

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

SUGAR BEET SEED SCHEDULED FOR SEASONAL EXEMPTION

Exemption for the cleaning, bagging and handling in cleaning plants of sugar beet seed from the hours provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act as a "seasonal" industry was indicated today when Administrator Harold D. Jacobs of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, issued a preliminary determination that a prima facie case had been made for classifying this industry as seasonal in nature. A fifteen-day period during which objectors may be heard will elapse before a final determination is made by the Administrator.

As a "seasonal" industry, the cleaning, bagging and handling in cleaning plants of sugar beet seed may be carried on for twelve hours in any workday, or for 56 hours in any workweek, as the case may be, for a period or periods aggregating 14 work weeks in any calendar year before the overtime provisions requiring payment of at least time and one-half the regular rate of pay become effective,

The Administrator's action was taken on the application of the Western Seed Production Corporation of Phoenix, Arizona.

At the same time the Division made public a minor change in the procedure governing the handling of applications for seasonal exemptions. The regulations were changed to provide that before setting the application for hearing or before issuing a preliminary determination that a prima facie case has been shown for granting the exemption, the Administrator in addition to considering the facts and reasons stated in the application, may make "such further investigation as may appear appropriate." (Federal Register, February 20).