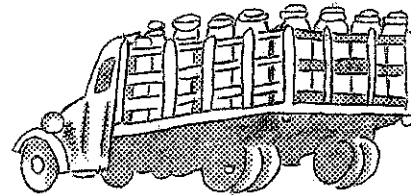
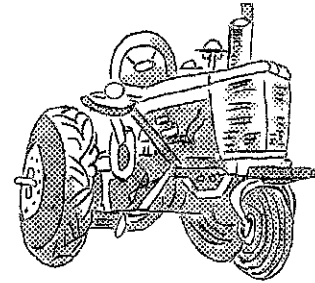
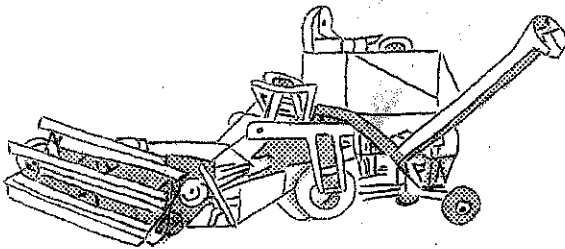


CUSTOM RATES FOR FARM MACHINERY
IN
NEW YORK STATE
1957



By

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Custom Rates for Farm Machinery in New York State	1
Trends in Custom Work.	1
Method of Reporting.	2
Tillage Operations	3
Weed Spraying -- Oats and Corn	4
Other Spraying and Dusting	5
Combining Grain.	6
Combining Beans and Clover	6
Corn Picking	7
Drying Corn and Grain.	8
Feed Grinding.	8
Tractors and Attached Power Equipment.	9
Bulldozing	9
Trucking	10
Mowing and Other Haying Jobs	10
Baling Hay and Straw	10
Field Chopping Grass and Corn.	11
Other Custom Operations.	12
Machine Rental	13
Summary Table.	14

CUSTOM RATES FOR FARM MACHINERY IN NEW YORK STATE

Custom work with farm machinery is one method of making fewer machines serve more farmers. Custom operators perform a useful service for New York farmers. With the trend to larger farm units and more specialization, commercial farmers own most of the machines they use. Even so, custom hiring is still the most economical answer for some machine jobs on many farms. As new farm machines are developed, custom operation often serves to introduce them and pave the way for their general use.

Requests for information on custom rates received by the Department of Agricultural Economics show that there is a need and demand for current information of this kind. In order to meet this demand, information is periodically obtained from custom operators throughout the state. Earlier surveys were made in 1951 and 1953.

In August, September, and October of 1957, vocational agriculture teachers and county agents obtained information from over 400 custom operators in 46 counties. Some of the operators contacted by the teachers and agents reported rates for only one or two machines. Many others gave rates on a number of machines. This information has been summarized and is presented in the following report.

It is hoped that this information can serve as a guide to those hiring custom work done, and to those with custom machines for hire. It should be remembered that the rates reported cover a wide range of working conditions. Particular circumstances will often justify departure from the average or common rates quoted.

Trends in Custom Work

There was general agreement among those reporting that custom field chopping, and weed spraying was more common than formerly, and that custom baling was less common. This was apparently true in all sections of the state. Custom combining has reportedly increased in some communities, decreased in others.

Replies to the question of which custom jobs were becoming more common and which less common revealed no other significant trends. A comparison of the 1953 and 1957 survey returns gives some indication that custom work in general has decreased, but that a few jobs, such as airplane dusting, tractor fork and tractor shovel operations, grain drying and bean picking, have increased or been introduced into some areas.

A comparison of rates reported in 1953 and 1957 shows little change in rates charged.

