

1974. No. 330

AGRICULTURE

Headage Payments — Cattle

SCHEME, DATED THE 30TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1974, MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954 AS AMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) (AMENDMENT) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1957.

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 1 of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) as amended by the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1957(b) and paragraph 2(1) and (2) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974(c) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and with the approval of the Department of Finance, hereby makes the following Scheme:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Cattle Headage Payments (No. 2) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1974.

(2) This Scheme shall come into force on 20th January 1975.

Definitions

2. In this Scheme—

“applicant” means a person applying for a headage payment;

“approved deadweight certification centre” means any place for the time being approved by the Department of Agriculture for the certification of the carcasses of livestock for the purposes of this Scheme;

“approved liveweight certification centre” means any place for the time being approved by the Department of Agriculture for the certification of livestock for the purposes of this Scheme;

“certified” means certified as a home-bred animal by the certifying officer in accordance with the standards and conditions specified in Schedule 1;

“certifying officer” means—

(a) in respect of an approved deadweight certification centre a fat-stock officer of the Department of Agriculture, and

(b) in respect of an approved liveweight certification centre any person designated by the Department of Agriculture to be responsible at that centre for certifying that animals for which headage payment is claimed have been graded marked and sold in accordance with the conditions of this Scheme;

“Department” means Department of Agriculture;

“home-bred” means born and entirely produced in Northern Ireland.

(a) 1954. c. 31.

(b) 1957. c. 3.

(c) 1974. c. 28.

Marking of cattle and carcasses of cattle approved for certification

3. Cattle approved for certification at an approved liveweight certification centre will be permanently marked before removal from the centre in accordance with Schedule 2. Carcasses approved for certification at an approved deadweight certification centre will be permanently marked before removal from the centre in accordance with Schedule 2.

Headage payments

4. Subject to the provisions of this Scheme, the Department may in its discretion make to or for the benefit (whether direct or indirect) of farmers producing home-bred cattle, a payment in respect of each eligible home-bred animal which the Department is satisfied has been properly certified in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1 at any approved liveweight or deadweight certification centre in Northern Ireland.

5. For each animal so certified during a period mentioned in the first column of Schedule 3 the payment shall be that specified for that period in the second column of Schedule 3.

6. Such payments shall be made to such persons and at such times as the Department may think proper.

7.(a) Application for headage payments shall be made in the form and at the times required by the Department;

(b) Headage payments shall be made subject to the condition that the applicant will comply with all reasonable requirements of the Department and any of its officers and in particular will permit them to inspect his books livestock and land and afford them all reasonable facilities for doing so.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture
this 30th day of December 1974.

(L.S.)

J. A. Young,
Permanent Secretary

The Department of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance
this 31st day of December 1974.

(L.S.)

K. R. Shimeld,
Second Secretary

SCHEDULE 1

Cattle and carcasses of cattle eligible for headage payment

1. Home-bred fat cattle or the carcasses of home-bred fat cattle of the following kinds namely fat steers, clean fat heifers, bulls and other male cattle of the standards, minimum weights and other qualifications set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 below, are eligible for headage payment. Cattle or the carcasses of cattle specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 below are, subject to the exceptions mentioned therein, not eligible.

QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Steers and heifers

2(a) If presented at an approved deadweight certification centre, the dressed carcase weight must be not less than 450 lb in the case of a steer and not less than 390 lb in the case of a heifer. The carcase must be of good conformation, the rounds, loins and ribs being reasonably well fleshed and the chucks and plates reasonably thick, but the neck and foreshanks may be slightly long and thin. However, some slight lack of flesh development in the rounds is acceptable provided the minimum qualifying standards are met in all other respects. The carcasses of young animals of such conformation need have only a thin exterior fat covering. Carcasses from older animals may possess a rather thicker fat covering but may not be excessively fat or patchy.

