

2024 North Dakota Custom Rates

Part II – Late Season Operations

December 2024

Introduction

The data in this report are the results of a survey conducted during October and November by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Approximately 1,370 reports from farmers and ranchers, elevators, custom harvesters, and other custom operators were tabulated. The survey was designed to provide state and regional averages of custom work rates. The late season survey was last conducted in 2020. Prior to 2020, the late season survey was conducted in 2016 and then had been conducted every three years since 1962, except during the early 1980's when it was conducted every other year.

Appreciation is expressed to all survey participants who provided the data for this report and also to North Dakota State University Extension Service personnel for their assistance on this project.

The Data

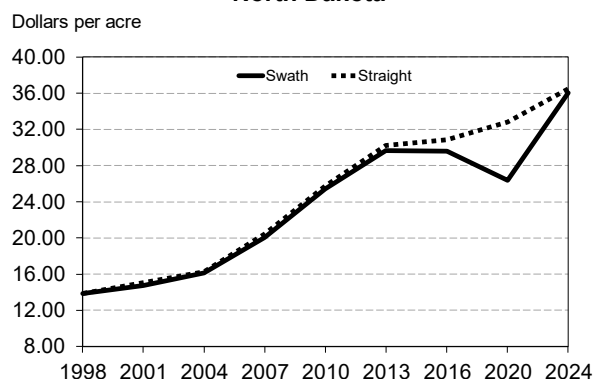
This report contains state and regional level custom work rates for harvesting, drying and hauling crops, seed preparation, hauling hay and livestock, and other custom work for fall operations.

Included for each operation are the number of reports, range, most frequently reported rate, and the average rates. Also included are state level 2020 average rates, 2024 rates as a percent of 2020, and historical comparisons back to 1998 for selected operations. State averages are reported where there were a sufficient number of reports. **We advise the reader to exercise discretion when using rates where less than fifteen reports were tabulated.**

The range shows the minimum and maximum rate reported for each custom operation. The range is affected by the locality of the reporter and the size of the custom operator. A farmer/rancher who does a small amount of custom work for his or her neighbor may charge less than a large-scale operator. No adjustments are made for this or any other special circumstances.

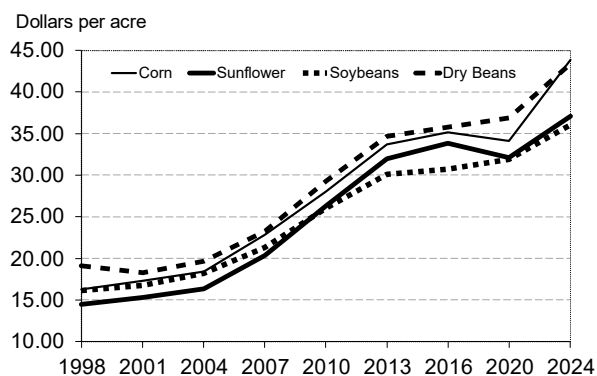
The rates in this report are averages that include charges for equipment, power, fuel, and the operator. Exchange work was not considered custom work for this survey.

Small Grain Combining: 1998 - 2024 ¹
North Dakota

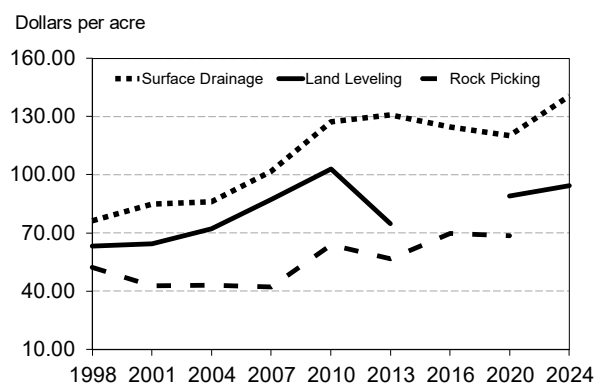


¹ Averages for 1998 do not include flaxseed.

Straight Combining: 1998 - 2024
North Dakota



Surface Drainage, Land Leveling and Rock Picking – Average Rate: 1998 - 2024



Land leveling data withheld for 2016. Rock picking data withheld for 2024.

