

2006

FARM CUSTOM-WORK RATE GUIDE

for the

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

Prepared by: BILL WHITTLE, Extension Agent - Farm Business Management - PD7
TOM STANLEY, Extension Agent - Farm Business Management, PD6

JOB	UNIT	OVER-ALL RESULTS			AVERAGE SHENANDOAH VALLEY
		NO.	LOW	HIGH	
HAY and PASTURE					
Bush Hog (Rotary Cutter)	Acre	29	\$7.00	\$35.00	\$20.91
	Hour	17	\$20.00	\$75.00	\$40.82
Mow	Acre	9	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$19.00
Mow/Condition	Acre	31	\$6.00	\$35.00	\$16.06
	Hour	3	\$50.00	\$65.00	\$60.00
Tedder	Acre	22	\$2.00	\$30.00	\$9.50
Rake	Acre	25	\$3.00	\$30.00	\$10.94
Bale: Small Square Bales	Bale	24	\$0.35	\$1.25	\$0.73
Bale: 400-800 Lb. Large Square Bales	Bale	15	\$4.00	\$9.00	\$6.52
Bale: 800 Lb. Large Round Bales	Bale	34	\$3.50	\$16.00	\$7.11
Bale: 1500 Lb. Large Round Bales	Bale	24	\$4.50	\$15.00	\$7.92
Cut, Rake, Bale (Small Square Bales)	Bale	8	\$1.25	\$3.50	\$1.76
Cut, Rake, Bale (800 Lb. Large Round Bales)	Bale	14	\$9.50	\$18.00	\$13.32
Cut, Rake, Bale (1500 Lb. Large Round Bales)	Bale	5	\$12.00	\$27.00	\$18.00
Bale Wrapping (Equipment & Operator)	Bale	16	\$3.50	\$11.50	\$5.94
Bale Bagging (Equipment & Operator)	Bale	5	\$3.50	\$11.25	\$6.45
TILLAGE OPERATIONS					
Moldboard Plow	Acre	5	\$10.00	\$30.00	\$21.00
Chisel Plow	Acre	9	\$12.00	\$30.00	\$19.89
Subsoil	Acre	5	\$12.00	\$36.00	\$21.10
	Hour	4	\$20.00	\$150.00	\$61.25
Offset Disk	Hour	3	\$20.00	\$65.00	\$40.00
Tandem Disk	Acre	3	\$12.00	\$15.00	\$14.00
	Hour	4	\$20.00	\$70.00	\$47.50
MANURE SPREADING					
Liquid Manure Spreading (3,000 Gal. Tank)	Hour	12	\$45.00	\$68.00	\$59.17
Poultry Litter Spreading	Acre	3	\$5.00	\$15.00	\$10.00
	Hour	8	\$40.00	\$65.00	\$55.00
	Ton	25	\$3.00	\$20.00	\$10.72
PLANTING OPERATIONS					
Corn - Conventional	Acre	9	\$12.00	\$20.00	\$15.78
Corn - No-Till	Acre	35	\$8.00	\$25.00	\$15.47
Soybeans - Conventional	Acre	6	\$14.00	\$20.00	\$17.17
Soybeans - No-Till	Acre	13	\$8.00	\$20.00	\$14.08
Soybeans - Drill	Acre	6	\$7.00	\$18.00	\$12.67
Small Grain - Drill	Acre	7	\$9.00	\$20.00	\$15.29
Small Grain - No-Till	Acre	17	\$7.00	\$20.00	\$13.32
Clover and Grass Seeding-Drill	Acre	11	\$8.00	\$22.00	\$15.18
Clover and Grass Seeding No-Till	Acre	13	\$7.00	\$32.00	\$15.08

(OVER)

www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Mark A. McCann, Interim Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; Alma C. Hobbs, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State, Petersburg.

