

Edited by: Dennis Stein, Extension Educator, District Farm Business Management, Michigan State University Extension  
362 Green Street, Caro MI 48723 ♦ 989-672-3870 ♦ email: steind@msu.edu ♦ webpage: <http://www.msu.edu/user/steind>

## 2012 - 2013 Production Season Costs

updated 10.31.12

LABOR:		Custom Rate \$/ Hour	Machine Cost	\$/Hour		
Farm Labor Unskilled <sup>7</sup> = \$ per hour		\$13.46	\$15.00	\$3.60 per gallon of fuel		
Farm Labor skilled <sup>7</sup> = \$ per hour		\$16.13	\$20.00	\$3.96 per gallon lube & fuel cost		
TRACTORS ONLY:		Custom Rate \$/ Hour	Machine Cost	\$/Hour	Est. Fuel Gal. / Hour	Est. Fuel Cost per Hour
No driver or fuel cost		4WD - 260 hp.	\$87.00	\$108.69	9.95	\$39.40
		MFWD - 200 hp.	\$75.00	\$74.27	7.04	\$27.88
		MFWD - 130 hp.	\$58.00	\$49.83	5.72	\$22.65
Est. Tractor Cost \$0.24/hp/hr.		2- WD - 75 hp.	\$40.00	\$23.05	3.3	\$13.07
Est. Fuel use .044 gal. diesel/PTO hp / hour		2- WD - 40 hp.	\$30.00	\$11.66	1.76	\$6.97
Auto Steer systems charge per acre		\$2.29				
TILLAGE OPERATIONS:		Custom \$/Acre <sup>1</sup>	Total Machine Cost/ Ac <sup>3</sup>	Machine Rate per Hour <sup>4</sup>	Acres/Hr. <sup>5</sup>	Est. Fuel Gal./Acre <sup>6</sup>
Plowing: Moldboard (6 bottom)		\$18.70	\$22.66	\$94.49	4.17	1.32
Chisel Plow (23 ft.)		\$14.58	\$10.76	\$140.20	13.03	0.60
Chisel – front disk (16.3 ft.)		\$14.71	\$11.03	\$101.59	9.21	0.97
Disk-V.Ripper combo (17.5 ft)		\$18.13	\$20.81	\$187.71	9.02	1.47
Subsoiler 30" - 10ft (12-15")		\$16.64				
Discing - tandem (21 ft)		\$12.57	\$10.41	\$127.21	12.22	0.58
Field Cultivator (23 ft.) + incorp.		\$12.13	\$11.75	\$194.93	16.59	0.38
Field Cultivator (23 ft.)		\$10.91	\$6.19	\$102.69	16.59	0.32
Harrow		\$10.63				
Soil Finisher		\$14.63				
Strip tillage		\$15.95				
Row Cultivate (12 rows)		\$11.10	\$7.01	\$108.30	15.45	0.46
Row Cultivate - high residue (12rows)		\$12.00				
Stalk Shredder (20 ft.)		\$13.73	\$12.95	\$100.49	7.76	0.74
Rotary Hoe (21 ft.)		\$8.56	\$2.67	\$69.31	25.96	0.18
Land Rolling		\$7.25				
Highboy spraying		\$7.00				
Boom Sprayer - self-Prop.80ft.		\$7.05	\$7.73	\$341.05	44.12	0.14
Boom Sprayer - pull type 50ft.		\$5.68	\$3.23	\$82.72	25.61	0.10
Spraying - road ditches/ hr						
PLANTING:		Custom \$/Acre <sup>1</sup>	Total Machine Cost/ Ac <sup>3</sup>	Machine Rate per Hour <sup>4</sup>	Acres/Hr. <sup>5</sup>	Est. Fuel Gal./Acre <sup>6</sup>
Planter - conventional (12row) w/fert 30" corn-soys		\$16.22	\$10.80	\$151.20	14.00	0.32
Planter - soybean 15" rows		\$15.58				
Planter - No Till w/fert (12 row)		\$18.09				
Planter - Min Till (12 row)		\$16.53	\$14.60	\$185.86	12.73	0.53
GPS mapping addition to planting		\$2.45				
Air Seeder Drill w/cart 52ft		\$17.70	\$17.70	\$390.46	22.06	0.45
Drill Soybeans Conventional		\$15.87				
Drill - No Till (15 ft.)		\$17.25	\$21.47	\$136.55	6.36	0.81
Drill - No Till - drill only no tractor		\$10.75				
Drill press wheels - (20 ft)		\$15.16	\$12.47	\$105.75	8.48	0.61
Grain drill - only - no tractor		\$9.95				
Pest Control - scouting		\$5.00				

