

1978 No. 211

AGRICULTURE

Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978

Made 25th July 1978

Coming into operation 30th August 1978

The Department(a) of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(b) as amended by Article 5 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977(c) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and with the approval of the Department(a) of Finance hereby makes the following Scheme:

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978 and shall come into operation on 30th August 1978.

Revocation

2. The Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1972(d) is hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In this Scheme—

“appropriate breed society” means the society responsible for the identification and registration of the breed in the flock book;

“approved” means approved by the Department;

“the Department” means the Department of Agriculture;

“flock” means a flock of sheep;

“flock book” means a register kept by a sheepbreed society of the particulars of sheep eligible to be entered therein;

“grant” means a payment made to any person towards the purchase of a ram in accordance with Articles 7 and 8;

“incentive payment” means a payment made to a flock owner under Article 6 towards the cost of recording his flock;

“normal breeding season” means in respect of the Border Leicester, Suffolk, Hampshire Down or other approved breeds the period from 1st December to 15th April;

“recording” means recording in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of this Scheme;

“registered” means registered in the flock book of the appropriate breed society.

(a) Formerly Ministry: see 1973 c. 36 Sch. 5 para. 8(1)

(b) 1949 c. 2 (N.I.)

(c) S.I. 1977/1245 (N.I. 12)

(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 163 (p. 941) as amended by S.R. 1975 No. 329 (II, p. 1632)

FLOCK RECORDING

Application

4. An owner of a registered pure bred flock of the Border Leicester, Suffolk, Dorset Horn, Hampshire Down or any other approved breed may apply to have his flock accepted by the Department for the purpose of recording. The application shall be in such form as may be required by the Department.

Conditions of acceptance

5. If the Department is satisfied with respect to that flock that the conditions set out in Part I of the First Schedule are satisfied it shall give the flock owner notice in writing of such acceptance and as and from the receipt of such notice the flock owner shall in respect of that flock comply with the conditions of Part II of the First Schedule.

Incentive payments

6. The Department may make the following incentive payments to flock owners accepted for recording—

- (1) a payment of £6.00 for each ewe of the Border Leicester breed giving birth to 2 or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season;
- (2) a payment of £4.00 for each ewe of the Suffolk or Hampshire Down breed giving birth to 1 or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season;
- (3) a payment of £2.00 for each ewe of the Dorset Horn breed giving birth to 1 or more normal live lambs at each lambing;
- (4) a payment of £6.00 for each ewe of the Dorset Horn breed giving birth to a total of not less than 4 normal live lambs at 3 lambings within a 24 month period from and including the date of the first lambing which has been notified to the Department and in each subsequent consecutive period of the same duration;
- (5) a payment of £4.00 for each ewe of any other approved breed giving birth to 1 or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season.

GRANTS FOR PURCHASE OF RAMS

Purpose of grant

7. The Department may pay grants—

- (1) to owners of flocks accepted for recording who purchase rams which have been selected by the Department as eligible for such grants in accordance with Article 8, the payment of such grants to be in accordance with paragraph (1) of Article 10;
- (2) to owners of Blackface flocks who purchase Border Leicester rams which have been selected by the Department as eligible for such grants in accordance with Article 8, the payment of such grants to be in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 10.

Selection of rams eligible for grant

8.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) the Department shall select rams which it considers to be eligible for grant at approved sales.

(2) A ram will not be considered for selection in accordance with paragraph (1) unless it is exhibited by the flock owner who bred it.

Application for grant

9. Applications for grants towards the purchase of rams eligible for grant shall be made to the Department in such form as the Department may require at least one month before the date of the approved sale of rams of the breed concerned.

Rate and conditions of grant

10. The Department may pay grants—

- (1) at the rate of £48 or one half of the amount remaining after the sum of £48 has been deducted from the purchase price whichever is the less but in any case not less than £6 to a flock owner who owns a pedigree Border Leicester or Suffolk flock recording in the Scheme containing not less than 15 pedigree ewes in respect of the purchase by him of an approved ram of the breed maintained by him. The payment of such grant shall be subject to the conditions set out in Part I of the Second Schedule;
- (2) at the rate of £20 or one half of the amount remaining after the sum of £36 has been deducted from the purchase price whichever is the less but in any case not less than £6 to a flock owner who owns a pure bred Blackface flock in respect of the purchase by him of an approved ram of the Border Leicester breed. The payment of such grant shall be subject to the conditions set out in Part II of the Second Schedule.

