STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2011 No. 429

AGRICULTURE

The Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011

Made - - - - 14th December 2011

Coming into operation- 1st February 2012

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development is a department designated(**1**) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(**2**) in relation to the common agricultural policy of the European Community and in relation to matters relating to the promotion of rural development.

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2(2) of that Act.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 and shall come into operation on 1st February 2012.

Interpretation

2.—(1) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**3**) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Assembly.

(2) In these Regulations—

"the 1994 Regulations" means the Hill Livestock (Compensatory Allowances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994(**4**);

"the 1996 Regulations" means the Hill Livestock (Compensatory Allowances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996(**5**);

(**1**) S.I. 2000/2812 and S.I. 2000/3238 to which there are amendments not relevant to the subject matter of these Regulations
(**2**) 1972 c. 68
(**3**) 1954 c.33 (N.I)
(**4**) S.R. 1994 No. 417 amended by S.R. 1995 No. 22, S.R. 1995 No. 245, S.R. 1995 No. 404, S.R. 1996 No. 7 and revoked by S.R. 1996 No. 230
(**5**) S.R. 1996 No. 230 amended by S.R. 1996 No. 498, S.R. 1997 No. 13, S.R. 1997 No. 486, S.R. 1998 No. 34, S.R. 1998 No. 439, S.R. 1999 No. 68 and which cease to apply by virtue of S.R. 1999 No. 497

"the 1999 Regulations" means the Hill Livestock (Compensatory Allowances) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(**6**);

"agriculture" includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming and livestock breeding and keeping, the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the use of land for other agricultural purposes;

"authorised person" means any person who is authorised by the Department, either generally or specifically, to act in relation to matters arising under these Regulations, whether or not he is an officer of the Department;

"beneficiary" means a person who has entered into an undertaking;

"claimant" means any person who has made a claim for less favoured area compensatory allowance;

"claimed forage area" means land which has been entered at column I of the field data sheet in a single application for the year 2011;

"the Commission" means the Commission of the European Communities;

"Commission Regulation 1120/2009" means Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1120/2009(**7**) laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the single payment scheme provided for in Title III of Council Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009 establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers;

"Commission Regulation 1121/2009" means Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1121/2009(**8**) laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009 as regards the support schemes for farmers provided for in Titles IV and V thereof;

"Commission Regulation 1122/2009" means Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1122/2009(**9**) laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009 as regards cross-compliance, modulation and the integrated administration and control system, under the direct support schemes for farmers provided for that Regulation, as well as for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1234/2007 as regards cross-compliance under the support scheme provided for the wine sector;

"common land" means land the grazing of animals on which is shared;

"compensatory allowance", in relation to land situated in Northern Ireland, means either—

(a) any payment made under these Regulations, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001(**10**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002(**11**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(**12**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004(**13**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005(**14**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern

(**6**) S.R. 1999 No. 497
(**7**) O.J. No. L316, 02.12.2009, p.1 as last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 331/2011 (O.J. No. L93, 07.04.2011, p.16)
(**8**) O.J. No. L316, 02.12.2009, p. 27 as last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 387/2010 (O.J. No. L114, 07.05.2010, p. 1)
(**9**) O.J. No. L316, 02.12.2009, p. 65 as last amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 173/2011 (O.J. No. L49, 24.02.2011, p. 16)
(**10**) S.R. 2001 No. 71
(**11**) S.R. 2002 No. 72
(**12**) S.R. 2003 No. 162
(**13**) S.R. 2004 No. 495
(**14**) S.R. 2005 No. 106

Ireland) 2006(**15**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007(**16**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007(**17**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008(**18**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008(**19**), the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010(**20**) or the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010(**21**); or

(b) in the case of a compensatory allowance payable in the year 2000 or earlier, any payment made under the Hill Livestock (Compensatory Allowances) Regulations;

"Council Regulation 1257/1999" means Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/1999(**22**) on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) and amending and repealing certain Regulations;

"Council Regulation 1698/2005" means Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005(**23**) on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);

"Council Regulation 73/2009" means Council Regulation (EC) No. 73/2009(**24**) establishing common rules for direct support schemes for farmers under the common agricultural policy and establishing certain support schemes for farmers and amending and repealing certain Regulations;

"cross-border holding" means a holding which is situated partly in Northern Ireland and partly in one or more of England, Scotland or Wales;

"deer" means deer of the Red, Fallow or Sika species managed on a holding enclosed by a deer-proof barrier and kept by way of business for the primary purpose of the production of meat;

"deer-proof barrier" means a barrier which will, to the satisfaction of the Department, and having regard to the character and nature of the land, prevent the entry of deer on to or, as the case may be, the escape of deer from any land;

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

"designated map" means the map marked "Map of less-favoured farming areas in Northern Ireland", dated 8th May 1991, signed by the Secretary of State and deposited at the Offices of the Department at Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, Belfast BT4 3SB;

"disadvantaged land" (except in the expression "severely disadvantaged land") means the land shown coloured blue on the designated map;

"electronic communication" has the same meaning as in the Electronic Communications Act (Northern Ireland) 2001(**25**);