<b><u>SUGAR BEETS:</u></b>	Custom \$/Acre <sup>1</sup>	Total Machine Cost/ Ac <sup>3</sup>	Machine Rate per Hour <sup>4</sup>	Acres/Hr. <sup>5</sup>	Est. Fuel Gal./Acre <sup>6</sup>
<i>Sugar Beets - Planting (12 row)</i>	\$21.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	4.67	0.99
<i>Sugar Beet Cultivation</i>	\$13.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	5.60	0.81
<i>Sugar Beet Topper (8 rows)</i>	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	7.13	0.56
<i>Sugar Beet Harvester (6 rows)</i>	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	3.03	2.22
<i>Sugar Beet Cart ( 20 ton)</i>	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	5.20	1.80
<b><u>HARVESTING:</u></b>	Custom \$/Acre <sup>1</sup>	Total Machine Cost/ Ac <sup>3</sup>	Machine Rate per Hour <sup>4</sup>	Acres/Hr. <sup>5</sup>	Est. Fuel Gal./Acre <sup>6</sup>
<i>Combine - (Corn -8 row head)</i>	\$31.40	\$35.09	\$238.26	6.79	2.35
<i>Combine - stalk chopper head</i>	\$35.80				
<i>Combine Small grains (20 ft head)</i>	\$29.75	\$30.38	\$206.28	6.79	1.49
<i>Combine Soybeans (25 ft. head)</i>	\$30.91	\$30.59	\$226.98	7.42	1.95
<i>Combine Soybeans - air reel</i>	\$33.35				
<i>Combine, cart, haul to storage - Corn</i>	\$52.02				
<i>Combine, cart, haul to storage - Soybeans</i>	\$45.16				
<i>GPS mapping addition to harvesting</i>	\$2.45				
<i>Picker 2 row - Ear Corn + 3 wagons</i>	\$27.08				
<i>Combine Field Beans (belt pickup)</i>	\$35.00	\$33.39	\$223.38	6.69	1.81
<i>Pulling Dry Beans (knife 6 row)</i>	\$9.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	8.73	0.66
<i>Pulling Dry Beans (rod 6 row)</i>	\$8.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	8.73	0.66
<i>Dry Bean - windrowing (6 row)</i>	\$9.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	8.73	0.66
<i>Grain Cart - corn / acre</i>	\$5.00	\$20.88	\$143.45	6.87	1.44
<i>Chopping Forage - Pull type (2 row corn hd) /ton</i>	\$5.43/Ton	\$63.24	\$87.27	1.38	3.35
<i>Chopping Forage - w/kernel processor</i>	\$6.43/ton				
<i>Chopping Forage - Pull type Pickup head - 12ft</i>		\$24.80	\$100.94	4.07	1.40
<i>Chopping Forage - Self-propelled (6 row corn head)</i>	78.78/ Ac	\$48.92	\$67.51	1.38	2.35
<i>Silo Filling-Tower silo: 1Tractor, 1Chopper &amp; Driver, 2 Wagons</i>	\$8.66/ Ton				
<i>Bunker: Chopper &amp; 3 forage wagons or 2 trucks &amp; packer</i>	\$8.15/ Ton				
<i>Silage Bagging per ft. (9 ft diameter)</i>	\$8.78/ Ton				
<i>Mowing</i>	\$12.85				
<i>Raking – Hay 9ft.</i>	\$6.18	\$6.04	\$21.08	3.49	0.50
<i>Tedding</i>	\$7.03				
<i>Windrowing - hay or straw</i>	\$12.35				
<i>Mower-Conditioner Pull-type (9 ft.)</i>	\$15.10	\$13.04	\$57.25	4.39	0.40
<i>Mower-Conditioner- Self Propelled (16ft)</i>	\$16.89	\$23.75	\$184.30	7.76	0.64
<i>Mower - Conditioner- Rotary (12ft)</i>	\$14.22	\$9.18	\$71.24	7.76	0.38
<i>Small Square Baling Hay</i>	\$0.78 per bale	\$13.62	\$47.67	3.50	0.40
<i>Straw</i>	\$0.70 per bale				
<i>Mow, Rake, Baler &amp; Handle - small square</i>	\$1.85 per bale				
<i>Baler, Rake &amp; Handle - Large Round</i>	\$20.33/bale				
<i>Complete Hay harvesting per ton</i>	\$38.00				
<i>Baling Round - 600-800# per bale</i>	\$8.95 per bale				
<i>Baling Round - 1200 -1500# per bale</i>	\$10.56 per bale				
<i>Baler 1000# Round /with wrapper</i>	\$11-\$13.25 per bale	\$9.09	\$27.36	3.01	0.35
<i>Baling - 1500# - Lrg. Round - stalks/straw</i>	\$11.56 per bale				
<i>Baling - 1500# - Lrg. Round - stalks/straw - w/wrap</i>	\$13.50 per bale	\$0.00	\$0.00	3.04	0.49
<i>Baling - Hay - Large Square - 4x3x6</i>	\$10.50-\$12.75/bale			11.64	0.49
<i>Baling - Hay - Large Square - 4x3x8</i>	\$12- 14.50 per bale				

