

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

PRESS NOTICE

55, WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1

12th August, 1943
M.A.F. 1027A.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES BOARD

At the Meeting of the Agricultural Wages Board held on Wednesday August 11th Lord Roche presiding, the motion of the Worker' Representatives for an increase in the national minimum wage to 80/- was further discussed and considered and the Appointed Members conferred with the representatives of each side.

The Employers' representatives intimated that they were unable to support an application for any increase in the national minimum wage unless they were assured that there would be the necessary consequent increase in the prices of farm commodities. The Appointed Members indicated that they were not prepared to vote in favour of the motion but they were prepared to vote in favour of a motion for an increase of the national minimum wage to the extent of 5/- and that they were prepared so to do in order to re-establish a proper relationship between the wages in the Agricultural industry and other comparable industries, having regard particularly to increases in wages since the minimum wage was fixed at 60/-.

The Workers' Representatives' motion for an increase to 80/- was accordingly rejected by the Board. An amended motion moved by the Workers' Representatives for an increase by 5/- was carried.

It was arranged that the next meeting of the Board should be held on September 21st and that in the meantime the officials of the Board should prepare the necessary data and figures for the consideration of any consequential changes in juvenile rates, womens' rates, overtime rates and special class rates. The County Committees would then be consulted about all proposed changes and their observations considered in accordance with the statutory provisions. It should be understood that having regard to the various steps in procedure laid down by the statutes no changes in the national minimum or other rates can come into effect until the late autumn.

The Board confirmed their proposals to vary the minimum and overtime rates of wages and directions in regard to holidays with pay and holiday remuneration at present in force and applicable to workers employed in agriculture in Buckinghamshire and Northumberland and made the following Order:-

Bucks.

An Order varying the existing minimum and overtime rates of wages and directions in regard to holidays with pay and holiday remuneration to come into force on 22nd August, 1943 and to continue in operation until further notice.

The minimum rates of wages in the case of adult male workers are 60s. per week of 50 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter (as at present) with overtime at ls. 6½d. per hour on weekdays other than the weekly short day and ls. 9d. per hour on the weekly short day (instead of ls. 6½d. on weekdays including the weekly short day as at present) and ls. 10d. per hour on Sundays, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day (as at present). For female workers of 18 years of age and over the minimum rates are 50s. per week of 50 hours in summer and 48s. per week of 48 hours in winter (as at present) with overtime at ls. 2½d. per hour on weekdays other than the weekly short day and ls. 4d. per hour on the weekly short day (instead of ls. 2½d. per hour on weekdays including the weekly short day as at present) and ls. 5½d. per hour on Sundays, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day (as at present). The minimum rate for boys and girls of 12 and under 14 years of age is unchanged at 5d. per hour.

The holiday directions are unchanged and provide that a whole-time worker who has been retained by an employer in regular employment for four months or more and who completes 4, 8 or 12 consecutive months of the employment with the same employer by any date within the period 1st January, 1943, to 31st December, 1943 shall be allowed holidays of 1, 2 or 4 days respectively. The holidays are to be allowed at such time or times within the above period as may be agreed upon between employer and worker and provision is made as to when they are to be allowed in default of agreement. The daily rates of holiday remuneration are as follows: 10s. for male workers of 21 years of age and over and 8s. 4d. in summer and 8s. in winter for female workers of 18 years of age and over (as at present.)

Northumberland.

An Order varying the existing minimum and overtime rates of wages and directions in regard to holidays with pay and holiday remuneration, such rates and directions to come into force on 22nd August, 1943, and continue in operation until further notice. The minimum rates of wages in the case of male workers aged 21 and over are as follows (A) male workers hired by the week or longer period: Shepherds: 78s. (instead of 76s. 6d. for Householders and 72s. for non-Householders as at present); Stewards, Horsemen, Tractor Drivers, Cattlemen and Stockmen: 72s. 6d. (instead of Householders 71s. and non-Householders 66s. 3d. as at present) (i) per week of customary hours in the case of Shepherds not exceeding 62 hours (ii) per week of customary hours in the case of Stewards, Cattlemen and Stockmen not exceeding 60 hours and (iii) per week of in the case of Horsemen and Tractor Drivers 52 hours in summer and 48 in winter with in addition time spent on customary duties not exceeding 12 hours per week in winter and 8 hours per week in summer whether on weekdays or Sundays, (B) for other male workers 60s. per week of 52 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter (as at present). The overtime rates are unchanged and for adult male workers are 1s. 5½d. per hour on weekdays and 1s. 9d. per hour on the agreed weekly short day Sundays, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, August Bank Holiday and Christmas Day. For female workers of 18 years of age and over the minimum rates fixed are unchanged at 45s. per week of 50 hours in summer and 48 hours in winter with overtime at 1s. 1d. per hour on weekdays and 1s. 4d. per hour on the agreed weekly short day, Sundays, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, August Bank Holiday and Christmas Day. For female casual workers of 18 years of age and over the rate is also unchanged at 11d. per hour.

For male and female schoolchildren of 12 and under 14 years of age the minimum rate is also unchanged at 5d. per hour.

The holidays with pay directions remain unchanged and provide (i) a whole time male or female worker who is employed or engaged to be employed by the same employer throughout the period 14th May in any year (commencing with the year 1943) to 12 May in the succeeding year (hereinafter referred to as the "holiday year") shall be allowed holidays of 4 days, (ii) a whole time male or female worker who is not employed or engaged to be employed throughout the holiday year shall be allowed a holiday of one day in respect of each complete three consecutive months of employment with the same employer in the holiday year. The holidays are to be allowed at such time or times as may be agreed between the employer and the worker and provision is made as to when they shall be allowed in default of such agreement. Holiday remuneration is fixed on a daily basis and is one sixth of the minimum weekly wage applicable to the worker.