

# 2020 North Dakota Custom Rates

## Part II – Late Season Operations

December 2020

### Introduction

The data in this report are the results of a survey conducted during September and October by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Approximately 1,600 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 2016. Prior to 2020, the early season survey 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

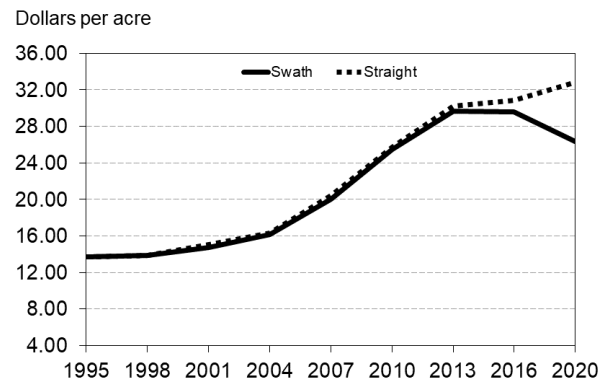
This report contains state and regional level custom work rates for harvesting, drying and hauling crops, seed preparation, hauling hay and livestock, and other custom work for fall operations.

Included for each operation are the number of reports, range, most frequently reported rate and the average rates. Also included are state level 2016 average rates, 2020 rates as a percent of 2016 and historical comparisons back to 1995 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.

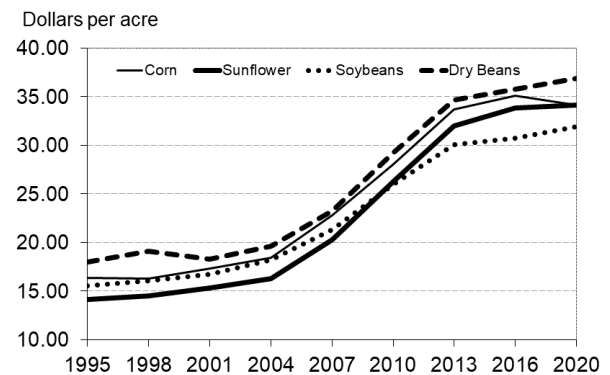
The rates in this report are averages that include charges for equipment, power, fuel and the operator. Exchange work was not considered custom work for this survey.

**Small Grain Combining: 1995-2020 <sup>1</sup>**  
**North Dakota**

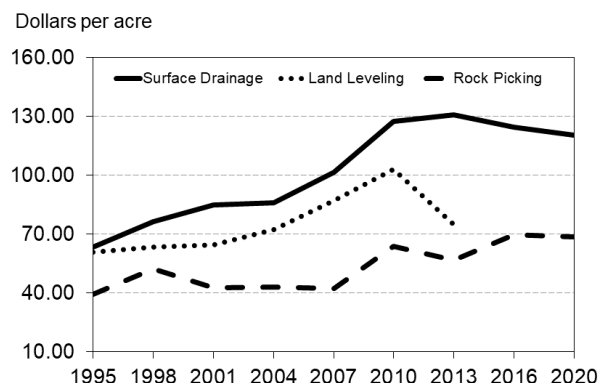


<sup>1</sup> Averages for years 1995-1998 do not include flaxseed.