HARVESTING CROPS, SEED PREPARATION AND MACHINE RENTAL

STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2024

Operation	2024				2020 Average Rate	2024 as Percent of 2020
	No. Reports	Range in Rates	Most Frequent Rate Reported	Average Rate		
Diesel Fuel	(number) 466	(\$/gallon) 1.90-4.90	(\$/gallon) 3.00	(\$/gallon) 3.21	(\$/gallon) 1.80	(percent) 178
Harvesting Grain Crops:	(number)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(percent)
Swathing Grain						
Self-Propelled.....acre	10	8.00-45.00	15.00	16.60	11.38	146
Pull-Type (PTO Unit).....acre	4	5.00-15.00	1	9.40	(D)	(D)
Swathing Canola:						
Self-Propelled.....acre	7	10.00-18.60	1	14.51	14.29	102
Pull-Type.....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Combining From Swaths:						
Small Grains & Flaxseed.....acre	24	15.00-55.00	35.00	36.06	26.35	137
Dry Edible Beans.....acre	7	15.00-60.00	1	51.00	43.40	118
Canola.....acre	11	10.00-60.00	40.00	44.73	37.00	121
Straight Combining:						
Small Grains & Flaxseed.....acre	72	13.00-60.00	35.00	36.49	32.84	111
Corn.....acre	38	20.00-100.00	40.00	43.87	34.11	129
Sunflower.....acre	13	18.00-60.00	30.00	37.08	32.12	115
Soybeans.....acre	61	12.50-60.00	40.00	36.02	31.92	113
Dry Edible Beans.....acre	15	15.00-60.00	50.00	43.40	36.86	118
Canola.....acre	35	12.75-60.00	40.00	38.35	35.85	107
Pulse Crops.....acre	7	22.00-50.00	30.00	36.00	33.38	108
Dry Bean Harvesting:						
Cutting Only (Knifing).....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Windrowing (After Knifing).....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cutting & Windrowing (One Operation).....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Sugarbeet Harvesting:						
Topping.....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Lifting.....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Making Corn Silage:						
Field Chopping Onlyacre	13	12.00-200.00	1	116.23	81.25	143
.....hour	7	50.00-250.00	1	137.86	100.83	137
Field Chopping and Haulingacre	12	45.00-240.00	1	137.46	100.85	136
.....hour	4	125.00-1,200.00	1	408.75	(D)	(D)
Shredding Corn Stalksacre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Seed Preparation:						
Seed Grain						
Cleaning Only.....gross bushels	25	0.25-1.95	1.00	0.884	0.744	119
Treating Only.....gross bushels	7	0.08-6.00	3.00	2.011	2.120	95
Cleaning and Treating.....gross bushels	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	2.292	(D)
Flaxseed						
Cleaning Only.....gross bushels	5	0.90-2.00	1.00	1.680	1.588	106
Treating Only.....gross bushels	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Cleaning and Treating.....gross bushels	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Machine Rental:						
Tractor						
Under 100 Horsepower.....hour ²	6	18.00-70.00	1	54.33	59.29	92
100-200 Horsepower.....hour ²	10	22.00-150.00	1	82.30	92.78	89
Over 200 Horsepower.....hour ²	9	30.00-250.00	100.00	104.56	101.70	103
Combineacre	6	20.00-50.00	20.00	31.67	31.40	101
.....hour ²	10	125.00-400.00	400.00	257.04	212.31	121
Corn Head Rental Onlyacre	4	5.00-10.00	1	7.25	(D)	(D)
.....hour ²	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Field Rolleracre	18	2.00-14.00	1	5.44	3.89	140
.....hour ²	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) No reports received. ¹ Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency. ² Rates for machine rentals are in tachometer hours.

DRYING GRAIN AND HAULING CROPS, HAY AND CATTLE

STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2024

Operation	Basic Charge - 2024					2020 Average Rate	2024 as % of 2020	Extra Charge – 2024	
	Number of Reports	Range In Rates	Most Frequent Rate Reported	Average Maximum Moisture Content	Average Rate			Number of Reports	For Each Additional 1% Moisture Removed
	(number)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(percent)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(percent)	(number)	(\$/unit)
Drying Grain:									
Small Grains bushels	18	0.05-1.00	0.15	15.83	0.216	0.092	235	5	0.038
Corn bushels	19	0.04-0.55	0.05	17.66	0.131	0.101	129	11	0.051
Sunflower cwt	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Soybeans bushels	4	0.06-0.50	¹	17.25	0.203	0.090	225	(D)	(D)

(D) Withheld due to insufficient data. ¹ Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency.

STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2024

Operation	Basic Charge - 2024					2020 Average Rate	2024 as % of 2020	Extra Charge – 2024	
	Number of Reports	Range In Rates	Most Frequent Rate Reported	Average Base Mileage	Average Rate			Number of Reports	Per 10 Miles Over Base Mileage
	(number)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(miles)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(percent)	(number)	(\$/unit)
Hauling Crops:									
Wheat, All bushels	27	0.05-0.80	¹	36.91	0.261	0.171	152	8	0.094
Barley bushels	6	0.10-0.80	0.40	92.00	0.385	0.144	267	(D)	(D)
Oats bushels	6	0.10-0.48	¹	58.00	0.285	0.150	190	(D)	(D)
Sunflower cwt	6	0.22-2.50	¹	154.50	1.218	0.466	261	(D)	(D)
Canola cwt	10	0.15-2.50	¹	120.00	1.130	0.396	285	(D)	(D)
Flaxseed bushels	4	0.10-0.48	¹	73.25	0.288	0.258	111	(D)	(D)
Corn bushels	27	0.03-0.48	¹	47.62	0.222	0.195	114	9	0.090
Sugarbeets tons	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	5.625	(D)	(NA)	(NA)

(D) Withheld due to insufficient data. (NA) No reports received. ¹ Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency.

STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2024

Operation	Basic Charge - 2024					2020 Average Rate	2024 as % of 2020	Loading Charge - 2024	
	Number of Reports	Range In Rates	Most Frequent Rate Reported	Average Rate	Number of Reports			Charge	
	(number)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(percent)	(number)	(\$/load)	
Hauling Hay:									
By the Load (Loose & Bales):									
Less than 10 tons mile ²	14	1.50-25.00	¹	6.50	5.06	128	7	27.86	
10-20 tons mile ²	14	3.00-10.00	6.00	6.14	5.18	119	9	34.44	
Over 20 tons mile ²	14	0.18-20.00	6.00	6.12	4.38	140	6	32.17	
Hauling Cattle:									
Gooseneck Trailer mile ³	21	2.00-30.00	5.50	6.79	3.53	192	6	420	
Semi Trailer mile ³	24	1.00-10.00	6.00	5.99	5.07	118	6	353	

¹ Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency. ² Loaded mile excludes loading. ³ Loaded mile.

OTHER CUSTOM WORK AND HISTORICAL DATA

OTHER CUSTOM WORK, STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2024

Operation	2024				2020 Average Rate (dollars/unit)	2024 as Percent of 2020 (percent)
	Number of Reports (number)	Range in Rates (dollar/unit)	Most Frequent Rate Reported (dollars/unit)	Average Rate (dollars/unit)		
Custom Farming: ¹						
Small Grainsacre	28	6.00-150.00	²	25.62	29.01	88
Row Cropsacre	34	7.00-300.00	²	40.20	44.93	89
Miscellaneous:						
Mowing/Clipping CRPacre	12	6.00-35.00	12.00	13.48	13.74	98
.....hour	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	89.17	(D)
Mowing Road Ditches (not for hay)acre	13	12.00-500.00	100.00	99.77	68.00	147
.....hour	4	125.00-300.00	²	201.50	99.29	203
On Farm Grain Bin Storage..... cents/bu/month	15	0.01-0.13	0.03	0.05	0.04	117
On Farm Grain Bin Storage cents/bu/year	10	0.01-0.25	0.10	0.14	0.15	93
Machine Shed Rental..... cents/sq ft/month	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Machine Shed Rental..... cents/sq ft/year	8	0.30-1.00	1.00	0.65	0.67	97
Grain Bagging foot of bag	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Surface Drainagehour	5	30.00-200.00	²	140.60	120.27	117
Installing Drainage Tile.....acre	4	300.00-2,000.00	²	1,050.00	830.00	127
.....hour	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
Land Leveling.....hour	4	22.00-200.00	²	94.25	89.00	106
Rock Pickinghour	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	68.71	(D)
Snow Removal:						
Front End Loaderhour	9	20.00-150.00	65.00	74.78	80.50	93
Tractor Blowerhour	14	25.00-200.00	²	100.36	94.76	106

(D) Withheld due to insufficient data. ¹ Includes all necessary farming operations from field preparation through harvesting. ² Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency.

