

CUSTOM SERVICE RATES RELATED TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN NEBRASKA

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2023 Custom Service Rates Related to Livestock Production in Nebraska

A recent survey was distributed to inquire about current rates for custom services related to livestock production in Nebraska. The survey was prepared by a Center for Agricultural Profitability team at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and was circulated both to those providing services and to producers that utilize and pay for the custom services. Ninety-one survey responses were counted in the results with 451 answers to survey questions provided. Results for 53 different custom services or operations related to livestock production in Nebraska are provided in the report, Table 1. Rates are included in the summary report if at least three usable responses were provided for an operation or service from the surveys received.

Information about the survey was distributed via the media, Through Nebraska Extension newsletters, the Center for Agricultural Profitability website, and emails. Surveys were distributed during Nebraska Extension meetings or events involving livestock management topics during the last quarter of 2022 and first part of 2023. Fifty-four percent of survey participants self-identified as custom operators providing services with forty-six percent of respondents receiving custom services on their farm or ranch. Most surveys were completed using the online survey method with others submitting a paper survey.

The survey report is divided into sections based on the various types of custom services, which include: Common Custom Livestock Services, Custom Feed Preparation and Delivery Charges, Custom Land /Pasture Maintenance Services, Fencing and Trenching, Hauling Livestock, Haying

and Baling, Equipment Rental, and Manure Hauling and Application.

Actual rates paid for custom services may vary from those listed in these survey results due to differences in the operators responding and those providing services across the state. Custom rates reported include charges for use of necessary equipment, fuel, labor, and supplies such as baling wire or twine provided by the custom operator.

While surveys were received from all areas of the state, the most responses were received from the Northwest, North, and East Nebraska Agricultural Statistical Districts with nineteen, thirteen, and fourteen surveys submitted respectively. The least number of responses was received from the Central district with seven.

The information presented in this publication should be used only as a guide when figuring out what to charge or pay for custom operations.

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Items to note in survey results (Table 1):

The **Number Reporting** is the number of usable responses received for a specific operation. The results from operations with more responses are generally more reliable than those with fewer responses. Results are not reported if fewer than three usable responses were reported for an operation.

The **Average Rate** for a specific operation provides an estimate of the prevailing charge for an operation. The reliability for this figure improves as the number of responses increase for an operation. The size of the range should also be viewed when considering the average, as the range of answers in some cases may be wide.

The **Most Common Rate (Mode)** is the rate reported more often than any other for that practice. The Average Rate and the Mode are usually similar. The results do not include a mode figure when any value fails to be reported more than once or when two or more values are reported the same number of times.

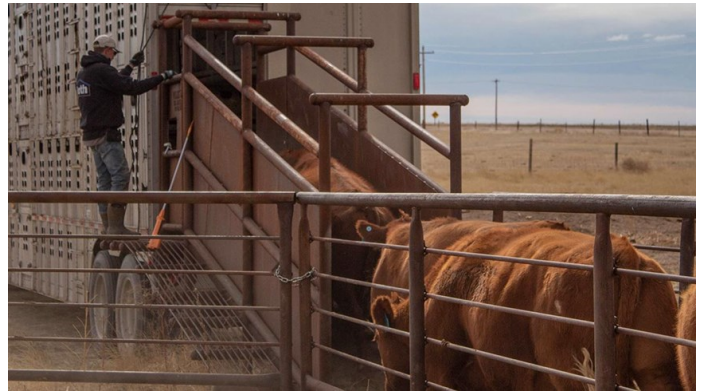
The **Range** shows the minimum and maximum amounts reported. These values may be indicative of different conditions under which the work was performed. The range may also reflect the fact that some rates include travel to and from the field while others do not.

Costs to Consider in Establishing Custom Rates

Be aware that the average custom rates reported may not cover all of an operator's costs. Rates change from year to year due to expense changes and the availability of custom operators. The rates reported in the publication were the prevailing rates in the first half of 2023. In determining the rates beyond 2023, custom operators and farm owners should consider their costs of equipment, labor, supplies, and fuel.

This publication has been peer-reviewed.

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For inquiries about this report or requests to be added to the list of respondents, please contact:

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Table 1

STATE SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK RELATED CUSTOM SERVICE RATES