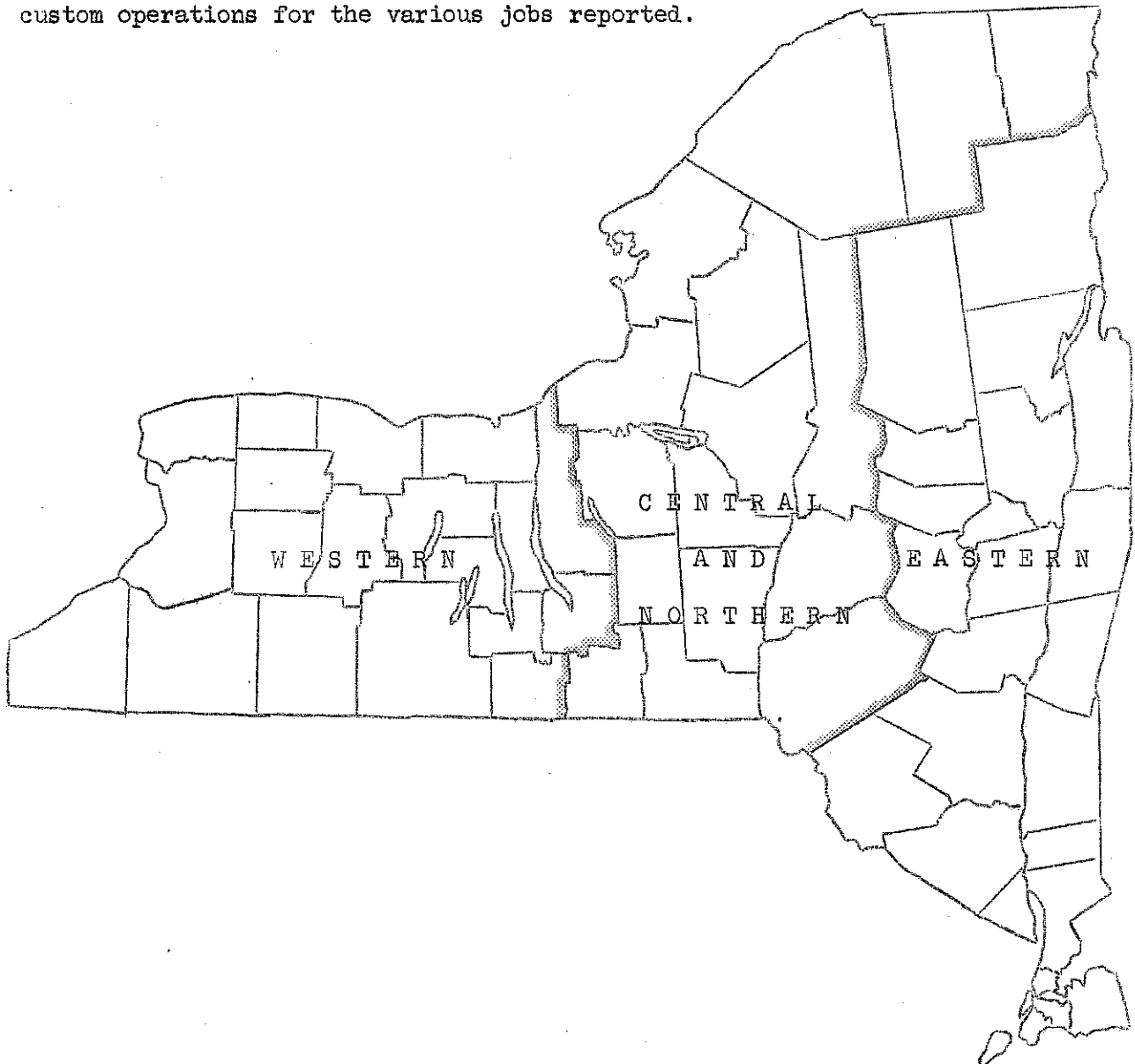
Method of Reporting

On the following pages will be found information about all custom operations on which information was obtained. Table 16, at the end of this report, summarizes the custom rates reported for the most common jobs.

In a few instances, rates for custom operations were reported by area. The more common custom operations were reported a sufficient number of times to allow separate rates to be reported for Eastern, Central and Northern, and Western New York. The map below indicates the arbitrary geographical division which was made for this purpose. Only one report was obtained from Long Island.

Charges reported were averaged, then rounded off to the nearest half dollar in most cases, and to the nearest cent in case of baling. Unless otherwise indicated, rates reported are for the machine, tractor, and operator.

In most cases, the number of custom operators reporting each job is given. This gives the reader an indication of the amount of information on which each average is based. It also gives some indication of the relative frequency of custom operations for the various jobs reported.



Tillage Operations

Charges for plowing, dragging, and discing were more frequently reported on a per hour basis than on a per acre basis. The opposite was true with charges for corn planting and grain drilling. Rates for all these jobs and for cultivating are reported in Table 1 on both a per acre basis and a per hour basis.

Rates for 4 and 5 plow tractors were reported in a few instances, and the range was \$5.00 - \$7.00 per hour. A few instances of custom work with 3 or 4 row cultivators were reported, with rates on both a per acre and per hour basis somewhat higher than for 2 row cultivators.

