

## 1976 No. 76

## AGRICULTURE

**Artificial Insemination (Cattle) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976**

*Made* . . . . . 24th February 1976

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 1st April 1976

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 5 of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following regulations:

*Title and commencement*

1. These regulations may be cited as the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1976.

*Interpretation*

2. In these regulations—

“Artificial Insemination Centre” means a centre from which a service of artificial insemination for cows is provided.

“approved Artificial Insemination Centre” means an Artificial Insemination Centre operated by or licensed by the Department.

“cow” includes heifer.

“herd owner” means a person who owns one or more female bovines.

“licensed operator” means the person to whom a licence to operate a Private Artificial Insemination Centre has been issued by the Department.

“Private Artificial Insemination Centre” means an Artificial Insemination Centre which is not operated by the Department.

“semen” means bull semen.

## CONTROL OF PRIVATE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

*Private Artificial Insemination Centres*

3. No person shall operate a Private Artificial Insemination Centre in Northern Ireland except under the authority of a licence issued by the Department and subject to the conditions set out in the First Schedule and to such other conditions as may be specified in the licence.

*Licence to practice Artificial Insemination*

4. No person shall artificially inseminate a cow unless—

(a) he has been issued by the Department with a licence to practice artificial insemination or

- (b) the cow is being artificially inseminated with semen collected from a bull in the same herd or
- (c) he is a private veterinary practitioner and he is artificially inseminating a client's cow for therapeutic reasons.

5.—(1) No person shall be issued with a licence to practice artificial insemination unless he has completed a course in artificial insemination which is acceptable to the Department.

(2) Only persons employed by a Private Artificial Insemination Centre licensed under Regulation 3 or a herd owner or a whole-time employee nominated by him may be issued with a licence to practice artificial insemination. A licence issued to a herd owner or to a whole-time employee nominated by him shall be subject to the conditions set out in the Second Schedule and to such other conditions as may be specified in the licence.

#### *Collection and sale of semen*

6.—(1) The collection of semen for sale is prohibited, except in an approved Artificial Insemination Centre.

(2) Where semen is to be collected for sale in Northern Ireland only a bull approved by the Department shall be used. The Department may limit sales from any such bull while there is insufficient evidence to assess its breeding merit. If a bull is approved for this purpose it shall remain at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre continuously for 56 days and shall pass all veterinary and other tests before the first sale of semen. Before its release such semen shall be stored in quarantine at the approved Artificial Insemination Centre for a minimum period of 28 days following the date of collection.

(3) Where semen is to be collected for sale outside Northern Ireland, the bull shall remain at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre continuously for at least 6 months immediately preceding the date of the first collection of the semen and shall pass all veterinary and other tests before the first sale of semen.

(4) The Department may undertake the collection of semen on behalf of the owner of a bull in Northern Ireland.

#### *Storage of semen*

7.—(1) Storage of semen other than the storage on his own farm of semen collected by a herd owner from a bull in his own herd for use in cows in the same herd is prohibited except at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre or on a farm of a person licensed to practice artificial insemination under these Regulations.

(2) All storage facilities shall be approved by the Department.

(3) The Department may undertake the storage of semen on behalf of the owner of a bull in Northern Ireland.

#### *Distribution and sale of semen*

8. The distribution and sale of semen is prohibited except from an approved Artificial Insemination Centre.

*Revocation*

9. The Artificial Insemination (Cattle) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968(b), the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1972(c), the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(d) and the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(e) are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 24th February 1976.

(L.S.)

*W. H. Parker*

Assistant Secretary

---

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968 No. 275 (p. 1131)  
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 62 (p. 199)  
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 75 (I, p. 346)  
(e) S.R. 1975 No. 7

## FIRST SCHEDULE

**Conditions for the operation of a Private Artificial Insemination Centre**

1. A licence to operate a Private Artificial Insemination Centre shall only apply to an area the boundaries of which shall be determined by the Department and the licensed operator shall provide a service to all herdowners within that area who request it.

2. All operations in a Private Artificial Insemination Centre shall be under the supervision and control of a Veterinary Surgeon approved by the Department for the purpose.

3. The fees and charges for all services provided by a Private Artificial Insemination Centre shall be subject to the approval of the Department.

4. No person employed by a Private Artificial Insemination Centre shall be permitted to practice artificial insemination unless he has been issued with a licence by the Department for that purpose.

5. A licence shall be valid only for the period stated therein.

6. Semen shall only be collected and stored in premises approved by the Department and only equipment and methods approved by the Department shall be used for or employed in the collection and storage of semen.

7. The licensed operator shall ensure that each cow artificially inseminated, if not already identifiable by means of a tattooed ear-mark or other acceptable means of identification is tattooed or marked at the time of the first insemination so as to enable it to be identified.

8. The licensed operator shall ensure that each calf resulting from an artificial insemination with semen supplied by the centre is tattooed in one ear within 28 days of birth with a sufficient identification mark or otherwise marked by an acceptable means of identification.

9. The licensed operator shall keep a record showing, in respect of each bull approved by the Department, the date and place of each artificial insemination of a cow, the name and address of the owner thereof, the breed and name or other sufficient identification of the cow, and the date of birth, sex and sufficient identification of the resultant progeny. Such records shall be available at all reasonable times to inspection by any authorised officer of the Department, who shall be at liberty to make any copy thereof or extract therefrom.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

**Conditions for the issue of a licence to a herdowner or his whole-time employee to practice artificial insemination**

1. A licence shall only be valid for the period stated therein.
2. A licence shall be valid only for the artificial insemination of cows in the herd specified therein and a separate licence will be required in respect of each herd.
3. Only semen obtained in accordance with Regulation 6 or semen imported under a licence issued by the Department may be used.
4. Semen stored on the farm of the owner of the herd specified in the licence shall be kept in a cryogenic container of a type approved by the Department, and such semen shall not be transferred to other premises without the approval of the Department.
5. When semen from a bull not the property of the herdowner is used for artificial insemination the herdowner shall keep records showing particulars of all cows inseminated, the dates of inseminations including repeat inseminations, the bull used and the date of birth and sex of the resultant progeny. Each cow inseminated shall, if not already identified by a tattoo mark or other acceptable means of identification be so tattooed or marked at the time of the first insemination with such mark as will enable it to be identified. All progeny born as a result of such insemination shall also be suitably identified and all abnormal births shall be notified to the Department immediately.
6. Authorised officers of the Department shall have access to the premises, equipment and records of the licensee at all reasonable times.
7. The licence shall not be transferable.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)*

These Regulations replace the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968.

They provide for:—

1. The licensing of Private Artificial Insemination Centres.
2. The licensing of herdowners or whole-time employees nominated by them to carry out artificial insemination in their own herds.
3. Control over the collection, storage, distribution and sale of semen.