(**15**) S.R. 2006 No. 52
(**16**) S.R. 2007 No. 27
(**17**) S.R. 2007 No. 361
(**18**) S.R. 2008 No. 34
(**19**) S.R. 2008 No. 473
(**20**) S.R. 2010 No. 41
(**21**) S.R. 2010 No. 418
(**22**) O.J. No. L160, 26.06.1999, p. 80 as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No. 1698/2005 (O.J. No. L277, 21.10.2005, p. 1)
(**23**) O.J. No. L277, 21.10.2005, p. 1 as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No. 473/2009 (O.J. No. L144, 09.06.2009, p. 3)
(**24**) O.J. No. L30, 31.01.2009, p. 16 as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 785/2011 (O.J. No. L203, 06.08.2011, p.10)
(**25**) 2001 c. 9 (N.I.); the definition of "electronic communication" contained in section 4(1) was amended by section 406(1) of, and paragraph 170 of Schedule 17 to, the Communications Act 2003 (c. 21)

"eligible forage area" means such part of the qualifying forage area that has been entered in a single application at column F under either of the land use codes in column 1 of Schedule 1 and as lies within a less favoured area;

"eligible land" means land within the less favoured area;

"ewe" has the same meaning as in Article 100(a) of Council Regulation 73/2009;

"the first compensatory allowance", in relation to a claimant, means the first payment of compensatory allowance to him (whether payable under these Regulations, the Hill Livestock (Compensatory Allowances) Regulations, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2001, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008, the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008, Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010, or the Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010);

"forage area" has the same meaning as in Article 2(k) of Commission Regulation 1120/2009(**26**);

"goat" means any goat (of any species) which is kept by way of business for the primary purpose of the production of milk or fibre;

"heifer" has the same meaning as in Article 109(e) of Council Regulation 73/2009;

"Hill Livestock (Compensatory Allowances) Regulations" means the 1994 Regulations, the 1996 Regulations or, as the case may be, the 1999 Regulations;

"holding" has the same meaning as in Article 2(b) of Council Regulation 73/2009;

"individual milk quota" has the same meaning as in Article 62(1)(a) of Commission Regulation 1121/2009;

"less favoured area" means all the land shown coloured blue or pink on the designated map;

"less favoured area compensatory allowance" means the compensatory allowance payable in accordance with these Regulations, Article 36(a)(ii) of Council Regulation 1698/2005 and Chapter V of Title II of Council Regulation 1257/1999;

"livestock unit" means a unit of measurement of livestock numbers, and each of the following constitutes a single livestock unit—

(a) one suckler cow or a heifer aged over 24 months;

(b) 1.67 heifers aged between 8 months and 24 months;

(c) 6.67 ewes;

(d) 6.67 breeding female goats;

(e) 3.3 breeding female deer over 27 months; or

(f) 5 breeding female deer over 6 months but less than 27 months;

"minimum grazing period" means the seven month period 1st April 2011 to 31st October 2011;

(**26**) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1120/2009 (O.J. No. L316, 02.12.2009, p. 1)

"notional livestock density" means the number of livestock units per hectare of eligible forage area, calculated as a fraction of which the numerator is the number of relevant animals expressed in livestock units and the denominator is the claimant's eligible forage area expressed in hectares;

"other competent authority" means the Secretary of State, the Scottish Ministers or the Welsh Ministers;

"qualifying forage area" means the relevant forage area or, in relation to a claimant in relation to whom regulation 8 applies, such part of the relevant forage area as results from the reductions made to the relevant forage area in accordance with that regulation;

"related less favoured area" in relation to a claimant, means all that claimed forage area, excluding less favoured area, in respect of which the Department has been advised by any other competent authority that the claimant is eligible for a related less favoured area allowance;

"related less favoured area allowance" means a compensatory allowance payable in relation to land situated in England, Scotland or Wales in accordance with Articles 36(a)(i) or (ii) of Council Regulation 1698/2005 or Chapter V of Title II of Council Regulation 1257/1999;

"relevant animals" means—

(a) the number of suckler cows, heifers and ewes present on a claimant's holding for at least the minimum grazing period in the year 2011;

(b) the average number of breeding female deer present on a claimant's holding on a number of dates determined by the Department; and

(c) the average number of breeding female goats present on a claimant's holding on a number of dates determined by the Department;

"relevant forage area" means any claimed forage area situated in Northern Ireland;

"severely disadvantaged land" means the land shown coloured pink on the designated map;

"single application" has the meaning given by Article 2(11) of Commission Regulation 1122/2009;

"suckler cow" has the same meaning as in Article 109(d) of Council Regulation 73/2009;

"undertaking" means an undertaking under regulation 5(a).

(3) Any reference in these Regulations to a Community instrument is a reference to that instrument as amended on the date on which these Regulations are made.

(4) A reference in these Regulations to anything done in writing or produced in written form includes a reference to an electronic communication which has been recorded and is capable of being subsequently reproduced.

Payment of less favoured area compensatory allowance

3. Subject to regulation 5, the Department shall pay less favoured area compensatory allowance for the year 2012 to any claimant who is eligible under regulation 4 in respect of any eligible forage area.

Eligibility for less favoured area compensatory allowance

4.—(1) Subject to Article 51 of Council Regulation 1698/2005 (reduction or exclusion from payments) and regulation 5, a claimant shall be eligible for less favoured area compensatory allowance if, and only if—

(a) his claim is made on a single application submitted in the year 2011;