<b>FERTILIZER:</b>	Custom \$/Acre <sup>1</sup>	Total Machine Cost/ Ac <sup>3</sup>	Machine Rate per Hour <sup>4</sup>	Acres/Hr. <sup>5</sup>	Est. Fuel Gal./Acre <sup>6</sup>
<b>Fertilizer Dry Bulk: Spreading</b>	\$6.38				
<b>Lime application</b>	\$10.03				
<b>Fertilizer - Liquid-Knifed In</b>	\$10.70				
<b>- Liquid-Sprayed</b>	\$7.26				
<b>Fertilizer - Anhydrous: 21 ft.</b>	\$11.36				
<b>Fertilizer - Anhydrous: NoTill 32 ft.</b>	\$11.66				
<b>Manure Hauling-semi-solid- Load &amp; Spread / hr.</b>	71.95 per hr	\$39.22	\$78.44	2.00	2.31
<b>Liquid Manure Injected Spreader-6000 gal.</b>	11.00 per 1000 gal.	\$66.57	\$133.14	2.00	2.86
<b>Manure Pump, Hauling, Spreading - liquid (9500 gallon cap.) per hour</b>	\$92 / hour				
<b>Manure Pump, Hauling, Injecting - 1000 gal. liquid (9500 gallon cap.)</b>	\$12.50 per 1000 gal.				
<b>Bobcat /Skid Loader / day</b>	\$75 to \$130 per day				
<b>Ditch Mowing</b>	\$58.35 per hour				
<b>Brush Hogging</b>	\$24.30				
<b>Grain Drying - continuous flow /point/ bu.</b>	\$0.04/pt./bu.				
<b>Grain Drying - inbin dryer /point/bu.</b>	\$0.06/pt./bu.				
<b>Grain Auger/ bu.</b>	\$0.05 per bu.				
<b>Grain Storage/ mo.</b>	\$0.05/bu./mo.				
<b>Grain Storage for season</b>	\$ 0.21 per bu.				
<b>Grain Haul - per bushel - field to farmstead</b>	\$0.10/ up to10 miles	.16/25mi	.098/ 5miles		
<b>Rock picking</b>	\$12.90				
<b>Custom Farming - Corn</b>	\$174.25	(all machine operations for growing & harvest)			
<b>Custom Farming - Soybeans</b>	\$145.71	(all machine operations for growing & harvest)			
<b>Custom Farming - Sm Grains</b>	\$140.85	(all machine operations for growing & harvest)			

Fuel cost is calculated by adding fuel, oil and lube calculated by adding 10% to the power fuel cost.

