

Extension Shoppers Guide article for 3-11-14

KDA, USDA publishes custom rates report

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The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service have published the 2013 rates paid for custom work. The report has been published due to the restoration of funding by the Kansas Legislature.

In announcing the report's availability, acting Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey praised the project. "The Kansas Legislature recognizes the importance of supporting production agriculture in Kansas and made the funds available to complete the survey and to compile the data that farmers and ranchers require to be able to make sound decisions regarding their businesses," McClaskey said. "The agency is very pleased to once again have this important information available for our farm, ranch and agribusiness owners."

The report details the average rates paid by Kansas farmers and ranchers for custom work performed on their operation in 2013. Rates reflect fair market value for custom services either rendered or hired and can be used by Kansas farmers and ranchers as they make decisions about rate charges.

The report can serve as a tool for custom operators, farmers and ranchers as it indicates charges for machines, power, fuel and the operator. McClaskey noted it is vital to support and provide the necessary information to those working in agriculture, our state's largest industry.

Last published in 2009, the new report indicates average custom rates have increased but still illustrates historical tables and graphs which show results from previous surveys. Prices in the report should not be regarded as official or established rates.

For more complete information and access to the report, please visit www.agriculture.ks.gov/agstatistics.

More Custom Rates resources

A valuable source of projected custom rates was developed by the K-State Research and Extension Ag Economics department in the absence of and to supplement the survey. That tool is available at the Agmanager.info site. The updated paper and the spreadsheet can be accessed by going to <http://www.agmanager.info/farmmgmt/machinery>

From that page, you can download the paper and the excel spreadsheet under the Farm Machinery Papers.