

1988 No. 46

## AGRICULTURE

**Beef Cattle Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1988**

*Made* . . . . . 18th February 1988

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 21st March 1988

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 9(1) and (2) of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel(b), hereby makes the following Scheme:—

*Citation and commencement*

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Beef Cattle Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1988 and shall come into operation on 21st March 1988.

*Interpretation*

2. In this Scheme—

“application” means an application made in accordance with Article 4;

“approved bull” means a bull which is in a registered herd and is approved by the Department for the purpose of Article 18(1);

“beef bull” means a bull of any breed of cattle intended for meat production;

“breeding premium” means a premium payable under Article 17;

“100 day weight” means the weight which a calf can reasonably be expected to attain at 100 days of age, calculated by the Department from an actual weight recorded under Part I; and “200 day weight”, “300 day weight”, “400 day weight” and “500 day weight” shall be construed accordingly;

“Department” means the Department of Agriculture;

“eligible suckler herd” means a herd consisting of not more than 40 cows owned by the same person and which are kept for the purpose of rearing cattle solely for meat production;

“herd” means any number of pedigree cattle of one beef breed owned by the same person in respect of which he has made an application;

“progeny premium” means a premium payable under Article 18;

“qualifying date” means 30th September in any recording year;

“recorded” means recorded in accordance with the Schedule;

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(a) 1949 c. 2 (N.I.) as amended by S.I. 1977/1245 (N.I. 12) Article 5

(b) Formerly the Department of Finance: see S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Article 3

“recording year” means the period commencing 1st April and ending 31st March (both dates inclusive) in the next succeeding year;

“register” means the register kept in accordance with Part I;

“registered” means entered on the register;

“selected bull” means a bull which has been selected by the Department for the purposes of Article 17 and which—

(a) is one of the following breeds—

(i) Aberdeen Angus;

(ii) Blonde d’Aquitaine;

(iii) Charolais;

(iv) Hereford;

(v) Limousin; or

(vi) Simmental; and

(b) has a 400 day weight in excess of the Northern Ireland average for its breed;

“sired” means sired by natural mating or by artificial insemination; and

“testing” means the testing of a beef bull or of a sample of its progeny for the purpose of assessing its breeding value.

## PART I

### RECORDING OF BEEF CATTLE

#### *Register of recording herds*

3. For the purpose of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of beef cattle in Northern Ireland, the Department shall keep a register of herds in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

#### *Application*

4. The owner of a herd may apply to the Department, in such form as it may require, to have his herd registered.

#### *Conditions of acceptance*

5. The Department shall accept an application only where it is satisfied that the herd is free from such diseases and congenital defects as it may specify.

#### *Registration*

6. Where the Department accepts an application, it shall notify the owner of the herd in writing of the fact and his herd shall be registered for the recording year in which the application was made.

#### *Rejection of herd*

7. Where the Department rejects an application, it shall notify the owner of the herd in writing of the fact and of the grounds for the rejection of his herd.

*Conditions applying to owners of herds*

8. The owner of a registered herd shall comply with the provisions of the Schedule.

*Certification*

9. After the weighing of each calf is carried out in accordance with paragraph 1(d) of the Schedule, the Department shall issue to the owner of that calf a certificate containing the results of that weighing.

*Cancellation of registration*

10. Where the owner of a registered herd fails at any time to comply with the provisions of the Schedule, the Department may by notice in writing to him cancel the registration of that herd.

*Transitional provisions*

11. Any herd which, immediately before the coming into operation of this Scheme, was accepted under Article 4 (conditions of acceptance) of the Recording and Performance Testing (Beef Cattle) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978(a) shall be registered for the recording year which commenced on 1st April 1987.

*Publication*

12. The Department may publish in such manner as it thinks fit any information obtained by it in the course of the operation of this Part.

## PART II

## TESTING OF BEEF BULLS

*Testing of beef bulls*

13.—(1) The Department may, at the request of the owner of a registered herd, accept for testing and test any bull from that herd.

(2) The Department may refuse to test or to continue to test any bull notwithstanding that it has been accepted under paragraph (1).

*Certification*

14. The Department shall issue to the owner of any bull tested under Article 13 a certificate containing details of the test results.

*Elite bulls*

15. Where any bull tested under Article 13 has achieved such a standard of breeding merit as the Department shall approve, that bull shall be designated an elite bull.

*Transitional provisions*

16. For the purpose of this Part any bull which, immediately before the coming into operation of this Scheme, was accepted under Article 6

(Performance testing) of the Recording and Performance Testing (Beef Cattle) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978 shall be deemed to have been accepted under Article 13(1).

### PART III

#### PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS

##### *Breeding premiums*

**17.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Department may pay to the owner of an eligible suckler herd who on the qualifying date owns a selected bull, a breeding premium of such amount as it shall from time to time determine in respect of that bull.

(2) A breeding premium shall be payable only for two successive qualifying dates in respect of any selected bull.

##### *Progeny premium*

**18.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Department may pay to the owner of a registered herd a progeny premium of such an amount as it shall from time to time determine in respect of each calf born in that herd where—

- (a) it was sired by an approved bull;
- (b) its birth was notified to the Department in accordance with paragraph 1(a) of the Schedule; and
- (c) it was retained in the herd until its 200 day weight was recorded.

(2) A progeny premium shall not be paid in respect of—

- (a) more than ten calves born in any registered herd and sired by a selected bull; and
- (b) more than fifty calves in total sired by a selected bull.

##### *Claims*

**19.** A claim for a breeding premium or a progeny premium shall be made at such time, in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Department may determine.

##### *Revocation*

**20.** The Recording and Performance Testing (Beef Cattle) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978 is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 18th February 1988.

(L.S.)

*D. A. J. Hirrell*

Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel  
on 18th February 1988.

(L.S.)

*J. A. Mills*

Assistant Secretary

1. The owner of a registered herd shall—
- (a) notify the Department in writing of the birth of each calf born in the herd within one week of its birth;
  - (b) maintain in respect of the herd such records, and in such manner as the Department may require;
  - (c) provide facilities which, in the opinion of the Department are suitable for the accurate weighing of any animal in the herd;
  - (d) permit the weighing of each calf born in the herd at such times as the Department may direct so as to allow the calculation of its 100 day, 200 day, 300 day, 400 day and 500 day weight;
  - (e) permit the Department to take blood samples from any animal in the herd;
  - (f) permit an officer, authorised by the Department in writing, at all reasonable times to inspect the herd, to weigh calves and to check the identification of any animal in the herd, the accuracy of the weighing facilities and the records kept in respect of the herd.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Scheme.)*

Section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949 empowers the Department of Agriculture, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel, to make schemes for aiding, improving and developing the breeding of beef cattle.

This Scheme, which is made under that section, revokes and re-enacts with amendments the Recording and Performance Testing (Beef Cattle) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978 ("the 1978 Scheme"), the main changes being:—

- (a) the introduction of a register of pedigree beef herds recording under the Scheme;
- (b) provision for the payment of premiums for the use of better quality beef bulls as herd sires in suckler herds with up to 40 cows; and
- (c) provision for the payment of premiums on progeny born in registered (recording) herds and sired by certain tested bulls.

Provision is also made for the transition to the new Scheme of herds being recorded and bulls being tested under the 1978 Scheme.