Table 1. TILLAGE OPERATIONS
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Job	Number reporting	Rate per acre	
		Range	Average
		\$	\$
Plowing, 2 plow	11	3.00 - 6.00	5.00
Plowing, 3 plow	14	4.00 - 6.00	5.00
Dragging, 3 section	6	1.00 - 2.50	2.00
Dragging, 4 section	2	1.50 - 5.00	3.00
Discing, 6-9'	4	2.00 - 3.00	3.00
Discing, 10-12'	3	1.00 - 2.50	2.00
Corn planting, 2 row	31	2.00 - 6.00	3.00
Corn planting, 4 row	21	1.50 - 4.00	2.50
Drilling, 11-14 hoes	21	2.00 - 4.50	3.00
Drilling, 15-18 hoes	29	1.50 - 3.00	2.00
Cultivating, 2 row	10	1.50 - 4.00	2.50
		Rate per hour	
Plowing, 2 plow	27	2.50 - 5.00	4.00
Plowing, 3 plow	27	3.00 - 6.00	4.50
Dragging, 3 section	22	2.00 - 5.00	3.50
Dragging, 4 section	9	3.00 - 5.00	4.00
Discing, 6-9'	16	2.00 - 6.00	4.00
Discing, 10-12'	13	3.00 - 7.00	4.00
Corn planting, 2 row	18	2.00 - 5.00	3.50
Corn planting, 4 row	5	2.50 - 5.00	4.00
Drilling, 11-14 hoes	17	2.50 - 5.00	4.00
Drilling, 15-18 hoes	5	2.00 - 5.00	4.00
Cultivating, 2 row	12	1.75 - 4.50	3.50

Weed Spraying -- Oats and Corn

Custom weed spraying in oats and corn was one of the most common jobs reported. Rates charged are divided on the basis of whether spray material was included in the charge. When the spray material was included, a further subdivision was made on the basis of area, as it was found that rates prevailing in Western New York were lower than in other areas.

Materials most commonly used were amine or ester forms of 2,4-D, and MCP. Rates of application were in accordance with general recommendations. Custom rates charged did not vary significantly with rate of application or material used.

Table 2. WEED SPRAYING -- OATS AND CORN
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Item	Number reporting	Rate per acre*	
		Range	Average
		\$	\$
Material not included	27	1.50 - 3.00	2.50
Material included:			
Western New York	33	1.00 - 3.50	2.50
Central and Northern New York	20	2.00 - 4.00	3.00
Eastern New York	14	2.00 - 4.50	3.00

* Five operators reported an hourly charge of \$3.00 - \$5.00 without materials for spraying corn and oats.

Other Spraying and Dusting

Some reports were obtained on other spraying and dusting jobs. In each instance less than five reports were received.

Table 3. OTHER SPRAYING AND DUSTING
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Job	Material	Rate
Spraying beans, material included	Arsenate (defoliating)	\$6.00-8.00 per acre
Spraying beans, material included	Parathion	\$3.00-4.50 per acre
Spraying beans, material included	Sinox, 1 gallon per acre	\$5.00 per acre
Peas, material included	Premerge	\$5.00-8.00 per acre
Pasture and brush	2,4-D + 2,4,5-T	\$10.00-12.00 per 50 gallons applied
Sod	2,4-D + 2,4,5-T	\$5.00 per 50 gallons applied
Brush, fence rows	2,4-D + 2,4,5-T	25 cents per gallon applied
Alfalfa, material included	Melathion 1 quart per acre	\$8.00 per acre
Alfalfa, material included	Heptachlor	\$4.00 per acre
Potatoes	Nabam or other	\$4.70-5.00 per acre
Airplane dusting, material not included:		
Sweet corn	DDT	7 cents per pound dust applied
Tomatoes and potatoes	Copper or zinc base dust	7 cents per pound dust applied
Onions	Dithane	7 cents per pound dust applied
Any crop	All materials	\$2.50 per acre
Corn	Nitrate	\$2.50 per acre

Combining Grain

A great majority of custom combining rates are on a per acre basis. Rates reported in Western New York are about \$1.00 per acre under those reported from other areas of the state.

Many reports indicated extra charges of \$1.00 per acre for a truck, or an extra man. Several also indicated extra charges of \$1.00 per acre for putting grain in storage. Some indicated \$1.00 - \$2.00 extra per acre for combining lodged grain. No large combines (10' cut or over) were reported doing custom work in Eastern New York.

