

2012 Custom Work Rate Guide for the Shenandoah Valley

OPERATION	Units	# Responses	Low	High	AVERAGE
Rotary Mower ('bush hog')	Acre	*	*	*	25.00
	Hour	7	15.00	75.00	55.71
Mow Hay	Acre	*	8.00	35.00	18.40
Mow and Condition Hay	Acre	9	9.00	18.00	14.22
	Hour	*	*	*	65.00
Tedder	Acre	*	3.00	9.00	5.60
Rake	Acre	*	4.00	9.00	6.25
Small Square Baling	Bale	*	*	*	1.00
Large Square Baling (6 - 1000#)	Bale	7	5.00	8.00	6.96
Round Bale 800#	Bale	22	4.00	12.00	7.99
Round Bale 1100#	Bale	11	5.50	10.00	7.82
Cut, Rake, Bale Sml Squares	Bale	7	1.05	2.25	1.84
Cut, Rake, Bale 800# Rd Bale	Bale	10	12.00	25.00	17.10
Cut, Rake, Bale 1100# Rd Bale	Bale	*	*	*	14.75
Bale Wrapping (Equip & Operator)	Bale	18	4.00	10.00	6.18
Subsoiling	Hour	*	*	*	15.00
Tandem Disk/Soil Preparation	Hour	*	*	*	15.00
	Acre	*	*	*	23.50
Corn Planting	Acre	25	15.00	30.00	21.84
Soybean Planting	Acre	11	12.00	30.00	20.50
Small Grain Planting	Acre	10	7.00	24.00	15.75
Grass/Clover No-Till Seeding	Acre	*	8.00	19.00	13.60

* indicates fewer than 6 responses, where High and Low values are not shown, there were fewer than 4 responses

This survey of farmers that performed or hired others to perform custom farm work was conducted in the Valley and Alleghany Highlands region and encompassed all the Virginia counties west of the Blue Ridge from Rockbridge to Clarke. There is considerable variation within each operation so these prices should only be used as a reference point. For example, round bale hay operations do not distinguish between those respondents that use net wrap and those that use twine. Also, appropriate charges for different operations will vary with the distance the custom operator must travel to reach the work site and the size of the task. Many respondents offered useful and informative comments about the work that was done but this information could not be summarized in a numeric format. Some very high and very low values were not included because they were far outside the range of the other responses.

This survey was conducted and summarized by Tom Stanley, Extension Agent, Farm Business Management. You may contact Tom Stanley through the Rockbridge County Extension Office at 540-463-4734

See reverse side for other operations and rates.



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OPERATION	Units	# Responses	Low	High	AVERAGE
Pick Corn	Acre	*	30.00	60.00	40.00
Combine Corn	Acre	24	30.00	55.00	37.48
Combine Soybeans	Acre	15	28.00	45.00	35.03
Combine Sm. Grains	Acre	17	28.00	55.00	35.38
Haul Grain	Hour	*	*	*	300.00
	Bushel	10	0.15	0.45	0.24
Harvest Corn Silage	Ton	*	*	*	3.00
	Hour	*	350.00	375.00	366.67
Haul Silage	\$/Ton/Mile	*	*	*	2.50
	Hourly Rate	*	65.00	105.00	75.00
Driving Posts	Post	*	*	*	5.00
	Hour	*	75.00	95.00	87.33
Digging Post Holes	Hole	*	*	*	5.00
	Hour	8	70.00	125.00	97.50
SPREAD POULTRY LITTER	Acre	*	*	*	4.50
	Hour	*	50.00	80.00	65.00
	Ton	*	10.00	22.50	15.50
Haul Livestock on SEMI-Truck	Loaded Mile	*	*	*	3.60
Haul Livestock on Gooseneck Trailer	Loaded Mile	*	*	*	2.60
Large Bulldozer	Hour	*	*	*	125.00
Backhoe Work	Hour	*	*	*	52.50
Skid Loader	Hour	*	*	*	57.50

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