1988 No. 47

AGRICULTURE

Sheep 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 Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1988 and shall come into operation on 21st March 1988.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme—

"application" means an application in accordance with Article 4;

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"100 day weight" means the weight which a lamb can reasonably be expected to attain at 100 days of age, calculated by the Department from an actual weight recorded under Part I;

"Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"ewe" means a female sheep of breeding age;

"flock" means, any number of pedigree sheep of one or more approved breeds owned by the same person in respect of which an application has been made;

"flock group" means all sheep of the same breed in a flock;

"ram" means a male sheep of breeding age;

"ram lamb" means a male sheep which is not of breeding age;

"registered flock" means a flock entered in the register;

"recording year" means the period commencing 1st September and ending 31st August (both dates inclusive) in the next succeeding year;

"register" means the register kept in accordance with Part I;

"testing" means the testing of a ram or of a sample of its progeny, or of a ram lamb for the purpose of assessing its breeding value; and

"veterinary surgeon" includes a veterinary practitioner.

(**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

PART I

FLOCK RECORDING

Register of recording flocks

3. For the purposes of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of sheep in Northern Ireland, the Department shall keep a register of flocks in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

Application

4.—(1) The owner of a flock may apply to the Department, in such form as it may require, to have his flock registered.

(2) An application in respect of any recording year shall be made to the Department between 1st September and 30th November (both dates inclusive) in that year.

Conditions of acceptance

5.—(1) The Department shall accept an application only where—

(*a*) the owner of the flock:

(i) furnishes evidence in writing from a veterinary surgeon that all sheep owned by him are free from such diseases as the Department may specify and that the sheep in the flock exhibit no physical defects; and

(ii) is participating in any scheme or arrangement which may be operated by the Department for monitoring the health of, and controlling diseases in, sheep; and

(*b*) the flock contains not less than the specified number of ewes.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(*b*) the specified number of ewes shall be—

(*a*) in the case of a flock containing sheep of the Blackface breed, 20 ewes; and

(*b*) in the case of any other flock, 5 ewes.

Acceptance of application

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

Rejection of application

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

Conditions applying to owners of registered flocks

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