Cancellation of acceptance or approval

11. The Department may by notice in writing given to a flock owner suspend or cancel any acceptance or approval issued to him under this Scheme or otherwise withdraw the benefits of the Scheme from such flock owner.

Publication

12. The Department may publish in such manner as it thinks fit the names of the owners of flocks being recorded and any other information pertaining to the performance of any flock participating in the Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 25th July 1978.

(L.S.)

W. J. Hodges

Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland on 26th July 1978.

(L.S.)

R. McMurray

Assistant Secretary

FIRST SCHEDULE

PART I

Conditions for acceptance for recording

1. Flocks of the Border Leicester breed shall have not less than 9 ewes.
2. Flocks of Suffolk, Dorset Horn, Hampshire Down or other approved breed shall have not less than 10 ewes.
3. The flock owner shall furnish evidence from a veterinary practitioner in a form satisfactory to the Department that all sheep owned by him are healthy.

PART II

Conditions to be satisfied after acceptance

A flock owner shall:—

1. Maintain a register of all sheep in the flock.
2. Record therein—
 - (a) service dates of ewes;
 - (b) the dates of birth and the sex of all lambs born in the flock;
 - (c) deaths and abnormalities;
 - (d) the weights of all such lambs at birth and at such other times as the Department shall require.
3. Ear mark, ear notch or ear tag all lambs within the period stipulated by the Rules of the appropriate breed society or within 30 days from birth whichever is the lesser period.
4. Notify ear marks or tag numbers to the Department within two days of the birth of each lamb.
5. Provide such facilities for the checking of records and all other matters connected with the Scheme as the Department shall require.
6. Permit authorised officers of the Department at all reasonable times to inspect the flock, check ear marks, dates of birth, weighings and the accuracy of the weighing facilities.
 7. (a) If the flock consists of the Border Leicester breed, have not less than 12 ewes after a period of two years in the Scheme;
 - (b) if the flock consists of the Suffolk, Dorset Horn, Hampshire Down or other approved breed, have not less than 15 ewes after a period of two years in the Scheme.
8. If the flock consists of Border Leicester or Suffolk breeds exhibit for sale at approved sales each year such sheep as may be selected by the Department for such purpose.
9. If the flock consists of any other approved breed sell for breeding purposes such proportion of the flock as the Department shall determine and keep records of such sales.

SECOND SCHEDULE

PART I

Conditions of Grant—Border Leicester Rams in Border Leicester flocks and Suffolk Rams in Suffolk flocks

The flock owner shall:—

- (a) keep the ram in his flock in good health and condition and shall not, without the written consent of the Department, dispose of it to any other person within a period of at least 3 successive breeding seasons following the date of purchase;
- (b) maintain a flock of at least 15 pedigree ewes and mate the ram with the said ewes;
- (c) allow only approved rams to service the ewes;
- (d) permit authorised officers of the Department at all reasonable times to inspect the ram.

PART II

Conditions of Grant—Border Leicester Rams in Blackface flocks

The flock owner shall:—

- (a) keep the ram in his flock in good health and condition and shall not, without the written consent of the Department, dispose of it to any other person within a period of at least 2 successive breeding seasons following the date of purchase;
- (b) maintain a flock of at least 25 ewes and mate the ram with the said ewes;
- (c) allow only approved rams to service the ewes;
- (d) permit authorised officers of the Department at all reasonable times to inspect the ram;
- (e) ear mark, ear notch or ear tag all lambs within 30 days from birth.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The object of this Scheme is to improve the quality of sheep in Northern Ireland.

The Scheme which replaces the Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1972 continues and increases the incentive payments to flock owners who record their flocks and attain approved standards of breeding value and also increases the grants for the purchase of superior breeding rams for use in flocks recording in this Scheme. Certain changes have also been made in the rules covering composition of flocks, for recording purposes.