(b) If presented at an approved liveweight certification centre, the animal must weigh not less than $7\frac{1}{2}$ cwt in the case of a steer and not less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ cwt in the case of a heifer. It must, in the opinion of the fatstock officer, be such as to produce a carcase of at least the standard specified in sub-paragraph (a) above.

Bulls

3. Bulls will only be accepted for deadweight certification. A bull carcase must conform to the following standards:

The dressed carcase weight must be not less than 450 lb. The carcase must be of good conformation, the rounds, loins and ribs being reasonably well fleshed and the shoulders and plates reasonably thick. The shanks may be slightly long. The forequarters may be relatively heavier than in steer carcasses but must not be excessively so. The exterior fat covering on carcasses of such conformation may vary in quantity from medium to thin but should not be excessive or patchy. Inside, kidney and aitch fat must not be excessive but should be at least in moderate supply. Flesh should be moderately firm. Colour must not be dark but may range from a light cherry red to a slightly darker red. The chine bones should be soft and red and terminate in soft pearly white cartilage.

4. Carcasses must be presented either as whole carcasses or in sides, both sides together, and must conform to the specifications for dressing carcasses and the conditions of weighing which are set out below. Carcasses may be dressed either with the kidney knob and channel fat completely removed or with the kidney knob and channel fat left in. If dressed with the kidney knob and channel fat removed the dressed carcase weights referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph 2 and the dressed carcase weight referred to in paragraph 3 shall be reduced by 16 lb.

Specifications for dressing the carcase of cattle presented for headage payment.

The following offals shall be removed:

1. Hide
2. Head and tongue; The ears may be examined by the certifying officer before slaughter in order to determine eligibility. Exceptionally, when approved by a fatstock officer, the ears may be left naturally attached to the carcase until it has been examined for eligibility.

3. Feet
4. Guts and tripes with the accompanying glands:
 - (i) liver
 - (ii) spleen
 - (iii) pancreas
5. Caul and gut fat
6. Heart and heart fat
7. Heart bread and neck bread (thymus glands)
8. Lights (lungs, trachea and larynx)
9. Thick skirt (pillar of diaphragm) (see note (g))
10. Tail (see note (g))
11. Genito-urinary organs, excluding kidneys (except where kidney knob and channel fat are removed). Where the kidney fat and channel fat are left in but the kidneys have been removed before weighing an addition of 3 lb shall be made to the carcase weight.
12. Large blood vessels of abdomen and thorax.

Notes and specifications for the removal of certain offals

- (a) The head shall be removed at the junction of the skull and the spinal column, thereby leaving the entire spinal column on the carcase;
- (b) the forefeet shall be removed at the knee joint and the hindfeet at the hock joint;
- (c) the "rib skirt" or diaphragm shall be trimmed to leave a margin of at least one half inch of "skin" or membranous portion along the bottom. This will leave the fleshy part of the diaphragm intact;
- (d) there shall be no trimming of the neck beyond cutting off the ragged edges. The jugular vein may be removed cleanly but there shall be no trimming of the surrounding fat;
- (e) where kidney knob and channel fat are removed they shall be removed in their entirety. Where they are not removed they shall not be subject to any trimming unless a corresponding addition is made to the carcase weight;
- (f) the tail shall be removed at the second joint from the base bone;
- (g) where it is trade practice to leave the thick skirt or tail or both these offals on the carcase, a weight deduction of 3 lb will be made in respect of the tail and a weight deduction of 2 lb in respect of the thick skirt.

Conditions of weighing carcasses of cattle

Carcasses must be dressed according to the specifications above when they are weighed.

Carcasses, if weighed "hot", shall be weighed within 1 hour of slaughter; if weighed "cold", within 24 hours of slaughter except when prior approval for an extension of this period has been given.

