

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington, D. C.

HYBRID SEED CORN SEASONAL EXEMPTION PROPOSED

The partial exemption from the hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the processing of hybrid seed corn was proposed today by Administrator Elmer F. Andrews of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, in a preliminary finding that this industry is entitled to exemption as a seasonal one.

The Administrator, after a study of the applications of the Garst and Thomas Hybrid Corn Company of Coon Rapids, Iowa, the National Hybrid Corn Company of Anamosa, Iowa, and other interested parties, issued a preliminary determination (Federal Register September 16, 1939) declaring that a prima facie case had been shown for the granting of an exemption for the husking, sorting, drying, shelling, grading and sacking of hybrid seed corn as a branch of an industry of a seasonal nature. This corn generally comes to maturity and is harvested each year between September 15 and November 1, after which time unharvested corn is no longer usable as seed corn. After harvesting, hybrid seed corn is perishable and must be processed either during the harvest season proper or during the winter months, after which time plants completely cease operations, except for such work as maintenance, repair, clerical and sales work.

Under the exemption proposed, which will become final unless objection is made within fifteen days, employees could be worked up to twelve hours a day, or fifty-six hours a week, without overtime pay, for a fourteen-week period.

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