1978 No. 66

AGRICULTURE

Recording and Performance Testing (Beef Cattle) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978

Made . . . . . *7th March* 1978

Coming into operation . . . . . 10*th April* 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 Recording and Performance Testing (Beef Cattle) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978 and shall come into operation on 10th April 1978.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme—

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"authorised officer" means an officer authorised by the Department to visit herds, take weighings and check records;

"cattle breed society" means a society responsible for the entry or registration of pure-bred animals of a particular breed of the bovine species in the herd book for that breed;

"Cattle Testing Station" means a station maintained by the Department for the purposes of carrying out performance testing of bulls and any other approved tests of cattle;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"grading register animal" means an animal eligible for entry in a register of successive generations of non-pedigree cattle of a particular breed sired by pedigree bulls of that breed;

"herd book" means a register kept by a cattle breed society of the particulars of cattle eligible to be entered therein;

"pedigree animal" means an animal either entered, accepted for entry or eligible for entry in the herd book of the breed concerned;

"performance testing" means the testing of the breeding value of a bull by reference to such factors as the Department shall determine and by comparison with other bulls similarly tested;

"recording" means recording in accordance with this Scheme.

(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)

BEEF RECORDING

Application

3.—(1) A herd owner may apply to have his herd accepted by the Department for the purpose of recording. The application shall be in such form as may be required by the Department.

(2) Only pedigree animals and grading register animals of breeds approved for beef production shall be accepted by the Department for the purpose of recording.

(3) The Department shall not accept for recording a herd on any farm unless all cattle on that farm are free from disease and the herd is entered in the Brucellosis Register in accordance with the Brucellosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1972(**d**) and is attested under the Tuberculosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1964(**e**).

Conditions of acceptance

4. If the Department accepts an application in respect of a herd under Article 3 it shall give the herdowner notice in writing of such acceptance and as and from the receipt of such notice the herd owner shall in respect of that herd comply with the conditions set out in the Schedule.

Certification

5. Where the Department is satisfied that recording has been properly carried out and completed in respect of any animal it may issue a certificate to that effect in respect of that animal.

PERFORMANCE TESTING OF BEEF BULLS

Performance testing

6.—(1) The Department may accept for performance testing and carry out such testing on any bull (whether or not from a herd being recorded) which:—

(*a*) conforms to such requirements (including requirements as to age) as the Department shall determine; and

(*b*) has been inspected by the Department and found to be suitable for performance testing.

(2) The owner of a bull accepted for performance testing shall be responsible for transporting the bull to and from the cattle testing station.

(3) The Department may refuse to carry out a performance test on any bull notwithstanding that it has been accepted for testing, but in that event shall refund any fee paid for the testing of that bull.

Incentive Payments

7. Incentive Payments at rates determined by the Department with the approval of the Department of Finance may be made to owners of bulls which obtain the premier places in any performance test.

(**d**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 94 (p. 360)
(**e**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 31 (p. 118)