**\$3.60 Fuel Price ==>**

**\$3.960 \*\* base fuel & lube price used**

**1 Custom \$ per acre:** Represents the rate obtained from surveys of actual farm data surveys for 2012 from Universities listed below

to do this type of machine work for another farm on a general basis. Higher or lower rates apply in each situation depending on crop conditions, soil conditions, size of fields and there locations. This numbers includeds machine, power unit & operator where needed. Values have been adjusted higher to reflect the change in power fuel costs noted above.

**3 Total Machine Cost/Acre:** Includes tractor, fuel cost", lubricants, repairs, maintenance, labor and overhead costs including depreciation. This could be considered as an estimate of the ownership cost and operation of this machine on a per acre basis. No profit or return to management, which would be necessary for on going enterprises were included in this number. Values are based on "Farm Machinery Economic Cost Estimates for 2012, University of Minnesota

**4 Machine Rate per Hour:** This number takes the Total Machine Cost per Acre and factors in the estimated Acres per Hour to give a value that represents an estimate of the hourly operational and ownership cost of machinery supported by @University of Minnesota, Machinery Economic cost estimates for 2012. If the machine is run at full capacity (or engine clock hours) this per acre rate should be in the custom work value generated.

**5 Acres/ Hour:** This is an estimate of the acres this machine should average on a per hour basis with normal down time.

**6 Gal./ Acre:** This is an estimated machine use of fuel consumed to do this activity and is based on a factor of 0.044 gallons of diesel fuel per PTO horsepower-hour on an average. Your individual machines fuel use may vary from this number.

**7 Labor cost:** Charged for this table at a rate of \$15.00 per hour unskilled tasks and \$20.00 per hour for skilled labor (planter, sprayer, harvester).

Costs were developed as an adjusted estimate of common rates being used by farms in this area to cover their cost of operation.

- University of Minnesota, *Machinery Economic Cost Estimates for 2012* @ <http://faculty.apec.umn.edu/wlazarus/documents/machdata.pdf>
- Iowa State University, *2012 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey - Ag Decision Maker* @ <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/publications/FM1698.pdf>
- Kansas State Univeristy - *2012 Kansas Farm Custom Rates* @ [http://www.agmanager.info/farmmgmt/machinery/Tools/KCD\\_CustomRates\(Jan2012\).pdf](http://www.agmanager.info/farmmgmt/machinery/Tools/KCD_CustomRates(Jan2012).pdf)
- Texas A&M University, *2011 Texas Agricultural Custom Rates* @ 2011 <http://agecoext.tamu.edu/resources/library/publications/2011-texas-agricultural-custom-rates.html>
- NASS- USDA & Pennsylvania Department of Ag - *2012 Machinery Custom Rates*; Adam Pike, March 2012 [http://pss.uvm.edu/vtcrops/articles/PA\\_CustomRates\\_2012.pdf](http://pss.uvm.edu/vtcrops/articles/PA_CustomRates_2012.pdf)
- Purdue Extension: *2012 Indiana Farm Custom Rates 06-12* @ <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ec/ec-130-w.pdf>
- University of Illinois - *Machinery Cost Estimates - May 2012, Univ. of Illinois* @ <http://farmdoc.illinois.edu/manage/machinery/summary%202012.pdf>
- University of Nebraska Lincoln - *2012 Nebraska Farm Custom Rates - May 2012* @ <http://ianrpubs.unl.edu/public/live/ec823/build/ec823.pdf>

\* This report is a summary of information extracted from various sources. Your actual cost may vary greatly from the numbers presented. It is recommended that you calculate your own cost and economic returns necessary for the operation of machinery and equipment on your individual farm.

This document was compiled by: Dennis Stein, Extension Educator, District Farm Business Management, Michigan State University Extension. revised 10/2012

362 Green Street, Caro, Michigan 48723-1998 email: [steind@msu.edu](mailto:steind@msu.edu) or web page: <http://www.msu.edu/user/steind/>

Reviewed by: Curtis Talley, Jr., Extension Educator, District Farm Business Management, Michigan State University Extension.

Major shifts in power fuel cost during the past few year has had an impact on and has changed the cost of machine operational cost.

As a rule of thumb, it is estimated that each \$1.00 increase in fuel cost, will increase most machine operations by an additional 15%.