

CUSTOM FARM MACHINERY RATES IN TEXAS-1973

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This publication is the result of a survey conducted by The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The names of individuals or firms known to hire or perform custom operations were obtained from local county Extension agents. Questionnaires were sent to these individuals or firms asking for the rates they paid or charged in 1973. A total of 1,050 questionnaires were mailed and 340 were returned with sufficient information to be used in this study.

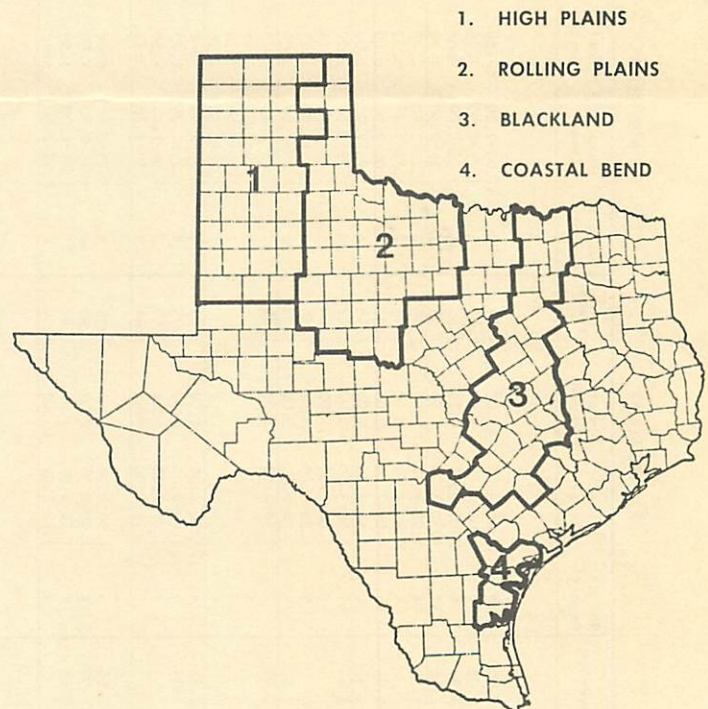
The custom rates reported include charges made for the use of the machine, operator's labor, fuel, baling wire and twine. Cost of materials such as seed, fertilizer and chemicals are not included in the reported rates.

This study includes custom rates in four areas of the state (See map). Rates are reported for areas where sufficient responses were obtained and, within an area, for any job which had three or more responses obtained for each job, along with the unit on which the charge is based. The reliability of the rates reported are higher when there is a large number of respondents.

Also included in the table is the usual range of rates reported for each job along with the average rate and the "most common." The "most common" rate is the one which is reported more frequently than any other. In many cases, it is the best single estimate of a normal or usual rate.

Custom rates vary, so they must be interpreted carefully. Variations may be expected because of topography of the land, the size and shape of fields,

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crop yields, the kind and size of machine used, weather conditions and other factors. Rates may also vary between localities depending upon the number of operators available to do custom work in a particular area.

In this publication authors do not attempt to evaluate the fairness of rates currently charged nor to establish rates in an area. The rates quoted should be used only as a guide in arriving at what is agreeable to the custom operator and the farmer who hires the service and to assist a farmer in making a decision whether to own a piece of equipment or hire the work done.

Note: The rates quoted in this publication are for the year 1973 and may not reflect rates currently charged. Late 1973 through early 1974 was a time of increasing prices. A number of respondents indicated that their charges would be higher in 1974, sometimes by as much as 25 percent.

