

## Custom Rates for Colorado Farms & Ranches in 2012

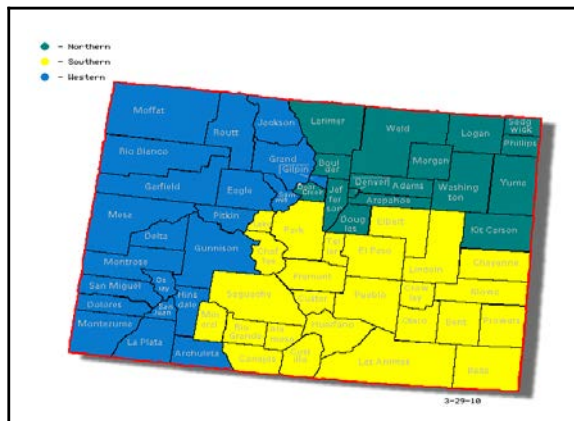
Colorado State University Extension annually conducts a survey of custom rates charged for various crop and livestock operations and lease arrangements in Colorado. Information is collected from agricultural producers, land owners and managers, lenders, agricultural consultants, machine operators, and Extension agents.

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 specified work. Also, field conditions, field size, terrain, and location account for some variations in rates charged.

The survey results are reported by region:

- Northern – generally those counties north of I-70 and east of the Rocky Mountains),
- Southern – the area south of I-70 and the San Luis Valley, and
- Western – generally those counties west of the mountains.

Custom rates most commonly reported for 2012 were generally similar to those charged in 2011. Increased in charged rates are noted for certain operations within the sections of hay and silage harvesting, grain harvesting, and grape pruning and picking. Reported labor costs generally increased from 2011 to 2012.



The authors would like to thank everyone who contributed to the 2012 custom rates survey. It is hoped that this “custom rates” report is beneficial to making informed decision.

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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.

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/](http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/ABM/).

## 2012 Custom Rates for Colorado Farms and Ranches

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Tillage</b>				
Stalk Shredding	\$/acre	8.00 – 10.00	8.00 – 14.00	10.00 – 14.00
Plow – Moldboard	\$/acre	12.00 – 16.00	20.00 – 40.00	15.00 – 30.00
Plow – Deep Chisel (irrigated)	\$/acre	12.00 – 16.00	18.00 – 22.00	15.00 – 30.00
Plow – Deep Chisel (dryland)	\$/acre	10.00 – 12.50	18.00 – 20.00	15.00 – 30.00
Plow – Surface Chisel (irrigated)	\$/acre	12.00 – 16.00	18.00 – 22.00	15.00 – 30.00
Plow – Surface Chisel (dryland)	\$/acre	10.00 – 12.50	18.00 – 20.00	15.00 – 30.00
Plow – One Way	\$/acre	13.50 – 15.50	11.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Plow – Sweep	\$/acre	8.00 – 12.50	11.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Disk (irrigated)	\$/acre	9.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 18.00	15.00 – 30.00
Disk (dryland)	\$/acre	9.00 – 11.00	12.00 – 18.00	15.00 – 30.00
Crust Busting	\$/acre	8.00 – 10.00	8.00 – 15.00	10.00 – 30.00
Mulching	\$/acre	7.50 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	10.00 – 30.00
Harrow – Spring Tooth	\$/acre	6.00 – 8.00	8.00 – 12.00	10.00 – 30.00
Cultivating – Field	\$/acre	9.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Cultivating – Bedding	\$/acre	9.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Rod Weeder	\$/acre	9.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Rotary Hoe	\$/acre	9.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Land Leveling/Floating	\$/acre	9.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Furrowing	\$/acre	9.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00
Strip Till (tillage only)	\$/acre	9.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 30.00

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Planting (does not include seeds and transplants)</b>				
Seed Cleaning	\$/bushel	0.60 – 1.00	0.60 – 0.75	0.75 – 0.80
Plant – Drill (“narrow” spacing)	\$/acre	11.00 – 14.00	10.00 – 20.00	10.00 – 15.00
Plant – Drill (30-inch spacing)	\$/acre	15.00 – 25.00	10.00 – 20.00	10.00 – 15.00
Plant – Air Seeder	\$/acre	10.00 -14.00	10.00 -15.00	12.00 -15.00
Plant	\$/acre	15.00 – 25.00	12.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 20.00
Plant – Strip Till (single operation)	\$/acre	25.00 – 35.00	11.00 – 20.00	15.00 – 20.00
Plant – Ridge Till	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	15.00 – 20.00
Plant – No Till	\$/acre	11.00 – 18.00	10.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 20.00

