00 + 0.12 - 0.40	n/a
Most Common		35.00 + 0.21	12.00 + 0.35	n/a
Combine - Small Grains (Irrigated) Range	\$/acre + \$/Bu	26.00 - 40.00 + 0.21 - 0.24	20.00 - 25.00 + 0.21 - 0.23	20.00 - 30.00 + 0.20 - 0.22
Most Common		35.00 + 0.21	21.50 + 0.21	25.00 + 0.20
Combine - Small Grains (Dryland) Range	\$/acre + \$/Bu	20.00 - 35.00 + 0.15 - 0.21	15.00 - 22.00 + 0.13 - 0.25	12.00 - 35.00 + 0.15 - 0.21
Most Common		35.00 + 0.20	15.00 + 0.15	20.00 + 0.20
Combine - Oilseeds and Dry Beans Range Most Common	\$/acre	35.00 - 60.00 60.00	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Combine - Soybeans Range Most Common	\$/acre	40.00 - 45.00 45.00	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Swath - Small Grains Range Most Common	\$/acre	10.00 - 12.50 10.00	10.00 - 12.00 10.00	n/a n/a
Haul - Grain Range Most Common	\$/bu	0.12 - 0.15 0.15	0.10 - 0.30 0.15	0.15 - 0.21 0.18
Haul - Soybeans & Oilseeds Range Most Common	\$/bu	0.15 - 0.25 0.15	n/a n/a	n/a n/a

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Hay and Silage Harvesting				
Silage Chopping & Hauling Range Most Common	\$/acre	35.00 - 75.00 50.00	15.00 - 45.00 35.00	35.00 - 40.00 35.00
Mowing Range Most Common	\$/acre	13.00 - 30.00 15.00	9.00 - 16.00 14.00	8.00 - 20.00 15.00
Swathing Range Most Common	\$/acre	12.00 - 14.00 12.00	9.00 - 15.00 12.00	10.00 - 20.00 14.00
Raking Range Most Common	\$/acre	5.00 - 10.00 7.00	3.00 - 8.00 6.00	5.00 - 10.00 7.00
Baling - Small Square (about 70 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	0.50 - 2.20 1.00	0.50 - 0.90 n/a	0.60 - 0.80 0.75
	\$/acre	n/a 26.00	14.00 - 25.00 15.00	n/a n/a
Baling - Med. Square (3x3, 800 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	18.00 - 20.00 20.00	12.00 - 20.00 16.00	n/a n/a
	\$/acre	n/a n/a	12.00 - 35.00 20.00	n/a n/a
Baling - Large Square (4x4, 1750 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	18.00 - 25.00 18.00	15.00 - 20.00 16.00	15.00 - 25.00 18.00
	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a
Baling - Round (about 1500 lbs) Range Most Common	\$/bale	14.00 - 16.00 15.00	10.00 - 20.00 11.00	10.00 - 25.00 12.00
	\$/acre	n/a n/a	15.00 - 20.00 n/a	n/a n/a
Loading/Stacking - Sm Sq Bales Range Most Common	\$/bale	0.32 - 0.55 0.45	0.35 - 0.70 0.40	0.40 - 0.60 0.50
Haul - Small Square Bales Range Most Common	\$/ton	12.00 - 15.00 14.00	9.00 - 15.00 12.00	6.00 - 15.00 9.00
Haul - Med & Large Bales Range Most Common	\$/ton	10.00 - 12.50 12.00	4.00 - 10.00 10.00	5.00 - 10.00 6.00

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Haul - Round Bales Range Most Common	\$/bale	12.00 - 15.00 12.00	3.33 - 8.00 6.00	5.00 - 10.00 7.00
Tub Grinding Range Most Common	\$/ton	13.00 - 16.00 16.00	10.00 - 20.00 12.00	12.00 - 18.00 15.00
Equipment Transport Charges Range Most Common	\$/mile	2.00 - 3.00 n/a	n/a n/a	n/a n/a

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Orchard				
Apples - Pruning Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	200 - 280 225
Apples - Thinning Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	250 - 375 300
Apples - Picking Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	1.10 - 1.60 1.50
Peaches - Picking Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	1.50 - 1.75 1.60
Grapes - Pruning Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	300 - 385 350
Grapes - Picking Range Most Common	\$/acre	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	525 - 600 575

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Labor: The reported rates do not include any benefits given employees, including such items as health insurance, contributions to retirement, house, utilities, beef, produce, cattle grazing privileges, horse maintenance privileges, etc.				
Hired Labor - High Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	9.00 - 11.50 10.00	8.50 - 15.00 15.00	8.00 - 12.00 n/a
Hired Labor - Low Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	7.50 - 10.00 9.00	8.00 - 12.00 8.00	8.00 - 10.00 n/a
Tractor Drivers - High Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	7.50 - 14.00 12.00	10.00 - 15.00 13.00	10.00 - 15.00 n/a
Tractor Drivers - Low Level Positions Range Most Common	\$/hour	7.50 - 10.00 9.00	8.00 - 10.00 8.00	8.00 - 10.00 8.00
Irrigators - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/hour	7.50 - 15.00 12.00	9.00 - 15.00 15.00	10.00 - 15.00 12.00
Irrigators - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/hour	7.35 - 10.00 9.00	6.00 - 10.00 8.00	8.00 - 10.00 8.00
Hired Labor - Year Round Employees Range Most Common	\$/month	3,000 - 5,000 3,000	3,200 - 5,500 5,000	3,500 - 5,000 n/a
Foreman - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	2,500 - 4,000 4,000	2,000 - 4000 4000	2,500 - 4,000 n/a
Foreman - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	2,000 - 3,500 3,000	1,700 - 3,000 1,700	2,000 - 3,000 n/a
Manager - Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	4,000 - 5,000 5,000	4,000 - 5,000 5,000	4,000 - 5,000 n/a
Manager - Less Experienced Range Most Common	\$/month	4,000 - 4,500 4,000	4,000 - 4,500 4,000	3,500 - 4,000 n/a