Operation	Unit	BLACKLAND				ROLLING PLAINS				HIGH PLAINS				COASTAL BEND			
		No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average
TILLAGE																	
Stalk shredding	acre	16	\$1.50-3.00	\$2.00	\$2.05	19	\$1.00-2.00	\$2.00	\$1.64	20	\$1.00-2.00	\$1.50	\$1.61	6	\$1.50-2.50	none	\$1.85
Pasture shredding	acre	24	1.50-3.00	2.00	2.52	11	1.50-3.00	3.00	2.47	3	1.75-2.00	1.75	1.83	*			
Shredding and disking	acre	7	2.50-5.50	4.50	3.96	6	2.00-4.50	4.00	3.45	5	2.25-3.00	none	2.65	5	2.00-4.00	none	2.96
Tandem disking	acre	39	1.50-4.00	3.00	2.76	52	1.50-3.00	1.50	1.95	27	1.25-2.50	1.50	1.72	12	1.50-3.00	2.50	2.27
Offset disking	acre	33	3.00-5.00	4.00	4.30	24	2.00-3.50	2.50	2.65	22	1.25-2.50	2.00	2.03	3	3.00-4.00	4.00	3.67
Row disk	acre	*				4	1.50-2.50	2.50	2.13	4	1.25-1.75	1.25	1.44	3	2.00-3.00	none	2.50
Moldboard plow	acre	20	5.00-7.00	5.00	5.75	25	4.00-7.00	5.00	5.37	21	4.00-7.00	6.00	5.05	7	5.00-8.00	none	6.68
Oneway disk	acre	7	2.50-4.00	none	2.96	30	1.50-3.00	3.00	2.48	16	1.25-2.00	2.00	1.77	*			
Chisel plow	acre	18	2.25-4.50	4.00	3.67	51	1.50-3.50	3.00	2.62	24	1.75-3.50	2.00	2.42	*			
Spike-tooth harrow	acre	*				7	1.00-2.00	1.00	1.64	5	.75-1.50	1.25	1.20	*			
Spring-tooth harrow	acre	*				5	1.00-2.00	none	1.55	10	1.25-2.00	1.25	1.55	*			
Bed	acre	15	1.50-3.50	2.50	2.50	16	1.50-2.50	2.00	1.88	26	1.25-2.00	2.00	1.69	9	1.50-3.00	2.00	2.14
Rebed	acre	9	1.50-2.50	2.00	2.47	7	1.50-2.00	2.00	1.89	10	1.25-2.25	1.25	1.63	9	1.50-3.00	2.00	2.12
Shape beds	acre	*				*				6	1.25-2.00	1.25	1.46	*			
Float	acre	*				*				7	1.25-2.50	1.50	1.75	*			
Rod weeder	acre	*				*				11	1.25-2.50	1.25	1.70	*			
Rolling cultivate	acre	3	1.25-2.50	none	1.92	4	1.50-2.00	1.50	1.69	9	1.25-2.00	none	1.67	*			
Rotary hoeing	acre	3	1.00-1.25	1.25	1.17	4	1.00-2.00	2.00	1.75	5	1.25-1.75	1.25	1.40	*			
Water furrow	acre	*				3	1.00-2.00	none	1.58	7	1.00-2.00	1.50	1.43	*			
Sandfighter	acre	*				3	.75-2.00	none	1.41	9	.50-1.25	.75	.83	*			
Row cultivate:																	
corn	acre	4	1.50-3.00	none	2.06	5	1.50-2.00	none	1.95	6	1.25-2.50	none	1.71	*			
cotton	acre	6	1.50-2.25	none	2.00	15	1.50-2.50	2.00	1.92	18	1.25-2.50	1.50	1.64	*			
grain sorghum	acre	9	1.50-2.25	none	2.05	9	1.50-2.00	2.00	1.87	21	1.25-2.00	1.50	1.62	3	1.50-3.00	none	2.17