Table 4. COMBINING GRAIN
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Size of cut	Area	Number reporting	Rate per acre	
			Range	Average
			\$	\$
5-7'	Western	38	4.00 - 7.50	6.00
5-7'	Central and Northern	71	4.00 - 8.00	7.00
5-7'	Eastern	32	5.00 - 10.00	6.50
9-14'	Western	64	5.00 - 7.50	6.00
9-14'	Central and Northern	18	4.00 - 9.00	6.50
9-14'	Eastern	---	---	---
			Rate per hour	
5-7'	All areas	15	6.00 - 10.00	7.50

Combining Beans and Clover

Twenty-one reports were received on charges for bean combining. Common rates were \$10.00 per acre or 50 cents per bushel. Two operators reported doing the entire harvesting job of pulling, raking, and combining the beans -- one for \$14.00 per acre, the other for \$1.00 per bushel. One operator reported combining soybeans for \$8.00 per acre.

Two reported combining clover or grass seed for half the crop or \$7.00 per acre.

Table 5. COMBINING BEANS
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Size combine	Number reporting	Rate per acre	
		Range	Average
		\$	\$
All sizes	11	7.00 - 10.00	9.50
		Rate per bushel	
All sizes	6	.50	.50

Corn Picking

In Western and Central New York, picking rates are commonly on a per acre basis. In Eastern New York, picking is commonly done on a per hour basis and one row pickers strongly predominate.

In four instances, picker-sheller operators broke charges down into a picking charge and a shelling charge. Shelling charges reported were about \$3.00 per ton or 10 cents per bushel.

Table 6. CORN PICKING
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Job	Number reporting	Rate per acre	
		Range	Average
		\$	\$
1 row picker	38	6.00 - 12.00	8.50
2 row picker	23	6.00 - 10.00	8.50
Picker-sheller	17	10.00 - 15.00	12.00
		Rate per hour	
1 row picker	14	6.00 - 10.00	7.00

Drying Corn and Grain

Ten different instances of corn drying were reported, scattered over the state. As methods of charging and rates varied widely, and interest in grain drying is high, all reports are listed here:

4 charged a flat rate -- 25¢/bu., \$3.50/ton, \$5.00/ton, and \$60.00 for a 300 bushel batch

2 charged 12¢ and 15¢/bu. for drying from 25% down to 15% moisture

1 charged 15¢/bu. for drying from 35-40% down to 15% moisture

2 charged 10¢/bu. and 1¢ for each 1% moisture content was above 22%

1 charged \$2.50-7.00/ton depending on moisture content of the corn

1 charged 2¢/bu. and 1¢ for each 1% moisture removed

The last operator named also dried grain on the same basis. Three other operators reported drying grain as follows: \$5.00/ton; 25¢/bu.; 6¢/bu. up to 18% moisture, 7¢/bu. if over 18%. One operator reported drying beans for 25¢/cwt.

Feed Grinding

The information obtained on custom feed grinding and mixing is reported in Table 7. The rates reported here are substantiated by many other reports obtained from portable rig and mill operators in another Agricultural Economics Study currently being conducted.

Table 7. FEED GRINDING
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Item	Number reporting	Rate	
Portable rigs	3	\$5.00 per batch of 2,000-2,500 pounds -- grinding and mixing	
		<u>Range</u>	<u>Average</u>
Other grinding	11	10-20¢ per cwt. grinding, 5-10¢ per cwt. mixing	15¢ grinding, 9¢ mixing

Tractors and Attached Power Equipment

Custom rates for a tractor and operator and for a tractor, operator, and some attached power equipment are summarized in Table 8. In addition to items in the table, two operators reported rates of \$4.00 - \$5.00 for tractor, operator, and grader.

Table 8. TRACTORS AND ATTACHED POWER EQUIPMENT
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Item	Number reporting	Rate per hour	
		Range	Average
		\$	\$
Tractor and operator, 1 plow	2	4.00	4.00
2 plow.	9	1.75 - 4.00	3.00
3 plow	14	2.00 - 6.00	4.00
4-5 plow	1	7.00	---
Tractor, operator and manure fork	21	3.00 - 6.00	4.00
Tractor, operator, and shovel	11	4.00 - 8.00	5.50
Tractor, operator, and backhoe	5	7.00 - 10.00	8.00

Bulldozing

Thirty-five different custom operators reported rates charged for bulldozing work. Classification of these bulldozers was made by gross weight of the machine as reported by the manufacturer.