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Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Chemical and Fertilizer Application (does not include material)</b>				
Dry Fertilizer	\$/acre	4.50 – 8.00	4.50 – 6.50	5.00 – 8.00
Liquid Fertilizer	\$/acre	5.00 – 7.50	4.50 – 6.50	4.00 – 8.00
Anhydrous Ammonia	\$/acre	7.50 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 20.00
Anhydrous Ammonia with Sweep	\$/acre	7.00 – 22.00	7.50 – 22.00	8.00 – 20.00
Aerial Spraying	\$/acre	6.50 – 7.50	6.00 – 8.50	12.00 – 20.00
Boom Sprayer	\$/acre	5.50 – 8.00	4.00 – 12.00	5.00 – 10.00
Side-Dress	\$/acre	10.00 – 15.00	10.00 – 15.00	10.00 – 15.00

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Hay and Silage Harvesting</b>				
Equipment Transport Charges	\$/mile	2.50 – 4.50	3.50 – 6.50	2.50 – 5.00
Silage Chopping & Hauling	\$/acre	60.00 – 75.00	70.00 – 90.00	70.00 – 90.00
Hay – Mowing	\$/acre	10.00 – 13.00	15.00 – 20.00	15.00 – 20.00
Hay – Swathing	\$/acre	10.00 – 13.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 23.00
Hay – Raking	\$/acre	4.00 – 5.00	4.00 – 10.00	6.00 – 10.00
Baling – Small Square Bales	\$/bale	0.60 – 2.00	0.75 – 2.10	0.50 – 1.40
Baling – 3x3x8 or 4x4x8 Bales	\$/bale	18.00 – 22.00	18.00 – 20.00	8.00 – 9.00
Baling – Round Bales	\$/bale	10.00 – 16.00	10.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 10.00
Loading/Stacking – Sm Sq Bales	\$/bale	0.90 – 1.50	0.50 – 2.00	0.55 – 0.60
Hauling – Small Square Bales	\$/bale	0.50 – 1.00	0.50 – 2.50	0.50 – 2.50
Hauling – Large Square Bales	\$/bale	4.25 – 4.75	4.00 – 6.00	1.50 – 2.50
Hauling – Round Bales	\$/bale	10.00 – 20.00	12.50 – 13.50	1.50 – 2.50
Tub Grinding	\$/ton	15.00 – 18.00	12.50 – 15.50	12.00 – 15.00

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Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Grain Harvesting</b> 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 known as "23-23-23" or "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)	\$/acre \$/bushel	20.00 – 37.00 0.22 – 0.25	20.00 – 28.00 0.20 – 0.40	20.00 – 40.00 0.22 – 0.25
Combine – Corn/Sorghum (dryland)	\$/acre \$/bushel	20.00 – 40.00 0.22 – 0.25	20.00 – 28.00 0.24 – 0.45	20.00 – 40.00 0.22 – 0.25
Combine – Small Grains (irrigated)	\$/acre \$/bushel	20.00 – 28.00 0.22 – 0.25	20.00 – 28.00 0.21 – 0.25	20.00 – 30.00 0.22 – 0.25
Combine – Small Grains (dryland)	\$/acre \$/bushel	20.00 – 25.00 0.22 – 0.25	20.00 – 28.00 0.15 – 0.25	20.00 – 30.00 0.22 – 0.25
Combine – Oil Seeds, Soybeans, Dry Beans	\$/acre	40.00 – 55.00	n/a	40.00 – 60.00
Swath – Small Grains	\$/acre	12.00 – 13.00	8.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 23.00
Hauling - Grains	\$/bushel	0.20 – 0.27	0.20 – 0.45	0.20 – 0.27

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Orchards</b>				
Apples				
Thinning	\$/tree	n/a	n/a	n/a
Pruning	\$/tree	n/a	n/a	n/a
Picking (harvesting)	\$/bushel	n/a	n/a	n/a
Packing	\$/bushel	n/a	n/a	n/a
Peaches				
Pruning	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	889 – 1,371
Picking (harvesting)	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	757 - 999
Grapes				
Pruning	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	384 – 967
Picking (harvesting)	\$/acre	n/a	n/a	728 – 1,054