HISTORICAL DATA, STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 1998 - 2024

Operation	1998	2001	2004	2007	2010	2013	2016	2020	2024
	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)
Swathing Grain:									
Self-Propelledacre	5.04	5.47	6.21	7.79	8.78	11.76	10.00	11.38	16.60
Pull-Type (PTO Unit)acre	4.58	5.23	5.75	7.63	8.12	11.05	(D)	(D)	9.40
Combining From Swaths:									
Small Grains & Flaxseed ¹acre	13.82	14.72	16.12	20.04	25.44	29.64	29.60	26.35	36.06
Dry Edible Beansacre	19.06	19.06	21.02	23.11	29.80	38.58	40.00	43.40	51.00
Straight Combining:									
Small Grains & Flaxseed ¹acre	13.88	15.03	16.27	20.41	25.75	30.25	30.89	32.84	36.49
Cornacre	16.26	17.33	18.43	22.81	28.04	33.73	35.13	34.11	43.87
Sunfloweracre	14.49	15.29	16.31	20.32	26.28	32.00	33.82	32.12	37.08
Soybeansacre	16.10	16.72	18.22	21.31	26.03	30.09	30.70	31.92	36.02
Dry Edible Beansacre	19.10	18.29	19.64	23.27	29.28	34.65	35.78	36.86	43.40
Canola ²acre						32.01	34.37	35.85	38.35
Pulse Crops ³acre							36.24	33.38	36.00
Making Corn Silage:									
Field Chopping Onlyacre	18.69	20.78	26.75	35.45	46.52	54.46	64.42	81.25	116.23
Field Chopping and Haulingacre	23.62	26.26	37.55	43.83	60.51	62.88	81.21	100.85	137.46
Drying Grain:									
Small Grainsbushels	0.123	0.113	0.145	0.128	0.166	0.179	0.115	0.092	0.216
Cornbushels	0.146	0.132	0.179	0.141	0.171	0.203	0.132	0.101	0.131
Sunflowercwt	0.171	0.165	0.168	0.187	0.191	0.223	(D)	(D)	(D)
Soybeansbushels	0.115	0.125	0.147	0.105	0.118	0.219	0.062	0.090	0.203
Hauling Crops:									
Wheat, Allbushels	0.109	0.116	0.123	0.157	0.174	0.210	0.157	0.171	0.261
Barleybushels	0.101	0.117	0.119	0.154	0.157	0.186	0.239	0.144	0.385
Oatsbushels	0.100	0.107	0.107	0.146	0.153	0.138	0.186	0.150	0.285
Flaxseedbushels	0.124	0.107	0.139	0.139	0.162	0.191	0.279	0.258	0.288
Cornbushels	0.101	0.114	0.110	0.151	0.173	0.185	0.153	0.195	0.222
Sunflowercwt	0.339	0.378	0.413	0.376	0.311	0.604	0.883	0.466	1.218
Seed Grain Preparation:									
Cleaning Only gross bushels	0.340	0.361	0.380	0.436	0.475	0.556	0.653	0.744	0.884
Treating Only gross bushels	0.519	0.514	0.542	0.801	0.795	0.822	1.516	2.120	2.011
Cleaning & Treating gross bushels	0.726	0.846	0.915	1.169	1.097	0.874	1.858	2.292	(D)
Surface Drainagehour	76.25	84.80	86.03	101.67	127.35	130.71	124.50	120.27	140.60
Land Levelinghour	63.26	64.31	72.21	87.12	103.00	74.93	(D)	89.00	94.25
Rock Pickinghour	52.29	42.72	42.99	42.24	63.77	56.75	69.63	68.71	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. ¹ Averages for year 1998 do not include flaxseed. ² Data series began in 2013. ³ Data series began in 2016.