Machines weighing over 15,000 pounds were classified large, those weighing 6,000 to 15,000 pounds were classified medium, and those under 6,000 pounds were classified small.

Table 9. BULLDOZING
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Size	Number reporting	Rate per hour	
		Range	Average
		\$	\$
Small	15	4.00 - 7.00	6.00
Medium	10	5.00 - 10.00	8.00
Large	10	9.00 - 17.00	11.50

Trucking

Trucking rates were obtained from 27 different owners. Fourteen of these reports gave hourly rates for 1½ and 2 ton trucks ranging from \$3.00 - \$6.00 per hour and averaging \$4.00 per hour. The remainder of the reports gave rates on a per mile, per ton, or per bushel basis and were for trucks of various sizes. Rates per mile ranged from 10 cents per mile for a one ton truck to 35 cents per mile for a 60,000 pound tractor-trailer. Rates per bushel ranged from three to five cents.

Mowing and Other Haying Jobs

Charges for mowing hay in Western New York were usually on a per acre basis, and usually on an hourly basis in other areas.

Five cases of custom crushing or crimping were reported, with charges at \$2.00 per acre or \$3.50 - \$5.00 per hour.

In five cases, custom operators reported doing the entire haying job -- mowing, raking, baling, and storing for 25 - 35 cents per bale, with the most common charge at 30 cents.

Table 10. MOWING HAY
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Size of cut	Number reporting	Mowing rates per acre	
		Range	Average
		\$	\$
6 or 7'	22	1.50 - 3.50	2.50
		<u>Mowing rates per hour</u>	
6'	6	3.00 - 4.00	3.00
7'	25	2.00 - 6.00	4.00

Baling Hay and Straw

Rates in Eastern New York were slightly higher than in other areas. There was little difference in rates reported for hay and straw. One hundred fifty-four operators reported custom baling of both hay and straw. Of this number, 17 charged more and 11 charged less for straw than for hay. The remainder reported the same rates for both.

Most of the rates reported were for bales on the ground. A number of custom operators reported an additional charge of two to three cents per bale for bales on the wagon.

Table 11. BALING HAY AND STRAW
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Region	Crop	Number reporting	Rates for twine bales	
			Range	Average
			¢	¢
Western	Hay	90	8 - 16	12
	Straw	67	8 - 18	12
Central	Hay	81	7 - 16	11
	Straw	48	8 - 16	11
Eastern	Hay	47	10 - 16	13
	Straw	31	10 - 16	13
			<u>Rates for wire bales</u>	
All areas	Hay and straw	24	13 - 20	16

Field Chopping Grass and Corn

Custom field chopping is most commonly done on an hourly basis. As the following table shows, rates in Eastern New York were slightly higher than in other areas. Of 51 operators who reported chopping both grass and corn, 47 charged the same rates for both crops.

Table 12. FIELD CHOPPING GRASS AND CORN
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Region	Crop	Number reporting	Rates per hour by areas	
			Range	Average
			\$	\$
Western	Grass	29	8.00 - 20.00	12.00
	Corn	41	8.00 - 20.00	12.00
Central	Grass	23	8.00 - 18.00	11.50
	Corn	35	8.00 - 20.00	13.00
Eastern	Grass	10	10.00 - 18.00	13.00
	Corn	17	10.00 - 15.00	13.50
			<u>Rates per acre</u>	
All areas	Corn and grass	16	14.00 - 25.00	18.50

Chopping on a per acre basis was fairly common in Central New York, but was reported rarely in other areas. Several cases of charging on a per ton basis were reported from Central and Eastern New York. In these cases, charges ranged from \$2.00 - \$4.00 per ton and tonnage was commonly calculated on the basis of silo capacity filled.

A wide range in rates for custom field chopping was reported. This range is largely accounted for by the variation in number of men and machines furnished by the custom operator.

In order to get a picture of chopping rates according to men and machines furnished, the total units furnished by each operator were calculated. Unit values were arbitrarily assigned as follows:

Chopper and blower = 8 units
 One man = 3 units
 One truck or one tractor = 3 units
 One wagon = 1 unit

Thus, a custom operator who furnished chopper and blower plus two men, two tractors, a wagon and a truck, furnished 24 units.

