1976 No. 76

AGRICULTURE

Artificial Insemination (Cattle) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976

Made . . . . . *24th February* 1976

Coming into operation . . . *1st April* 1976

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 5 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 (Cattle) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1976.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"Artificial Insemination Centre" means a centre from which a service of artificial insemination for cows is provided.

"approved Artificial Insemination Centre" means an Artificial Insemination Centre operated by or licensed by the Department.

"cow" includes heifer.

"herd owner" means a person who owns one or more female bovines.

"licensed operator" means the person to whom a licence to operate a Private Artificial Insemination Centre has been issued by the Department.

"Private Artificial Insemination Centre" means an Artificial Insemination Centre which is not operated by the Department.

"semen" means bull semen.

Control of Private Artificial Insemination

Private Artificial Insemination Centres

3. No person shall operate a Private Artificial Insemination Centre in Northern Ireland except under the authority of a licence issued by the Department and subject to the conditions set out in the First Schedule and to such other conditions as may be specified in the licence.

Licence to practice Artificial Insemination

4. No person shall artificially inseminate a cow unless—

(*a*) he has been issued by the Department with a licence to practice artificial insemination or

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

(*b*) the cow is being artificially inseminated with semen collected from a bull in the same herd or

(*c*) he is a private veterinary practitioner and he is artificially inseminating a client's cow for therapeutic reasons.

5.—(1) No person shall be issued with a licence to practice artificial insemination unless he has completed a course in artificial insemination which is acceptable to the Department.

(2) Only persons employed by a Private Artificial Insemination Centre licensed under Regulation 3 or a herd owner or a whole-time employee nominated by him may be issued with a licence to practice artificial insemination. A licence issued to a herd owner or to a whole-time employee nominated by him shall be subject to the conditions set out in the Second Schedule and to such other conditions as may be specified in the licence.

Collection and sale of semen

6.—(1) The collection of semen for sale is prohibited, except in an approved Artificial Insemination Centre.

(2) Where semen is to be collected for sale in Northern Ireland only a bull approved by the Department shall be used. The Department may limit sales from any such bull while there is insufficient evidence to assess its breeding merit. If a bull is approved for this purpose it shall remain at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre continuously for 56 days and shall pass all veterinary and other tests before the first sale of semen. Before its release such semen shall be stored in quarantine at the approved Artificial Insemination Centre for a minimum period of 28 days following the date of collection.

(3) Where semen is to be collected for sale outside Northern Ireland, the bull shall remain at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre continuously for at least 6 months immediately preceding the date of the first collection of the semen and shall pass all veterinary and other tests before the first sale of semen.

(4) The Department may undertake the collection of semen on behalf of the owner of a bull in Northern Ireland.

Storage of semen

7.—(1) Storage of semen other than the storage on his own farm of semen collected by a herd owner from a bull in his own herd for use in cows in the same herd is prohibited except at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre or on a farm of a person licensed to practice artificial insemination under these Regulations.

(2) All storage facilities shall be approved by the Department.

(3) The Department may undertake the storage of semen on behalf of the owner of a bull in Northern Ireland.

Distribution and sale of semen

8. The distribution and sale of semen is prohibited except from an approved Artificial Insemination Centre.

Revocation

9. The Artificial Insemination (Cattle) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968(b), the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1972(c), the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(d) and the Artificial Insemination (Cattle) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(e) are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 24th February 1976.

(L.S.)

W. H. Parker
Assistant Secretary

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968 No. 275 (p. 1131)
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 62 (p. 199)
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 75 (I, p. 346)
(e) S.R. 1975 No. 7