

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour Division
Washington

INTERPRETATIVE BULLETIN ON THE EXEMPTION OF AGRICULTURE;
AND ON THE EXEMPTIONS FOR PROCESSING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Exemption from the Wage and Hour Law for agriculture and exemptions for the processing of agricultural commodities are described in an interpretative bulletin made public today by George A. McNulty, General Counsel, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. The bulletin contains a detailed explanation of the application of the Fair Labor Standards Act with respect to agriculture and operations bordering on agriculture, and was prepared for the guidance of the Wage-Hour Division in administering the law.

"The Wage and Hour Law does not cover agriculture," Administrator Elmer F. Andrews pointed out. "The law never has covered farming, and none of the amendments proposed during the session of Congress just ended would have brought farming under the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. This interpretative bulletin, the fourteenth of a series, has been issued to indicate the manner in which the Division will deal with the many problems that arise in the flow of farm products from the farm where they are grown."

Three subjects are dealt with in the bulletin: complete exemption from the wage and hour provisions of the Act for employees engaged in "agriculture"; total or partial exemptions from the hours provisions of the Act applicable to employees of employers engaged in certain operations upon agricultural or horticultural commodities, dairy products, poultry or livestock; complete exemption from the wage and hour provisions for persons employed within the "area of production" in certain operations with respect to agricultural or horticultural commodities or employed in making dairy products.

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