**Straight Combining: 1995-2020**  
**North Dakota**



**Surface Drainage, Land Leveling and Rock Picking – Average rate: 1995-2020**



# HARVESTING CROPS, SEED PREPARATION AND MACHINE RENTAL

## STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2020

Operation	2020				2016 Average Rate	2020 as Percent of 2016
	No. Reports	Range in Rates	Most Frequent Rate Reported	Average Rate		
<b>Diesel Fuel</b> .....	(number) 867	(\$/gallon) 0.90-3.25	(\$/gallon) 2.00	(\$/gallon) 1.80	(\$/gallon) 1.96	(percent) 92
<b>Harvesting Grain Crops:</b>	(number)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(percent)
<b>Swathing Grain</b>						
Self-Propelled.....acre	8	2.00-20.00	1	11.38	10.00	114
Pull-Type.....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>Swathing Canola:</b>						
Self-Propelled.....acre	7	7.00-22.00	1	14.29	11.93	120
Pull-Type.....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>Combining From Swaths:</b>						
Small Grains & Flaxseed.....acre	26	3.20-40.00	1	26.35	29.60	89
Dry Edible Beans.....acre	5	25.00-55.00	55.00	43.40	40.00	109
Canola.....acre	9	25.00-40.00	40.00	37.00	29.94	124
<b>Straight Combining:</b>						
Small Grains & Flaxseed.....acre	99	12.50-50.00	30.00	32.84	30.89	106
Corn.....acre	35	15.00-52.00	35.00	34.11	35.13	97
Sunflower.....acre	17	9.00-52.00	30.00	32.12	33.82	95
Soybeans.....acre	69	12.00-50.00	30.00	31.92	30.70	104
Dry Edible Beans.....acre	21	16.00-55.00	1	36.86	35.78	103
Canola.....acre	34	16.00-50.00	35.00	35.85	34.37	104
Pulse Crops.....acre	12	16.00-42.00	1	33.38	36.24	92
<b>Dry Bean Harvesting:</b>						
Cutting Only (Knifing).....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	27.50	(D)
Windrowing (After Knifing).....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cutting & Windrowing (One Operation).....acre	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(D)
<b>Sugarbeet Harvesting:</b>						
Topping.....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Lifting.....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>Making Corn Silage:</b>						
<b>Field Chopping Only</b> .....acre	12	10.00-125.00	85.00	81.25	64.42	126
.....hour	6	75.00-150.00	75.00	100.83	(D)	(D)
<b>Field Chopping and Hauling</b> .....acre	27	30.00-200.00	100.00	100.85	81.21	124
.....hour	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	690.14	(D)
<b>Shredding Corn Stalks</b> .....acre	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(D)
<b>Seed Preparation:</b>						
<b>Seed Grain</b>						
Cleaning Only.....gross bushels	58	0.20-3.20	0.50	0.744	0.653	114
Treating Only.....gross bushels	22	0.10-7.00	2.50	2.120	1.516	140
Cleaning and Treating.....gross bushels	6	0.50-4.20	1	2.292	1.858	123
<b>Flaxseed</b>						
Cleaning Only.....gross bushels	8	1.20-2.00	2.00	1.588	1.132	140
Treating Only.....gross bushels	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(D)
Cleaning and Treating.....gross bushels	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(D)
<b>Machine Rental:</b>						
<b>Tractor</b>						
Under 100 Horsepower.....hour <sup>2</sup>	7	10.00-100.00	75.00	59.29	47.13	126
100-200 Horsepower.....hour <sup>2</sup>	9	35.00-150.00	150.00	92.78	56.75	163
Over 200 Horsepower.....hour <sup>2</sup>	15	21.00-250.00	1	101.70	87.50	116
<b>Combine</b> .....acre	5	25.00-40.00	1	31.40	27.00	116
.....hour <sup>2</sup>	13	75.00-300.00	1	212.31	146.67	145
<b>Corn Head Rental Only</b> .....acre	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	12.00	(D)
.....hour <sup>2</sup>	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
<b>Field Roller</b> .....acre	29	0.50-8.00	3.00	3.89	3.72	105
.....hour <sup>2</sup>	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) No Reports Received. <sup>1</sup> Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency.

<sup>2</sup> Rates for machine rentals are in tachometer hours.

# DRYING GRAIN AND HAULING CROPS, HAY AND CATTLE

## STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2020

Operation	Basic Charge - 2020					2016 Average Rate	2020 as % of 2016	Extra Charge-2020	
	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)
<b>Drying Grain:</b>									
Small Grains ..... bushels	16	0.01-0.25	0.05	15.43	0.092	0.115	80	9	0.047
Corn ..... bushels	16	0.02-0.35	0.05	17.88	0.101	0.132	77	10	0.056
Sunflower ..... cwt	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Soybeans ..... bushels	7	0.01-0.25	0.08	16.60	0.090	0.062	145	4	0.045

## STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2020

Operation	Basic Charge - 2020					2016 Average Rate	2020 as % of 2016	Extra Charge-2020	
	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)
<b>Hauling Crops:</b>									
Wheat, All ..... bushels	34	0.05-0.32	0.12	41.47	0.171	0.157	109	7	0.051
Barley ..... bushels	5	0.10-0.22	<sup>1</sup>	(D)	0.144	0.239	60	(D)	(D)
Oats ..... bushels	6	0.01-0.22	0.20	(D)	0.150	0.186	81	(D)	(D)
Sunflower ..... cwt	9	0.12-1.10	<sup>1</sup>	131.67	0.466	0.883	53	(D)	(D)
Canola ..... cwt	8	0.12-1.10	0.30	93.33	0.396	0.600	66	(D)	(D)
Flaxseed ..... bushels	4	0.15-0.48	0.20	(D)	0.258	0.279	92	(D)	(D)
Corn ..... bushels	13	0.05-0.80	0.12	45.71	0.195	0.153	127	(D)	(D)
Sugarbeets ..... tons	4	4.75-6.50	<sup>1</sup>	(D)	5.625	8.012	70	(D)	(D)

## STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2020

Operation	Basic Charge - 2020				2016 Average Rate	2020 as % of 2016	Loading Charge-2020	
	Number of Reports	Range In Rates	Most Frequent Rate Reported	Average Rate			Number of Reports	Charge
	(number)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(\$/unit)	(percent)	(number)	(\$/load)
<b>Hauling Hay:</b>								
<b>By the Load (Loose &amp; Bales):</b>								
Less than 10 tons ..... mile <sup>2</sup>	16	0.50-18.00	4.00	5.06	6.54	77	8	23.29
10-20 tons ..... mile <sup>2</sup>	11	3.50-7.00	6.00	5.18	7.09	73	10	28.50
Over 20 tons ..... mile <sup>2</sup>	15	0.43-6.00	5.00	4.38	7.33	60	6	29.17
<b>Hauling Cattle:</b>								
Gooseneck Trailer ..... mile <sup>3</sup>	12	0.45-5.00	4.00	3.53	4.02	88	4	345
Semi Trailer ..... mile <sup>3</sup>	31	3.00-8.00	5.00	5.07	4.71	108	5	331

(D) Withheld due to insufficient data. <sup>1</sup> Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency. <sup>2</sup> Loaded mile excludes loading. <sup>3</sup> Loaded mile.

# OTHER CUSTOM WORK AND HISTORICAL DATA

## OTHER CUSTOM WORK, STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 2020

Operation	2020				2016 Average Rate (dollars/unit)	2020 as Percent of 2016 (percent)
	Number of Reports (number)	Range in Rates (dollar/unit)	Most Frequent Rate Reported (dollars/unit)	Average Rate (dollars/unit)		
<b>Custom Farming: <sup>1</sup></b>						
Small Grains .....	25	6.00-150.00	20.00	29.01	47.92	61
Row Crops .....	19	3.00-185.00	20.00	44.93	64.89	69
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>						
Mowing/Clipping CRP .....	10	4.00-31.00	<sup>2</sup>	13.74	12.50	110
.....	6	5.00-200.00	100.00	89.17	66.85	133
Mowing Road Ditches (not for hay) .....	20	5.00-150.00	100.00	68.00	103.44	66
.....	7	50.00-200.00	75.00	99.29	75.77	131
On Farm Grain Bin Storage..... cents/bu/month	20	0.01-0.15	<sup>2</sup>	0.04	0.07	57
On Farm Grain Bin Storage ..... cents/bu/year	17	0.04-0.35	<sup>2</sup>	0.15	0.20	75
Machine Shed Rental..... cents/sq ft/month	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Machine Shed Rental..... cents/sq ft/year	9	0.24-2.00	0.50	0.67	0.82	82
Grain Bagging..... foot of bag	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Surface Drainage..... hour	11	32.00-250.00	<sup>2</sup>	120.27	124.50	97
Installing Drainage Tile..... acre	4	500.00-1,100.00	<sup>2</sup>	830.00	(D)	(D)
..... hour	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(D)
Land Leveling..... hour	7	10.00-160.00	100.00	89.00	(D)	(D)
Rock Picking..... hour	7	10.00-150.00	<sup>2</sup>	68.71	69.63	99
<b>Snow Removal:</b>						
Front End Loader..... hour	16	18.00-150.00	65.00	80.50	82.00	98
Tractor Blower..... hour	17	3.00-168.00	100.00	94.76	82.60	115

(D) Withheld due to insufficient data. (NA) No Reports Received. <sup>1</sup> Includes all necessary farming operations from field preparation through harvesting. <sup>2</sup> Data not available due to multiple rates being reported at the highest frequency.