When carcasses are weighed "hot" the "cold" weight will be ascertained by making rebates as follows:

	<i>Hot weight</i>	<i>Rebate</i>
	lb	lb
Sides of beef	250 and under	4
	251 to 300	5
	301 to 400	6
	over 400	7

Condemnation

5. No headage payment will be made if a cattle carcase presented for headage payment is condemned as wholly unfit for human consumption:

6. The Scheme does not apply to—

- (a) cattle which are sold for purposes other than slaughter;
- (b) bulls or their carcasses or other male cattle or their carcasses showing "bullish" characteristics except for the carcasses of bulls and other male cattle meeting the qualifying standards referred to in paragraph 3;
- (c) cows or their carcasses;
- (d) other female cattle which are or have been pregnant or the carcasses of such animals. Exceptionally, however, a carcase of such an animal may be approved for certification if in the opinion of the certifying officer, the quality of the carcase has not been seriously depreciated by the pregnancy;
- (e) cattle or their carcasses which have previously been certified as eligible for payment under this Scheme;
- (f) cattle which have not been sold by auction (for the purposes of the Scheme; purchase of an animal at auction by or on behalf of the vendor does not constitute a sale);
- (g) cattle which are returned, after certification for headage payment at a liveweight certification centre to premises owned or used by the applicant;
- (h) imported cattle or the carcasses of such cattle;
- (i) cattle carcasses imported as such;
- (j) cattle which bear any mark, mutilation or abnormality which is similar to or capable of removing or obliterating a permanent certification mark, or carcasses which bear marks similar to or of a size which could have obliterated a certification mark. Exceptionally, however, if the confusion mark was due to accident or to abnormality at birth the animal may be approved for certification, provided it is otherwise eligible, if it was registered without unreasonable delay with the Department;
- (k) cattle or their carcasses which are affected animals as defined in the Bovine Tuberculosis (Northern Ireland) Order 1935(d) or the Tuberculosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1964(e) or under any Order having the like effect which amends or revokes and replaces them. In certain circumstances the owner of an animal which comes within the scope of the Tuberculosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1964 or which has been exposed to the infection of tuberculosis by contact with any such animal may be given by the Inspector the opportunity to make his own arrangements for the animal's sale and slaughter as an alternative to disposal by the Department. Where the owner decides to make his own arrangements he may present the carcase of the animal for certification;
- (l) cattle (or their carcasses) which have been slaughtered under the Brucellosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1972(f), or under any Order having the like effect which amends or revokes and replaces it, for which compensation is payable by the Department. However, animals for which the owner only receives carcase value may be presented for headage payment;
- (m) cattle presented at an approved liveweight certification centre in an excessively dirty or full condition or which are diseased or injured may not be approved for headage payment.

(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1935, No. 39.

(f) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972, No. 94.

(e) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964, No. 31.

SCHEDULE 2

Marking of cattle and carcasses of cattle approved for certification

LIVEWEIGHT CERTIFICATION

Temporary marks

Temporary paint marks will be applied on animals eligible under the Scheme as follows:

“C” on the left plate for all cattle.

Animals which are rejected as ineligible under the Scheme will be temporarily marked as follows:

“X” on both plates

Permanent marks

The marking will be a circular punch hole of approximately one-half inch diameter surrounded by a tattoo mark consisting of dots in a circular pattern placed in the left ear of the animal.

DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION

The marking will be a mark comprising a diagonal (or St. Andrew's) cross within a circle of approximately one and a half inch diameter.

SCHEDULE 3

<i>Period</i>	<i>Rate of headage payment</i>
	£
20th January to 26th January 1975 . . .	2
27th January to 2nd February 1975 . . .	3
3rd February to 9th February 1975 . . .	4
10th February to 16th February 1975 . . .	5
17th February to 25th May 1975 . . .	6
26th May to 1st June 1975 . . .	5
2nd June to 8th June 1975 . . .	4
9th June to 15th June 1975 . . .	2

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Scheme but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Scheme enables the Department of Agriculture to pay headage payments in respect of home-bred fat cattle certified in accordance with the qualifying standards and other conditions specified in Schedule 1.