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Crop Share Rental Arrangements Listed crop share arrangements are the most common and do not specify which expenses, if any, are paid by the land owner.				
Corn and Sorghum (Irrigated)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/3
Corn and Sorghum (Dryland)				
Tenant		2/3	3/4	2/3
Land owner		1/3	1/4	1/3
Small Grains (Irrigated)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/3
Small Grains (Dryland)				
Tenant		3/4	3/4	2/3
Land owner		1/4	1/4	1/3
Oilseeds & Millet (Dryland)				
Tenant		3/4	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/4	1/3	1/3
Alfalfa (Irrigated)				
Tenant		1/2	1/2	1/2
Land owner		1/2	1/2	1/2
Dry Beans (Irrigated)				
Tenant		2/3	2/3	2/3
Land owner		1/3	1/3	1/3
Other (Irrigated)				
Tenant		70	n/a	2/3
Land owner		30		1/3
Other (Dryland)				
Tenant		n/a	2/3	2/3
Land owner			1/3	1/3
Cash Rental Arrangements Listed cash rental arrangements are the most common and do not specify which expenses, if any, are paid by the land owner.				
Irrigated Crop Production				
Range	\$/acre	120 - 160	110 - 225	80 - 180
Dryland Crop Production				
Range	\$/acre	20 - 45	20 - 25	n/a

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Livestock				
Shearing - Lambs Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	n/a 1.75	3.00 - 5.00 3.00
Shearing - Ewes Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	4.00 - 6.00 4.00	2.00 - 6.00 3.00
Shearing - Rams Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	8.00 - 12.00 n/a	4.00 - 10.00 6.00
Tagging - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/head	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	1.00 - 3.00 1.50
Fertility Testing - Rams Range Most Common	\$/head	42.00 - 45.00 45.00	15.00 - 35.00 15.00	20.00 - 35.00 25.00
Fertility Testing - Bulls Range Most Common	\$/head	25.00 - 45.00 25.00	27.00 - 35.00 35.00	20.00 - 45.00 35.00
Pregnancy Testing - Cows Range Most Common	\$/head	8.00 - 12.00 8.00	3.00 - 12.00 3.00	5.00 - 12.00 6.00
(There may be an additional charge of \$0.50 - \$1.50 per mile)				
Ultrasound Diagnosis - Sheep Range Most Common	\$/head	2.20 - 4.00 3.00	1.10 - 4.00 1.50	3.25 - 6.50 4.50
Shoeing (with shoes) - Horse Range Most Common	\$/head	45.00 - 85.00 85.00	66.00 - 140.00 85.00	85.00 - 110.00 85.00
Hoof Trimming - Horse Range Most Common	\$/head	35.00 - 40.00 40.00	20.00 - 50.00 45.00	25.00 - 55.00 40.00
Haul Livestock Range Most Common	\$/loaded mile	3.50 - 6.00 5.50	3.50 - 5.50 3.50	3.50 - 5.00 4.00
Building Fence (including materials) Range Most Common	\$/mile	5,500 - 7,500 6,500	5,000 - 7,500 5,280	5,000 - 7,500 6,500

2009 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

2009 Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern NE & Front Range	Southern SE & SLV	Western NW, Mtn, SW
Livestock Grazing The costs of grazing on pastures of all types depends greatly on the provider (landowner or renter) of items such as fencing, water, salt and minerals, and care.				
Cows - Native Range Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	25.00 - 27.00 25.00	11.00 - 24.00 14.00	15.00 - 30.00 18.00
Cows - Irrigated Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	12.00 - 25.00 20.00	25.50 - 28.50 25.50	15.00 - 30.00 18.00
Cows - Wheat Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	18.00 - 22.00 18.00	12.00 - 15.00 15.00	12.00 - 30.00 18.00
Cows - Corn/Milo Stalks Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	7.00 - 10.00 10.00	12.00 - 20.00 16.00	18.00 - 30.00 20.00
Cows - Crop Stubble & Aftermath Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	15.00 - 30.00 18.00
Yearlings - Native Range Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	12.00 - 15.00 13.00	10.00 - 21.00 15.00
Yearlings - Irrigated Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	10.00 - 15.00 10.00	n/a n/a	10.00 - 25.00 15.00
Yearlings - Wheat Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	12.00 - 17.50 15.00	9.00 - 20.00 15.00
Yearlings - Corn/Milo Stalks Range Most Common	\$/hd/day	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	0.25 - 0.70 0.50
Yearlings - Stubble & Aftermath Range Most Common	\$/hd/month	n/a n/a	n/a n/a	10.00 - 22.00 15.00
Yearlings - All Pasture Types Range Most Common	\$/lb of gain	n/a n/a	0.35 - 0.70 0.50	0.35 - 0.70 0.50
Sheep - All Pasture Range Most Common	\$/hd/day	n/a n/a	0.03 - 0.10 n/a	0.10 - 0.25 0.15