## HISTORICAL DATA, STATEWIDE AVERAGES, NORTH DAKOTA, 1995 - 2020

Operation	1995 (\$/unit)	1998 (\$/unit)	2001 (\$/unit)	2004 (\$/unit)	2007 (\$/unit)	2010 (\$/unit)	2013 (\$/unit)	2016 (\$/unit)	2020 (\$/unit)
<b>Swathing Grain:</b>									
Self Propelled .....	4.46	5.04	5.47	6.21	7.79	8.78	11.76	10.00	11.38
PTO Unit.....	4.23	4.58	5.23	5.75	7.63	8.12	11.05	(D)	(D)
<b>Combining From Swaths:</b>									
Small Grains & Flaxseed <sup>1</sup> .....	13.70	13.82	14.72	16.12	20.04	25.44	29.64	29.60	26.35
Dry Beans .....	18.18	19.06	19.06	21.02	23.11	29.80	38.58	40.00	43.40
<b>Straight Combining:</b>									
Small Grains & Flaxseed <sup>1</sup> .....	13.74	13.88	15.03	16.27	20.41	25.75	30.25	30.89	32.84
Corn .....	16.33	16.26	17.33	18.43	22.81	28.04	33.73	35.13	34.11
Sunflower .....	14.14	14.49	15.29	16.31	20.32	26.28	32.00	33.82	32.12
Soybeans.....	15.57	16.10	16.72	18.22	21.31	26.03	30.09	30.70	31.92
Dry Beans.....	17.96	19.10	18.29	19.64	23.27	29.28	34.65	35.78	36.86
Canola <sup>2</sup> .....							32.01	34.37	35.85
Pulse Crops <sup>3</sup> .....								36.24	33.38
<b>Making Corn Silage:</b>									
Chopping Only.....	18.51	18.69	20.78	26.75	35.45	46.52	54.46	64.42	81.25
Chopping and Hauling.....	22.62	23.62	26.26	37.55	43.83	60.51	62.88	81.21	100.85
<b>Drying:</b>									
Small Grains .....	0.111	0.123	0.113	0.145	0.128	0.166	0.179	0.115	0.092
Corn.....	0.123	0.146	0.132	0.179	0.141	0.171	0.203	0.132	0.101
Sunflower..... cwt	0.152	0.171	0.165	0.168	0.187	0.191	0.223	(D)	(D)
Soybeans..... bushel	0.085	0.115	0.125	0.147	0.105	0.118	0.219	0.062	0.090
<b>Hauling:</b>									
Wheat..... bushel	0.098	0.109	0.116	0.123	0.157	0.174	0.210	0.157	0.171
Barley..... bushel	0.094	0.101	0.117	0.119	0.154	0.157	0.186	0.239	0.144
Oats..... bushel	0.094	0.100	0.107	0.107	0.146	0.153	0.138	0.186	0.150
Flaxseed..... bushel	0.097	0.124	0.107	0.139	0.139	0.162	0.191	0.279	0.258
Corn..... bushel	0.097	0.101	0.114	0.110	0.151	0.173	0.185	0.153	0.195
Sunflower..... cwt	0.189	0.339	0.378	0.413	0.376	0.311	0.604	0.883	0.466
<b>Seed Grain Preparation:</b>									
Cleaning Only..... gross bushels	0.321	0.340	0.361	0.380	0.436	0.475	0.556	0.653	0.744
Treating Only..... gross bushels	0.552	0.519	0.514	0.542	0.801	0.795	0.822	1.516	2.120
Cleaning & Treating..... gross bushels	0.800	0.726	0.846	0.915	1.169	1.097	0.874	1.858	2.292
<b>Surface Drainage</b> ..... hour	63.49	76.25	84.80	86.03	101.67	127.35	130.71	124.50	120.27
<b>Land Leveling</b> ..... hour	60.61	63.26	64.31	72.21	87.12	103.00	74.93	(D)	89.00
<b>Rock Picking</b> ..... hour	39.26	52.29	42.72	42.99	42.24	63.77	56.75	69.63	68.71

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. <sup>1</sup> Averages for years 1995-1998 do not include flaxseed. <sup>2</sup> Data series began in 2013. <sup>3</sup> Data series began in 2016.