soybeans	acre	*				4	1.50-2.00	2.00	2.06	6	1.25-2.50	none	1.71	*			
PLANTING																	
Corn	acre	3	1.50-2.50	1.50	1.83	4	2.00-2.50	2.00	2.13	5	1.25-2.50	1.75	1.90	*			
Cotton	acre	9	1.50-2.50	2.00	2.11	22	1.50-2.50	2.00	1.90	23	1.25-3.00	1.50	1.81	10	1.50-3.00	2.00	2.18
Grain sorghum	acre	17	1.50-3.00	2.00	2.16	16	1.50-2.50	2.00	2.06	26	1.25-2.25	2.00	1.82	7	1.50-3.00	2.00	2.11
Soybeans	acre	*				*				6	1.25-3.00	none	2.13	*			
Small grain	acre	21	1.50-3.00	2.00	2.29	46	1.25-3.00	1.50	1.84	25	1.25-2.50	1.50	1.72	*			
Broadcast grass seed	acre	5	1.00-3.00	none	2.45	4	1.00-3.50	none	2.50	*				*			
Drill grass seed alone	acre	8	1.50-3.00	2.50	2.31	7	2.00-3.00	2.00	2.14	3	1.50-1.75	1.50	1.58	*			
Drill grass with fert.	acre	*				4	2.00-4.00	3.00	3.00	*				*			
Pasture sprig w/o sprigs	acre	10	5.00-12.00	none	7.90	6	6.00-15.00	none	8.75	*				*			
APPLYING FERTILIZER																	
Anhydrous ammonia	acre	13	1.50-3.50	2.00	2.23	13	.75-2.50	2.00	1.80	23	1.25-2.50	2.00	1.81	*			
Mixed dry fertilizer	acre	30	.75-1.25	1.00	1.09	27	.50-2.50	1.00	1.02	15	.50-1.50	1.00	.92	6	1.00-3.00	1.00	1.75
Liquid fertilizer:																	
sprayed on	acre	12	1.00-1.25	1.00	1.08	20	.50-1.50	1.00	1.07	14	.50-1.25	1.00	1.10	6	1.25-1.75	1.50	1.54
knifed in	acre	7	1.50-2.50	2.50	2.21	*				*				6	1.50-3.00	none	2.05
APPLYING CHEMICALS																	
Apply & incorp. herbicide	acre	7	1.00-3.00	none	2.00	16	2.25-3.50	3.00	2.80	22	1.75-3.50	3.00	2.60	7	2.00-3.75	3.00	2.71
Incorporate herbicide	acre	*				9	1.50-2.50	2.50	2.00	12	1.25-2.50	none	1.70	*			
Apply herbicide only	acre	12	1.00-2.00	1.00	1.27	9	1.00-2.00	1.50	1.33	26	1.00-1.50	1.25	1.32	13	.80-2.00	none	1.35
Insecticide spraying:																	
aerial	acre	20	.80-1.50	1.00	1.16	21	1.00-2.00	1.50	1.44	33	1.25-2.25	1.25	1.52	16	.85-1.75	1.00	1.13
ground	acre	14	1.00-1.75	1.00	1.25	4	1.50-2.00	none	1.75	11	1.00-1.50	1.50	1.40	7	.75-1.75	1.00	1.08
Defoliate cotton:																	
aerial	acre	9	1.00-2.00	2.00	1.48	11	1.00-2.50	1.75	1.68	15	1.25-2.00	1.50	1.55	19	1.00-1.75	1.25	1.38
ground	acre	14	1.00-2.00	1.50	1.46	12	1.00-2.50	1.50	1.69	10	1.00-1.50	none	1.25	5	1.00-1.50	1.00	1.19

