

# Harvesting: Should You Do It Yourself Or Hire A Custom Harvester?

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Activity	Doing It Yourself <sup>1, 2</sup>	WI Custom Rates <sup>3</sup>
Mower/Conditioner: Self Propelled	\$16.50/acre	\$12.10/acre (C)
Mower/Conditioner: Pull Type	\$17.10/acre	
Raking: Side Delivery	\$7.70/acre	\$6.00/acre (C)
Raking: Wheeled	\$5.50/acre	
Baling: Small Square	\$0.48/bale	\$0.50/bale (C)
Baling: Large Square	\$7.88/bale	\$7.60/bale (C)
Baling: Round	\$9.62/bale	\$7.70/bale (C)
Chopping Haylage: Pull Type	\$47.30/acre (250 Acres Cut 3 Times A Year)	\$65.40/acre (W) (\$30.00 to \$105.00) (3 Cuttings)
Chopping Haylage: Self Propelled	\$47.10/Acre (500 Acres Cut 3 Times A Year)	\$61.20/acre (W) (\$30.00 to \$105.00) (3 Cuttings)
Chopping Corn Silage: Pull Type	\$66.10/acre (250 Acres)	\$38.30/acre (W) (\$25.00 to \$65.00)
Chopping Corn Silage: Self Propelled	\$64.50/acre (500 Acres)	\$43.20/acre (W) (\$25.00 to \$60.00)
Harvesting Corn	\$34.70/acre (1,400 Acres)	\$26.40/acre (C)
Harvesting Soybeans	\$30.10/acre (1,400 Acres)	\$25.80 (C)

C = Central Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics District or Wisconsin Region 1 Average  
W = Wisconsin State Average (Price Ranges Supplied).

<sup>1</sup> *Machinery Cost Estimates: Forage Field Estimate.* Gary Schnitkey and Dale Lattz, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois. May 2008. <http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> *Machinery Cost Estimates: Harvesting.* Gary Schnitkey and Dale Lattz, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois. May 2008. <http://www.farmdoc.uiuc.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> *Custom Rate Guide 2007.* USDA – NASS and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. 2008.