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;

(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

(a) S.R. 1978 No. 66