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Minimum wage scale effective January 1, 1975 is: Agricultural employees - \$1.80; Non-agricultural employees covered before 1966 amendments - \$2.10; Non-agricultural employees first covered by 1966 and 1974 amendments - \$2.00.

Monsanto Company's former Agricultural Division reorganized to form Monsanto Agricultural Products Company. Edmond S. Bauer, newly elected corporate group vice president, said the change in organizational designation "strengthens our ability to more effectively meet market needs, consistent with growth and profit objectives..." Bauer added, "In the long run, we expect greater benefits will accrue to our customers and employees, as well as the shareowners of Monsanto."

Pacific Supply Cooperative, Portland, Oregon, was recently fined \$300 for violating labeling requirements of the Federal Seed Act. Details of the case involved two shipments of annual ryegrass seed into Arkansas and Virginia. Both shipments were found to be falsely and incompletely labeled as to the presence of noxious weed seeds. The two states cooperated with the Agricultural Marketing Service in making the investigation.

Interstate Commerce Commission voted to make permanent a 4 percent interim freight rate increase authorized for most of the nation's railroads earlier this year.

Walbro Corporation, Cass City, Michigan, recently announced the acquisition of Auburn Die Casting Corp., Auburn, Michigan. The merger brings together two leading suppliers of the chain saw industry. Walbro manufactures chain saw carburetors and Auburn produces die castings for Beard-Poulan, Campbell-Hausfeld, Homelite and Roper.

Congressional pressure has resulted in a consultation program for on-site job safety and health help for small businesses. The program is expected to be approved by OSHA. Only states where federal job safety and health rules are enforced by OSHA will be eligible for the program. There will, however, be no citations issued for any alleged violations found and no penalties proposed.

American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, working under OSHA contract, has selected 20 junior colleges to participate in an experimental training program aimed primarily at small employers. Running through June, each college will conduct 8-hour or 12-hour courses on OSHA and its standards.

U. S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a general contractor is not responsible for the safety of his subcontractor's employees. The decision came in a complicated case involving a fatal accident, for which OSHA cited the contractor as well as the subcontractor for serious violations of its standards. The court held that the contractor is not an "employer" of the dead workers and therefore not responsible for their safety.