JOB		UNIT	OVER-ALL RESULTS			AVERAGE SHENANDOAH VALLEY
			NO.	LOW	HIGH	
GRAIN CROP HARVESTING						
Picking Corn		Acre	5	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$28.40
Combining Corn		Acre	28	\$15.00	\$35.00	\$30.29
		Hour	3	\$60.00	\$170.00	\$111.67
Combining Soybeans		Acre	27	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$31.41
		Hour	3	\$60.00	\$170.00	\$116.67
Combining Small Grain		Acre	23	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$29.52
		Hour	4	\$60.00	\$170.00	\$106.25
Hauling Grain		Bushel	11	\$0.11	\$0.40	\$0.20
		Loaded Mile	6	\$1.00	\$2.50	\$2.08
SILAGE HARVEST						
Tractor and Harvester		Hour	6	\$30.00	\$80.00	\$56.67
Self-Propelled Harvester		Hour	12	\$40.00	\$300.00	\$213.33
Hauling Silage		Hour	12	\$20.00	\$70.00	\$49.58
LIVESTOCK TRUCKING						
2 Ton Truck		Loaded Mile	4	\$2.00	\$2.50	\$2.29
Gooseneck Trailer		Loaded Mile	30	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$2.18
Semi		Loaded Mile	3	\$2.00	\$3.00	\$2.60
FENCE BUILDING						
Fence Repair: Minor		Hour	11	\$6.50	\$20.00	\$12.41
Driving Posts		Post	12	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$2.27
		Hour	3	\$10.00	\$40.00	\$25.00
Digging Post Holes		Hole	12	\$0.50	\$2.50	\$1.52
		Hour	3	\$10.00	\$50.00	\$28.33
Labor for Building Fence		Hour	15	\$8.00	\$20.00	\$11.40
Fence Building (Complete job, not including materials)	High Tensile	Per Ft.	4	\$1.25	\$10.00	\$4.06
	Barbed Wire	Per Ft.	5	\$1.75	\$10.00	\$3.72
	Woven Wire	Per Ft.	12	\$1.35	\$10.00	\$3.53
	Board	Per Ft.	4	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$4.13
OTHER						
Large Bulldozer		Hour	11	\$60.00	\$95.00	\$79.55
Small Bulldozer		Hour	4	\$45.00	\$65.00	\$57.50
Backhoe		Hour	16	\$40.00	\$85.00	\$59.69
Skid Loader		Hour	13	\$10.00	\$60.00	\$36.15
Farm Road/Driveway Grading		Hour	7	\$22.00	\$70.00	\$41.00
Snow Plowing		Hour	14	\$15.00	\$100.00	\$44.14
Lime Application (Excluding cost of Lime)		Acre	12	\$2.00	\$16.00	\$8.45
		Ton	5	\$2.00	\$12.00	\$6.30
Fertilizer Application (Excluding cost of Fertilizer)		Acre	30	\$2.00	\$12.00	\$6.73
Chemical Spray Application (Excluding cost of Chemicals)		Acre	23	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$6.87
Sheep Shearing		Head	8	\$2.50	\$5.00	\$3.13
EQUIPMENT RENTAL						
Bale Wrapping Machine (Farmer Supplies Wrap & Tractor)		Bale	10	\$1.00	\$6.50	\$3.05
Bale Tube Bagging Machine (Includes Bag)		Bale	5	\$3.50	\$6.50	\$5.20
Silage Bagging Machine (Includes Bag)		Bag	7	\$540.00	\$1,200.00	\$816.43
No-Till Drill		Acre	38	\$3.00	\$15.00	\$8.24
Litter Manure Spreader		Day	6	\$80.00	\$125.00	\$104.17
		Ton	8	\$1.00	\$10.00	\$3.74
Rent Tractor	50-75 HP	Hour	10	\$10.00	\$60.00	\$26.25
	75-100 HP	Hour	4	\$10.00	\$45.00	\$28.75
	100+ HP	Hour	3	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$30.00

Explanation:

In late 2005, the Farm Business Management Agents in the Northwest Extension District, cooperating with other Extension Agents, surveyed farmers and custom operators familiar with machinery custom-work rates in their localities. The survey instrument was prepared by the Farm Business Management Agents and mailed to farmers by participating Extension Agents in eleven counties. The Farm Business Management Agents tabulated 150 usable surveys, representing 971 quotes, and developed the biannual Guide that is distributed to the local Extension offices.

The above table reports the job, the unit for which the charge is quoted (acre, hour, bale, etc.), the number of usable responses for each job and the average for all the quotes followed by the low and high reported quote for each job. The last column states the Shenandoah Valley average. Some quotes received were not included since they were too extreme; however, there is still a wide range of quotes for many of the reported jobs. For many jobs the quotes were "bunched" close to the reported average which gives credibility to a majority of the averages, especially where there are a large number of responses for a particular job.