Table 13. RATES CHARGED FOR FIELD CHOPPING
 ACCORDING TO UNITS OF MEN AND MACHINES FURNISHED
 Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Units furnished	Number reporting	Range	Average
		\$	\$
20 or under	29	8.00 - 15.00	10.50
21 - 24	46	10.00 - 20.00	13.00
25 and over	26	10.00 - 20.00	14.50

Other Custom Operations

Rates were reported for various other custom operations. Most of these were reported only once or twice, but may be of interest and some value as guides to fair rates for these jobs.

Table 14. OTHER CUSTOM OPERATIONS
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Job	Number reporting	Range	Average
Threshing: Oats	9	7 - 10¢ per bushel	8¢
Wheat	3	12 - 20¢ per bushel	---
Grain binding	5	\$2.50 - 3.00 per acre to \$2.50 - 3.00 per hour	---
Chain sawing	9	\$3.00 - 4.00 per hour	\$3.50

Others: Shelling corn, \$3.00 - \$4.50 per ton; brush cutting, power mower, \$6.00 per hour or \$7.00 per acre; raking hay, \$3.00 per hour; picking snap beans, 2 cents per pound first pick, 3 cents second; stationary hay baler, \$4.00 per hour (baler and 2 men); lime spreading, \$2.75 per ton; wood sawing, \$4.00 per hour; shearing sheep, 40 cents per head (includes wool box, twine, and marketing wool).

Machine Rental

Renting of farm machinery is not common. However, scattered instances of machine renting were reported. Renting of tractors, grain drills, corn planters, and combines, was reported frequently enough so that rental rates for these four machines are summarized in Table 13. Rental rates for several other machines were reported, but for each of these machines rental rates were reported only once or twice.

Table 15. MACHINE RENTAL-
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Machine	Number reporting	Range	Average
		\$	\$
Tractors, 2 or 3 plow	6	1.00 - 1.50 per hour	1.25
Grain drill	5	1.00 - 1.50 per acre	1.50
Corn planter	3	1.00 - 1.50 per acre	---
Combine	4	2.00 - 5.00 per acre	---

Others: Killifer subsoiler \$15.00 per day; brush hog, 5' -- 50 cents per hour; tractor with weed sprayer, \$2.00 per acre; posthole digger \$6.00 per hour; sawmill \$15.00 per thousand; lime sower \$10.00 per day; lime spreader \$3.00 - \$5.00 per day; cultivator \$1.00 per hour; side dresser \$1.50 per acre with tractor; plows 50 cents per hour; corn picker \$2.00 per acre and \$2.00 per hour.

Table 16. SUMMARY OF COMMON CUSTOM OPERATIONS
Custom Machine Rates in New York State, 1957

Custom job	Rate per hour		Rate per acre	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Plowing, 2 plow	2.50 - 5.00	4.00	3.00 - 6.00	5.00
3 plow	3.00 - 6.00	4.50	4.00 - 6.00	5.00
Dragging, 3 section	2.00 - 5.00	3.50	1.00 - 2.50	2.00
Discing	2.00 - 7.00	4.00	---	---
Corn planting, 2 row	2.00 - 5.00	3.50	2.00 - 6.00	3.00
Drilling, 15-18 hoes	2.00 - 5.00	4.00	1.50 - 3.00	2.00
Cultivating	1.75 - 4.50	3.50	1.50 - 4.00	2.50
Weed spraying, without materials	---	---	1.50 - 3.00	2.50
Weed spraying, material included	---	---	1.00 - 4.50	3.00
Combining grain, 5-7'	6.00 - 10.00	7.50	4.00 - 10.00	6.50
9-14'	---	---	4.00 - 9.00	6.00
Corn picking, 1 and 2 row	6.00 - 10.00	7.00	6.00 - 12.00	8.50
Corn picker-sheller	---	---	10.00 - 15.00	12.00
Mowing hay	2.00 - 6.00	4.00	1.50 - 3.50	2.50
Tractor and operator, 2 plow	1.75 - 4.00	3.00	---	---
3 plow	2.00 - 6.00	4.00	---	---
Tractor, operator, manure fork	3.00 - 6.00	4.00	---	---
shovel	4.00 - 8.00	5.50	---	---
Field chopping grass and corn	6.50 - 20.00	12.00	14.00 - 25.00	18.50
			<u>Rate per bale</u>	
			<u>Range</u>	<u>Average</u>
Baling hay and straw				
twine bales		7 - 18¢	12¢	
wire bales		13 - 20¢	16¢	