1978 No. 211

AGRICULTURE

Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978

Made . . . . . *25th July* 1978

Coming into operation . . . 30*th August* 1978

The Department(**a**) of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(**b**) as amended by Article 5 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977(**c**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and with the approval of the Department(**a**) of Finance hereby makes the following Scheme:

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978 and shall come into operation on 30th August 1978.

Revocation

2. The Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1972(**d**) is hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In this Scheme—

"appropriate breed society" means the society responsible for the identification and registration of the breed in the flock book;

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"flock" means a flock of sheep;

"flock book" means a register kept by a sheepbreed society of the particulars of sheep eligible to be entered therein;

"grant" means a payment made to any person towards the purchase of a ram in accordance with Articles 7 and 8;

"incentive payment" means a payment made to a flock owner under Article 6 towards the cost of recording his flock;

"normal breeding season" means in respect of the Border Leicester, Suffolk, Hampshire Down or other approved breeds the period from 1st December to 15th April;

"recording" means recording in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of this Scheme;

"registered" means registered in the flock book of the appropriate breed society.

(**a**) Formerly Ministry: *see* 1973 c. 36 Sch. 5 para. 8(1)
(**b**) 1949 c. 2 (N.I.)
(**c**) S.I. 1977/1245 (N.I. 12)
(**d**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 163 (p. 941) as amended by S.R. 1975 No. 329 (II, p. 1632)

FLOCK RECORDING

Application

4. An owner of a registered pure bred flock of the Border Leicester, Suffolk, Dorset Horn, Hampshire Down or any other approved breed may apply to have his flock accepted by the Department for the purpose of recording. The application shall be in such form as may be required by the Department.

Conditions of acceptance

5. If the Department is satisfied with respect to that flock that the conditions set out in Part I of the First Schedule are satisfied it shall give the flock owner notice in writing of such acceptance and as and from the receipt of such notice the flock owner shall in respect of that flock comply with the conditions of Part II of the First Schedule.

Incentive payments

6. The Department may make the following incentive payments to flock owners accepted for recording—

(1) a payment of £6.00 for each ewe of the Border Leicester breed giving birth to 2 or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season;

(2) a payment of £4.00 for each ewe of the Suffolk or Hampshire Down breed giving birth to 1 or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season;

(3) a payment of £2.00 for each ewe of the Dorset Horn breed giving birth to 1 or more normal live lambs at each lambing;

(4) a payment of £6.00 for each ewe of the Dorset Horn breed giving birth to a total of not less than 4 normal live lambs at 3 lambings within a 24 month period from and including the date of the first lambing which has been notified to the Department and in each subsequent consecutive period of the same duration;

(5) a payment of £4.00 for each ewe of any other approved breed giving birth to 1 or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season.

GRANTS FOR PURCHASE OF RAMS

Purpose of grant

7. The Department may pay grants—

(1) to owners of flocks accepted for recording who purchase rams which have been selected by the Department as eligible for such grants in accordance with Article 8, the payment of such grants to be in accordance with paragraph (1) of Article 10;

(2) to owners of Blackface flocks who purchase Border Leicester rams which have been selected by the Department as eligible for such grants in accordance with Article 8, the payment of such grants to be in accordance with paragraph (2) of Article 10.

Selection of rams eligible for grant

8.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) the Department shall select rams which it considers to be eligible for grant at approved sales.