

# Idaho Custom Rates Guide 2019

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## Background

The University of Idaho conducts a Custom Rates Survey every 4-5 years. This summary is the product of an online survey which collected rates farmers paid for custom work performed in 2019. The numbers are based on surveys received from custom operators, farmers who hired custom work and farmers who performed custom work. There were 62 responses received. This bulletin does not distinguish between rates charged by specialized custom operators and those charged by farmers who do custom work as a secondary source of income.

## Using the Data

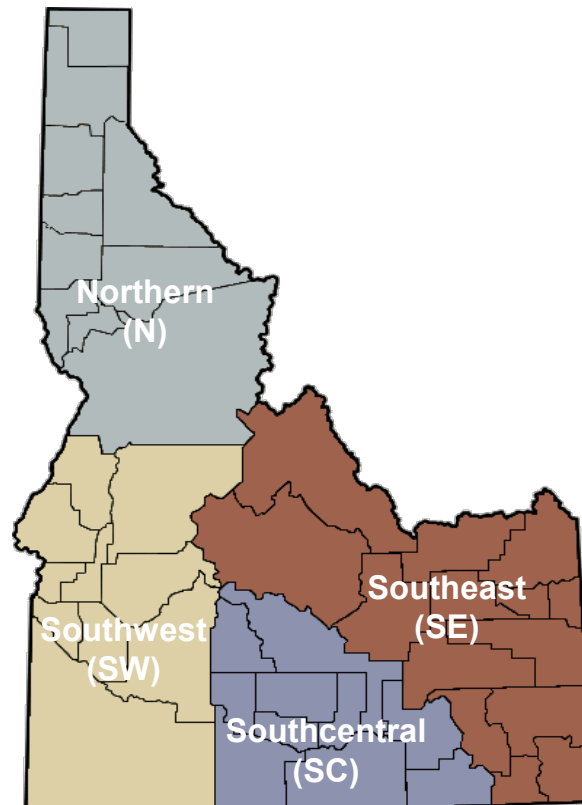
Statewide averages and typical ranges are in this bulletin and are based on actual reported data. The ranges provided for each custom operation include at least 90 percent of the reported values. Figures which were widely outside the range of other responses were removed from the report. Rates are typically influenced by fuel costs, interest rates, soil conditions, topography, field size and shape, traditional practices in the area, and type of equipment used. Price changes for machinery, fuel, and labor should be considered when using the 2019 data in subsequent years

## Idaho Geography

Idaho varies greatly in topography, climate, soils, and other variables affecting agricultural production. Consequently, a wide variety of crop/livestock enterprises and management systems exists. Because of the variability, production costs can differ from one area to another and even between adjacent farms or ranches.

## Regional & Statewide

The statewide average and range as well as region level rates were included where enough data were available. Custom rates reported in this bulletin are tied to four geographic regions of Idaho based on similar geography and farming practices. Please refer to Figure 1.



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**Table A. LAND TILLAGE OPERATIONS, IDAHO, 2019**

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages			
				N	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre			
Chisel plow	15.00-35.00	22.50	10		35.50	19.50	19.85
Disk/ripper/harrow combination	20.00-35.00	28.60	12		27.00	32.40	25.70
Field cultivator	12.00-32.00	20.00	11		22.50	24.00	17.70
Moldboard plow	24.00-55.00	36.70	9		40.70	34.50	34.75
Rotary hoe	12.00-28.00	17.25	4		20.00	15.00	14.00
Soil finisher	15.00-24.00	18.45	7		15.00	23.00	17.00
Strip tillage	16.00-25.00	20.50	2			25.00	16.00
Subsoiling	18.00-25.00	21.50	2			25.00	18.00
Vertical tillage	12.50-18.00	15.25	2	12.50			18.00
Finishing disk	12.00-32.00	20.00	6		32.00	20.00	17.00
Offset disk	18.00-39.00	23.25	8		25.70	22.35	21.00
Tandem disk	12.00-25.00	18.85	6		18.00	22.00	18.25
Disk w/ digger & drag	22.00-55.00	36.00	2		50.00		22.00
Triple K	15.00-33.00	24.50	4		24.50		
Roller harrow	12.00-20.00	15.25	8		16.70	20.00	13.00
Spike tooth/flexible harrow	7.00-32.00	15.00	6		23.50	12.00	10.35
Land plane	9.00-33.00	23.40	5		27.70	25.00	9.00