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Labor</b>				
Hand Labors	\$/hour	10.00 – 14.00	9.00 – 20.00	8.00 – 15.00
Tractor Drivers	\$/hour	12.00 – 15.00	10.00 – 15.00	8.00 – 15.00
Irrigators				
Experienced	\$/hour	8.00 – 16.00	10.00 – 15.00	10.00 – 20.00
Less Experienced	\$/hour	8.00 – 10.00	8.00 – 12.00	9.00 – 12.00
Full Time (year round) Employees	\$/month	2,500 – 3,500	3,200 – 5,200	3,500 – 5,500
Foreman	\$/month	2,500 – 4,000	1,700 – 3,000	2,500 – 5,000
Managers	\$/month	2,500 – 5,000	3,200 – 5,200	3,500 – 7,000

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Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Livestock Handling</b>				
Sheep - Tagging	\$/head	n/a	n/a	2.00 – 2.50
Sheep – Fertility Testing Rams	\$/head	20.00 – 45.00	20.00 – 25.00	19.00 – 30.00
Sheep – Ultrasound Diagnosis	\$/head	3.00 – 3.50	2.25 – 4.00	3.00 – 6.00
Beef – Fertility Testing Bulls	\$/head	25.00 – 30.00	25.00 – 40.00	24.00 – 30.00
Beef – Pregnancy Testing Cows	\$/head	2.50 – 3.00	4.00 – 9.00	2.10 – 9.10
Horses – Shoeing (with shoes)	\$/head	80.00 – 100.00	80.00 – 110.00	85.00 – 100.00
Horses – Hoof Trimming	\$/head	40.00 – 45.00	35.00 – 50.00	45.00 – 65.00
Livestock Hauling	\$/Loaded mile	2.00 – 4.50	3.25 – 5.75	5.00 – 6.50
Fence Building (4 wires)	\$/mile	5,000 – 8,000	5,000 – 8,000	5,000 – 8,000

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Livestock Land Rental Arrangements</b>				
Sheep – Grazing All Pasture Types	\$/head/day	n/a	n/a	0.12 – 0.30
Beef Cows – Grazing Native Range	\$/head/month	10.00 – 37.00	15.00 – 25.00	18.00 – 30.00
Irrigated Pasture	\$/head/month	18.00 – 20.00	18.00 – 20.00	n/a
Wheat Pasture	\$/head/month	15.00 – 22.00	18.00 – 22.00	n/a
Corn/Milo Stalks	\$/head/month	10.00 – 30.00	20.00 – 45.00	20.00 – 25.00
Yearling Cattle – Grazing All Pasture Types	\$/head/month	10.00 – 15.00	12.00 – 15.00	18.00 – 30.00
All Pasture Types	\$/head/day	0.25 – 0.80	0.30 – 0.75	0.50 – 0.80

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Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Crop Land Cash Rents</b>				
Irrigated Land				
Corn/Sorghum	\$/acre	150 – 400	185 – 325	200 – 350
Small Grains	\$/acre	190 – 250	185 – 325	200 – 350
Alfalfa	\$/acre	190 – 255	200 – 300	225 – 250
Sugar Beets	\$/acre	255 - 350	250 - 350	250 - 350
Non-Irrigated Land (Dryland)				
Corn/Sorghum	\$/acre	35 – 60	40 – 50	35 – 60
Small Grains	\$/acre	35 – 60	40 – 50	35 – 60
Oil Seed and Millet	\$/acre	35 – 60	40 – 50	35 – 60
Alfalfa	\$/acre	160 - 200	170 - 225	190 - 250

Activity	Basis For Charge	Northern Region	Southern Region	Western Region
<b>Crop Land Share Rents</b>				
Irrigated Land				
Corn/Sorghum		67% - 33%	67% - 33%	67% - 33%
Small Grains		67% - 33%	67% - 33%	67% - 33%
Alfalfa		50% - 50%	50% - 50%	50% - 50%
Sugar Beets		75% - 25%	75% - 25%	75% - 25%
Non-Irrigated Land (Dryland)				
Corn/Sorghum		67% - 33%	67% - 33%	67% - 33%
Small Grains		75% - 25%	75% - 25%	67% - 33%
Oil Seed and Millet		75% - 25%	75% - 25%	75% - 25%
Alfalfa		50% - 50%	50% - 50%	50% - 50%