# 1987 No. 381

# AGRICULTURE

## Pig Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1987

*Made* . . . . . *25th September 1987*

*Coming into operation* . . *2nd November 1987*

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 Pig Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1987 and shall come into operation on 2nd November 1987.

*Interpretation*

**2.** In this Scheme—

"accredited herd" means a testing herd which is designated as an accredited herd by the Department in accordance with Article 14(1);

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

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"candidate herd" means a herd accepted by the Department in accordance with Article 6 but not registered;

"Committee" means the Northern Ireland Pig Production Development Committee established under section 1 of the Pig Production Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1964(**c**);

"determined price" means such price as may be determined from time to time by the Department, after consultation with the Committee;

"herd" means any number of pedigree pigs of one breed owned by the same person in respect of which he has made an application;

"litter group" means two boars and two gilts born in a litter selected by the Department;

"premises" means the housing and other facilities provided for the keeping of pigs;

"register" means the register kept in accordance with this Scheme;

"registered" means entered on the register in accordance with Article 9;

"sows" includes gilts;

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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
(**c**) 1964 c. 25 (N.I.)

"testing" means the testing of a boar or of a sample of its progeny for the purpose of assessing its breeding value;

"testing herd" means a herd entered in the register;

"testing scale" means a scale drawn up from time to time by the Department, after consultation with the Committee, being a scale determining the number of litter groups which the owner of a testing herd shall be required to test in any year, subject to a minimum of ten litter groups;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"the 1976 Scheme" means the Pig Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1976(**a**);

"veterinary surgeon" includes a veterinary practitioner.

*Register of testing herds*

**3.** For the purpose of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of pigs in Northern Ireland, the Department shall keep a register of testing herds in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme.

*Application*

**4.** Subject to Articles 7(2) and 11(3) 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—

(*a*) the owner of the herd—

(i) furnishes evidence, in writing from a veterinary surgeon, that all pigs owned by him are free from such diseases and congenital defects as the Department may specify; and

(ii) is participating in any scheme or arrangements which may be operated by the Department for monitoring the health of and controlling disease in pigs; and

(*b*) the herd includes such number of sows which, in the opinion of the Department, can be reasonably expected to produce a sufficient number of litters so as to enable the testing of no less than ten litter groups in any year.

*Acceptance of herd*

**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 accepted as a candidate herd.

*Rejection of herd*

**7.**—(1) 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.

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(a) S.R. 1976 No. 393