**Table B. FERTILIZER & CHEMICAL APPLICATIONS, IDAHO, 2019**

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages			
				N	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre			
Dry fertilizer broadcast:							
0-750 lbs	5.00-8.95	7.40	10			7.50	7.35
500-1,500 lbs	5.00-9.75	8.30	10			8.00	8.35
Variable rate (1-2 products)	5.00-11.55	9.25	7			10.00	9.15
Variable rate (3-4 products)	5.00-15.00	11.70	8			10.00	11.95
Liquid fertilizer:							
Broadcast spray	7.00-14.00	8.55	10	9.00	14.00	7.75	7.80
Shank-in or markout	8.00	8.00	1			8.00	
Sidedress	8.00-39.00	19.45	4		30.50	8.00	8.80
Spraying chemicals by volume:							
10 gallons or less	5.50-8.15	7.20	12	6.25		7.35	7.40
11-20 gallons	6.50-9.00	8.05	8			8.00	8.05
21-30 gallons	8.00-10.50	9.45	7			9.00	9.60
Spraying chemicals by crop:							
Grain, alfalfa, pulse crops	6.50-8.90	7.50	7			7.50	7.50
Potatoes, sugarbeets, onions	6.50-13.00	8.75	4			10.50	7.00
Applying sulfuric acid:							
10-20 gallons	8.00-14.00	10.50	3			8.00	11.75
21-30 gallons	8.00-20.00	12.90	4			8.00	14.50
More than 30 gallons	8.00-14.00	11.00	2			8.00	14.00
Spray & incorporate	39.00	39.00	1		39.00		

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages			
				N	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre			
<b>Dry product:</b>							
Less than 100 lb	8.00	8.00	1			8.00	
More than 100 lb	9.00	9.00	1			9.00	
<b>Liquid product:</b>							
3 gallons	8.00	8.00	1			8.00	
5 gallons	8.00-12.00	10.00	2			8.00	12.00
7.5 gallons	9.00	9.00	1			9.00	
10 gallons	9.25-10.00	9.65	2			10.00	9.25
<b>Seeding</b>							

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre					
<b>Row markout:</b>						
Dry row markout: no product applied	20.00-25.00	21.25	4	20.00	25.00	20.00
Row markout with one product: 0-30 gal.	23.00-30.00	26.50	2	23.00	30.00	
Row markout with two products: 31-45 gal.						
Row markout, fertilize & fumigate (Vapam or K-Pam)	25.00-40.00	35.00	3	25.00	40.00	40.00
<b>Fumigation:</b>						
Shanked with chisel plow: 30-40 gals. (Vapam or K-Pam)	40.00-42.00	40.70	3	40.00	40.00	42.00
Ripper or disk ripper with steel roller (Telone)	40.00-45.00	45.00	3	40.00	50.00	45.00
Ripper or disk ripper with steel roller (Telone + Vapam)	50.00-60.00	55.00	2		60.00	50.00
<b>Strip tillage:</b>						
Row markout & fertilize: 22" rows	30.00	30.00	1			30.00

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages			
				N	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre			
<b>Small Grains</b>							
Conventional till	12.00-35.00	23.55	11	22.00	26.50	25.70	21.40
Mulch till	17.00-20.00	18.50	2	20.00		17.00	
No-till	14.00-35.00	20.30	7	20.00	35.00		17.40
No-till and fertilizer	23.00-30.00	25.80	8	27.85			24.60
<b>Alfalfa</b>							
Conventional till	12.00-35.00	21.30	7		33.00	26.50	15.75
Mulch till	18.00-20.00	19.00	2	20.00		18.00	
No-till	20.00-24.00	22.00	2	20.00			24.00
<b>Corn</b>							
Less than 30" rows	20.00-30.00	23.25	4		22.00	25.50	20.00
30" rows and greater	20.00-40.00	31.00	3		36.50	20.00	
<b>Dry Beans</b>	21.00-22.00	21.70	3	22.00	22.00	21.00	
<b>Sugargeets</b>	20.00-33.00	26.25	4		27.50	30.00	20.00
<b>Potatoes</b>	24.00-45.00	36.35	3			45.00	32.00