*Data insufficient to indicate a reliable measure.

Operation	Unit	BLACKLAND				ROLLING PLAINS				HIGH PLAINS				COASTAL BEND			
		No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average
HARVESTING FIELD CROPS																	
Combining corn	acre	3	\$4.00-10.00	none	\$7.33	*				*				*			
Combine and haul corn	cwt.	*				*				5	\$.30-.40	.35	.35	*			
Combining soybeans	acre	*				3	\$5.00-6.00	none	\$5.50	4	6.00-8.00	\$6.00	\$6.75	*			
Combine and haul soybeans	acre	*				*				3	8.00-12.00	none	10.00	*			
Combine small grain	acre	34	3.00-8.00	5.00	5.19	64	3.00-5.00	4.00	4.00	19	3.50-5.00	4.00	4.10	*			
" " "	acre ¹	*				12	3.00-5.00	4.00	4.08	16	3.50-5.50	4.50	4.47	*			
plus per bushel over 20 bu.		*				*	+ .05- +.10	+ .05	+ .054	*	+ .05- +.10	+ .05	+ .057	*			
Combine & haul small grain	cwt.	*				*				5	.20-.35	.25	.27	3	\$.30-.32	\$.30	\$.31
Combine grain sorghum	acre	24	4.00-8.00	5.00	5.70	36	3.00-6.00	4.00	4.27	22	3.50-5.00	4.00	4.64	3	4.00-5.00	4.00	4.33
" " "	cwt.	5	.15-.20	.20	.19	*				9	.20-.30	.25	.27	12	.20-.30	.20	.21
Combine and haul grain sorghum	acre	4	4.00-10.00	4.50	5.75	*				4	3.00-5.00	none	3.80	*			
" " "	cwt.	15	.25-.35	.30	.29	10	.22-.50	.35	.32	36	.25-.40	.30	.31	19	.25-.40	.30	.31
Trucking grain only ²	cwt.	*				33	.10-.15	.15	.13	26	.05-.20	.15	.12	13	.10-.15	.10	.11
" " "	bu.	37	.10-.20	.10	.13	37	.05-.10	.05	.085	23	.05-.14	.07	.068	*			
Cotton picking	cwt.	*				*				*				6	2.00-3.00	2.00	2.25
" " "	lb. of lint	3	.06-.07	.06	.063	*				*				*			
Pick and haul cotton	cwt.	*				*				*				8	2.00-3.25	2.00	2.31
Cotton stripping	cwt.	10	.75-1.25	1.00	1.05	21	.75-2.00	1.00	1.14	21	.60-1.00	.75	.86	10	1.00-1.75	1.00	1.10
" " "	lb. of lint	4	.03-.05	none	.04	3	.04-.05	none	.045	*				*			
Strip and haul cotton	cwt.	11	.75-1.50	1.00	1.08	35	.75-2.00	1.00	1.15	31	.75-1.25	.75	.87	5	1.00-1.25	1.00	1.07
" " "	lb. of lint	6	.035-.05	none	.04	7	.05-.06	.05	.054	*				*			
HARVESTING FORAGES																	
Mowing hay	acre	8	1.50-5.00	3.00	2.63	6	2.00-3.50	none	2.83	*				*			
Conditioning hay	acre	*				3	3.00-4.00	3.00	3.33	*				*			
Mowing and conditioning	acre	19	2.50-5.00	4.00	3.92	13	2.10-5.00	none	3.81	7	2.00-4.50	none	3.29	*			
" " "	bale	15	.10-.15	.10	.11	*				*				*			
Windrowing	acre	3	1.50-4.00	4.00	3.17	19	2.50-5.00	3.00	3.55	7	1.50-4.00	none	3.00	*			
" " "	bale	7	.02-.12	.05	.07	*				*				*			
Windrow and bale:																	
wire bale	bale	43	.20-.40	.30	.32	48	.25-.50	.35	.36	22	.25-.50	.35	.36	4	.30-.40	.40	.36
twine bale	bale	10	.20-.35	.30	.27	5	.30-.35	.35	.33	9	.30-.45	.35	.32	*			
Baling only:																	
wire bale	bale	24	.15-.35	.25	.23	42	.20-.40	.25	.26	13	.20-.40	.25	.29	*			
twine bale	bale	12	.16-.35	.20	.21	5	.20-.35	.25	.25	4	.20-.35	none	.28	*			
Bale, haul, and stack:																	
wire bale	bale	18	.35-.60	.45	.47	14	.40-.60	.55	.52	9	.42-.60	.50	.51	*			
twine bale	bale	5	.32-.45	.35	.36	3	.50-.50	.50	.50	*				*			
Baling large round bale	bale	4	4.00-5.00	4.00	4.45	*				*				*			
Hauling and stacking bale	bale	27	.10-.20	.15	.16	41	.10-.26	.15	.17	18	.10-.20	.15	.15	4	.10-.20	.15	.15
Complete hay harvesting																	
from mowing to stacking:																	
regular bales	bale	8	.40-.53	.50	.48	5	.55-.60	.55	.57	*				3	.47-.55	none	.51
large round bales	bale	3	9.00-10.50	9.00	9.50	*				*				*			
Making silage:																	
corn: trench silo	ton	*				*				5	2.25-3.50	2.75	2.50	*			

*Data insufficient to indicate a reliable measure.

¹Acres + bushel combination rates based upon a flat dollar charge per acre plus a charge for each bushel over 20 bushels per acre harvested.

²These are the usual rates charged and may vary with distance hauled.

Operation	Unit	BLACKLAND				ROLLING PLAINS				HIGH PLAINS				COASTAL BEND			
		No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average	No. of Reports	Usual Range	Most Common	Average
MISCELLANEOUS FARM JOBS																	
Feed processing:																	
grinding at mill	cwt.	3	\$.20-.60	\$.20	\$.33	4	\$.25-.35	\$.35	\$.31	*							
grind and mix at mill	cwt.	7	.30-.50	none	.43	4	.25-.60	none	.40	*							
Haul manure: solid	ton	*				*				*							
Dig post holes	hole	6	.15-.25	.25	.21	4	.10-.50	.25	.28	*							
Shear sheep	head	8	1.25-5.00	1.50	2.65	7	.50-1.00	none	.75	*							
Trucking livestock ³	head load	*				11	10.00-45.00	none	27.32	*							
Land clearing:																	
bulldozing ⁴	hour	22	15.00-25.00	20.00	20.39	25	10.00-25.00	17.50	18.44	*							
root plowing	hour	7	18.00-25.00	20.00	21.67	5	16.00-25.00	20.00	19.70	*							
Aerial brush spraying	acre	*				10	1.50-2.50	1.50	1.67	*							

*Data insufficient to indicate a reliable measure.

³These are the most common units reported, other units commonly reported were per mile and per cwt. Rates also may vary with distance hauled.

⁴This includes different size bulldozers and blade widths. Rates may vary between sizes of bulldozer and blade.

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