COMMON CUSTOM LIVESTOCK SERVICES	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Cattle - Cows /Breeding Stock				
Artificial Insemination - \$ Rate per head	11.83	10.00	5.00-22.00	10
Pregnancy Testing by arm - \$ Rate per head	3.75	4.00	2.00-7.00	15
Pregnancy Testing by ultrasound - \$ Rate per head	4.46	4.00	2.00-10.00	18
Spaying heifers - \$ Rate per head	8.78	-	8.00-10.00	4
Yardage rate for calving heifers (without feed charges included) - \$ Rate per head	104.15	100.00	67-150	4
Yardage rate for calving heifers (without feed charges included) - \$ Rate per head per day	0.62	0.40	0.40-1.00	6
Yardage rate for calving cows (without feed charges included) - \$ Rate per head per day	0.99	-	0.35-2.00	4
Yardage rate for calving cows (without feed charges included) - \$ Rate per head	75.00	75.00	75.00-75.00	3
Wintering cows (without charge for calving labor) - \$ Rate per head per day	1.11	1.00	0.50-2.00	14
Calves				
Processing fee (branding, castrating, vaccinations) - \$ Rate per head	2.46	2.00	1.00-5.30	12
Processing fee (branding, castrating, vaccinations) - \$ Rate per hour	26.25	30.00	20.00-30.00	4
Yardage \$ rate for weaning calves (without feed charges included) - \$ Rate per head per day	0.54	0.35	0.15-2.50	14
Cattle - Backgrounding /Stocking				
Processing fee above supply costs for backgrounding cattle - \$ Rate per head	2.27	2.00	1.00-4.00	11
Processing fee above supply costs for backgrounding cattle - \$ Rate per head per day	0.60	0.40	0.25-2.50	11
Cattle Finishing				
Processing fee (not including supply costs for feeder cattle) - \$ Rate per head	1.96	1.00	0.35-4.00	9
Yardage \$ rate - finishing cattle (without feed charges included) - \$ Rate per head per day	0.43	0.35	0.27-0.60	8
CUSTOM FEED PREPARATION and DELIVERY	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Grinding Hay Only - \$ Rate per ton without delivery charge	13.29	10.00	5.00-30.00	7
Rolling Grain Only - \$ Rate per ton without delivery or mileage charges	7.20	-	4.00-10.00	5
CUSTOM LAND / PASTURE MAINTENANCE	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Seeding of pasture & grassland areas (drilled, no-till / interseeding) - \$ Rate per hour	71.00	-	35-110	3
Seeding of pasture & grassland areas (drilled, no-till / interseeding) - \$ Rate per acre	19.67	22.00	15.00-22.00	6
Spraying weed control with boom or recirculating sprayer - \$ Rate per acre	15.50	-	6.00-25.00	4
Spraying weed control with self-propelled sprayer - \$ Rate per acre	9.25	-	7.00-10.50	4
Fertilizing pasture - \$ Rate per acre	7.00	5.00	5.00-10.00	4
Clearing cedar trees - \$ Rate per hour	96.67	-	45-145	3
FENCING AND TRENCHING	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Building new fence -Labor charge only for 4 strand barbed with wood posts - \$ Rate per hour	35.00	-	20.00-50.00	3
Building new fence -Labor charge only for 4 strand barbed with wood posts - \$ Rate per foot	1.24	-	0.65-2.00	5
Building new fence -Materials and labor charge for 4 strand barbed with wood posts - \$ Rate per foot	3.10	-	2.00-5.00	3
HAULING LIVESTOCK	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Hauling Cattle by 18 wheeler (semi-trailer) - \$ Rate per loaded mile	6.24	6.00	2.38-13.00	15
-Average pounds per load on semi-trailer (hauling cattle)	48,286	50,000	38,000-52,000	7
Hauling Cattle by stock trailer - \$ Rate per loaded mile	3.88	5.00	2.50-6.00	7
-Average pounds per load on stock trailer (hauling cattle)	13,000	-	11,000-16,000	3

Table 1

STATE SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK RELATED CUSTOM SERVICE RATES

HAYING and BALING	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Mowing Hay with Disk Mower - \$ Rate per acre	16.00	15.00	15.00-20.00	8
Raking Hay - \$ Rate per acre	6.80	6.00	5.00-10.00	10
Mowing and Raking Hay (one rate is quoted or contracted for these operations) - \$ Rate per acre	16.00	-	12.00-20.00	3
Swathing Hay with crushing or crimping - \$ Rate per hour	161.00	-	100-230	5
Swathing Hay with crushing or crimping - \$ Rate per acre	16.63	15.00	10.00-25.00	19
Swathing Hay without crushing or crimping - \$ Rate per acre	15.50	-	12.00-22.00	4
Raking Cornstalks - \$ Rate per acre	7.55	7.00	4.00-10.50	10
Baling Hay (small square bale with twine tie) - \$ Rate per bale	1.44	2.00	0.75-2.00	8
-Average pounds per small square bale	56.00	50.00	50.00-65.00	5
Baling Hay (large square bale) - \$ Rate per bale	16.40	-	12.00-20.00	5
-Average pounds per large square bale	1,450	-	1,250-1,700	3
Baling Hay (large round bale without net wrap) - \$ Rate per bale	15.64	15.00	12.50-20.00	7
-Average pounds per large round bale without net wrap	1,340	1,200	1,200-1,500	5
Baling Hay (large round bale with net wrap) - \$ Rate per bale	16.24	15.00	12.00-21.00	23
-Average pounds per large round bale with net wrap	1,431	1,300	1,300-1,700	16
Baling Cornstalks (large round bale with net wrap) - \$ Rate per bale	17.23	15.00	15.00-20.00	11
-Average pounds per large round bale of cornstalks with net wrap	1,171	1,250	1,000-1,250	7
Loading and Moving Large Round Bales with Tractor - \$ Rate per bale	2.63	3.00	2.00-3.00	4
-Average distance in miles moving large round bales based on rate noted above	2.19	-	0.25-5.00	4
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Skid Steer - \$ Rate per hour	71.67	-	50-100	3
MANURE HAULING, and APPLICATION	Average Rate	Most Common	Range	Number Reporting
Solid Manure Loading - \$ Rate per ton	7.64	-	3.92-10.00	3
Solid Manure Application - \$ Rate per ton	3.25	1.50	1.50-6.00	4



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