**Table F. ROW CROP CULTIVATION OPERATIONS, IDAHO, 2019**

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages		
				SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre					
Row cultivator:						
With fertilizer						
Without fertilizer	15.00-32.00	25.00	3	30.00	15.00	
Corrugate	15.00-32.00	25.00	3	30.00	15.00	
Hill potatoes	18.00	18.00	1			18.00
Basin tillage/dammer diker	20.00-28.00	24.00	2		28.00	20.00

**Table G. HAY HARVEST OPERATIONS, IDAHO, 2019**

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages			
				N	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre			
Mowing and conditioning	14.00-31.00	18.90	27	18.50	19.35	18.80	18.95
Mowing only	18.00-19.00	18.50	2	19.00			18.00
Raking	4.00-12.00	6.90	21	5.00	11.50	7.75	6.15
Windrow merging	8.00-12.00	10.00	2		10.00		
Baling:	Dollars per bale			Dollars per bale			
Small square 2-string	0.50-3.75	1.30	8		0.65	1.85	1.25
Small square 3-string							
Large square 3' x 3'	9.00-11.00	9.70	3				9.70
Large square 3' x 4'	15.00-16.00	15.60	5	15.00	16.00	16.00	15.50
Large square 4' x 4'	12.00-20.00	16.15	13		18.00	18.00	15.35
Round 4' wide	8.00-12.00	10.00	2	8.00			12.00
Round 5' wide							
Retrieve and stack:							
Small square 2-string	0.45-1.20	0.80	6		0.63	0.45	1.05
Small square 3-string							
Large square 3' x 3'	1.00-5.00	3.70	3				3.65
Large square 3' x 4'	3.00-6.00	4.50	6	3.00	6.00		4.50
Large square 4' x 4'	3.00-5.00	4.40	11		5.00	4.50	4.30
Round 4' wide							
Round 5' wide	7.00	7.00	1				7.00
Combination (mow, rake, bale, stack):							
Small square 2-string	2.00-3.00	2.50	2			2.00	3.00
Small square 3-string							
Large square 3' x 3'	20.25-22.00	21.15	2				21.15
Large square 3' x 4'	25.35-27.00	29.45	3	26.00	37.00		25.35
Large square 4' x 4'	35.00-55.00	40.00	8			46.70	36.00
Round 4' wide	40.00	40.00	1				40.00
Round 5' wide							

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages			
				N	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per ton			Dollars per ton			
Corn silage:							
Chop only							
Haul less than 1 mile	12.00	12.00	1				12.00
Haul more than 1 mile plus \$/ton/mile							
Pack							
Chop, short haul & pack	9.00	9.00	1			9.00	
Green chop hay & grain:							
Chop only							
Rake, chop, short haul & pack							
Haul less than 1 mile							
Haul more than 1 mile plus \$/ton/mile							

Operation	Range in Rates	Statewide Average	Number of Responses	Regional Averages			
				N	SW	SC	SE
	Dollars per acre			Dollars per acre			
Combine/thrash standing:							
Small grains irrigated	27.00-75.00	44.40	10		66.00	58.50	37.30
Small grains dryland	20.00-40.00	30.00	6	37.50			26.25
Dry beans or peas	35.00-80.00	57.50	2	35.00	80.00		
Corn	55.00-80.00	70.70	3		77.00	55.00	80.00
Seed crops (alfalfa, clover, grass)	110	110.00	1		110.00		
Cut & windrow beans							
Combine/thrash in windrow:	35.00-80.00	65.00	3	35.00	80.00		
Dry beans or peas	35.00-51.00	45.30	3	35.00	50.00	51.00	
Combine/thrash in windrow:	Dollars per cwt			Dollars per cwt			
Dry beans or peas	1.70	1.70	1			1.70	
Dry beans: garden or seed							
Hauling	Dollars per bushel			Dollars per bushel			
Field to farm	0.10-0.80	0.40	7	0.18	0.75	0.50	0.35
Farm to market	0.20-0.75	0.35	11	0.30	0.75	0.35	0.35

## References and Other Useful Links

Painter, K. 2011. The Costs of Owning and Operating Farm Machinery in the Pacific Northwest. PNW 346. Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Extension.  
<http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/PNW/PNW0346/PNW346.pdf>

University of Idaho. Machinery Cost Calculator.  
<https://www.uidaho.edu/cals/idaho-agbiz/tools>

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Iowa State University. Farm Custom Rates Survey:  
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USDA NASS. Wisconsin Custom Rate Guide 2017:

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/danecountyag/files/2018/06/WI-CRate17.pdf>

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