1981 No. 4

ANIMALS

Artificial Insemination (Sheep) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981

Made	*7th January 1981*
Coming into operation . . .	*2nd March 1981*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 5(1) and (2) of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

Title and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Artificial Insemination (Sheep) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 and shall come into operation on 2nd March 1981.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"artificial insemination" means artificial insemination in connection with sheep;

"artificial insemination centre" means a centre from which a service for the artificial insemination of ewes is provided;

"approved artificial insemination centre" means an artificial insemination centre operated either by the Department or by a person licensed by the Department to operate an artificial insemination centre;

"authorised" means authorised by the Department;

"ewe" means a female sheep of breeding age;

"flock" means one or more sheep having the same owner;

"full-time employee" means a person normally engaged in work for not less than 30 hours per week;

"licence" means a licence granted by the Department;

"licensed operator" means a person to whom a licence to operate a private artificial insemination centre has been granted;

"pedigree" means entered, or accepted for entry or eligible for entry, in the flock book of the breed of sheep concerned;

"permit authority" means the authority in any country or place which issues a permit or licence authorising the entry into that country or place of semen from Northern Ireland;

"private artificial insemination centre" means an artificial insemination centre which is not operated by the Department;

"semen" means ram semen;

"veterinary surgeon" means a person lawfully qualified to practise veterinary surgery.

(a) S.I. 1975/1834 (N.I. 17)

Control of private artificial insemination centres

3. A person shall not operate a private artificial insemination centre unless—

(*a*) he is a licensed operator; and

(*b*) he does so in accordance with the conditions set out in the First Schedule and in the licence granted to him.

Control of artificial insemination

4. A person unless he is—

(*a*) employed at an artificial insemination centre established and operated by the Department; or

(*b*) a veterinary surgeon in private practice who artificially inseminates a client's ewe for therapeutic reasons;

shall not, unless he has been granted in accordance with Regulation 5 a licence which permits him to practise artificial insemination, artificially inseminate a ewe with semen collected from a ram other than a ram belonging to the flock to which that ewe belongs.

Licences to practise artificial insemination

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person who applies for a licence permitting him to practise artificial insemination shall satisfy the Department that he has received approved instruction regarding artificial insemination and unless he shall so satisfy the Department it shall not grant such licence to him.

(2) A licence to practise artificial insemination shall not be granted other than to a person:

(*a*) who is employed by a licensed operator;

(*b*) who is the owner of a flock; or

(*c*) who is a full-time employee of and nominated by a person who is the owner of a flock.

(3) A licence granted to a person referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(*b*) or (2)(*c*) shall be subject to the conditions set out in the Second Schedule and in that licence.

Collection and sale of semen

6.—(1) A person shall not, except in an approved artificial insemination centre, collect semen for the purpose of the sale thereof.

(2) Where semen is collected for the purpose of the sale thereof within Northern Ireland such semen shall be obtained only from an approved ram which has been kept continuously at an approved artificial insemination centre either for a period of 14 days immediately preceding the date of the first collection of semen from that ram or for such other period of time as it takes for that ram to pass all veterinary and other tests in respect of it which are required by the Department, whichever period is the longer.

(3) A person shall not sell semen which has been collected for the purpose of the sale thereof within Northern Ireland unless the ram from which such semen has been collected has passed all veterinary and other tests in respect of it which are required by the Department.

(4) Where semen is collected for the purpose of the sale thereof outside Northern Ireland such semen shall be obtained only from a ram which has been kept continuously at an approved artificial insemination centre either for a period of 28 days immediately preceding the date of the first collection of semen from that ram or for such other period of time as is required by the permit authority, whichever period is the longer.