STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2013 No. 144

AGRICULTURE

The Agriculture (Hardship Payment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2013

Made - - - -	*22nd May 2013*
Coming into operation	*24th May 2013*

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development(**1**) makes the following Scheme in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1(1) and 2 of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**2**) and with the approval of the Minister for Finance and Personnel.

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Agriculture (Hardship Payment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 2013, and shall come into operation on 24th May 2013.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Scheme—

"application" means an application for a hardship payment made in accordance with Article 5;

"authorised officer" means a person authorised by the Department for the purposes of this Scheme;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;

"eligible producer" means a producer who falls within Article 4;

"hardship payment" means a payment by the Department under and for the purposes of Article 3;

"livestock" means any sheep, cattle, goats, or poultry kept for the production of food, wool or skin and "animal" shall be construed accordingly.

(2) For the purposes of this Scheme a person's economic loss in respect of each animal shall be—

(a) in the case of any sheep under 12 months, £30 per animal;

(b) in the case of any sheep of 12 months or more, £110 per animal;

(c) in the case of any dairy cattle under 3 months, £45 per animal;

(**1**) Formerly the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland; see S.I. 1999/283 (N.I.1), Article 3(4)
(**2**) 1954 c. 31 (N.I.); the Act was amended by Article 7 of S.I. 1984/702 (N.I. 2)

(d) in the case of any beef cattle under 3 months, £200 per animal;

(e) in the case of any dairy or beef cattle of 3 months or more, but under 6 months, £380 per animal;

(f) in the case of any dairy or beef cattle of 6 months or more, but under 12 months, £700 per animal;

(g) in the case of any dairy or beef cattle of 12 months or more, but under 18 months with no progeny, £880 per animal;

(h) in the case of any dairy or beef cattle of 18 months or more, but under 48 months with no progeny, £1,140 per animal;

(i) in the case of any dairy or beef cattle of 48 months or more with no progeny, £740 per animal;

(j) in the case of any dairy cattle of 12 months or more, but under 48 months with progeny, £1,290 per animal;

(k) in the case of any beef cattle of 12 months or more, but under 96 months with progeny, £900 per animal;

(l) in the case of any dairy cattle of 48 months or more with progeny, £740 per animal;

(m) in the case of any beef cattle of 96 months or more with progeny, £740 per animal;

(n) in the case of any goats under 12 months, £30 per animal;

(o) in the case of any goats of 12 months or more, £110 per animal; and

(p) in the case of any poultry £2.50 per animal.

Hardship Payments

3. The Department may, under and in accordance with the following provisions, pay any producer a hardship payment in respect of hardship suffered as a consequence of snowfall from 21st March 2013 – 24th March 2013.

Eligibility for payment

4.—(1) An eligible producer for the purposes of Article 3 is a person who in March 2013 was engaged in the production of livestock and who—

(a) lost one or more animals within the meaning of paragraph (2);

(b) as a direct result suffered an economic loss;

(c) has had that economic loss verified by an inspection and report of an authorised officer.

(2) An eligible producer loses an animal within the meaning of this paragraph if—

(a) the animal died on his holding as a direct result of the snowfall referred to in Article 3;

(b) it was collected and disposed of by a person approved by the Department for that purpose between 25th March 2013 and 3rd May 2013.

Application for payment

5.—(1) The Department shall publish, in such manner as it considers appropriate, a notice inviting applications for a hardship payment.

(2) A notice under paragraph (1) shall specify the closing date for such applications.

(3) A notice under paragraph (1) may be amended by further notice published by the Department in the same manner.