1974. No. 330

AGRICULTURE

Headage Payments — Cattle

SCHEME, DATED THE 30TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1974, MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954 AS AMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) (AMENDMENT) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1957.

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 1 of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) as amended by the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1957(b) and paragraph 2(1) and (2) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974(c) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and with the approval of the Department of Finance, hereby makes the following Scheme:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Cattle Headage Payments (No. 2) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1974.

(2) This Scheme shall come into force on 20th January 1975.

Definitions

2. In this Scheme—

"applicant" means a person applying for a headage payment;

"approved deadweight certification centre" means any place for the time being approved by the Department of Agriculture for the certification of the carcases of livestock for the purposes of this Scheme;

"approved liveweight certification centre" means any place for the time being approved by the Department of Agriculture for the certification of livestock for the purposes of this Scheme;

"certified" means certified as a home-bred animal by the certifying officer in accordance with the standards and conditions specified in Schedule 1;

"certifying officer" means—

(*a*) in respect of an approved deadweight certification centre a fat-stock officer of the Department of Agriculture, and

(*b*) in respect of an approved liveweight certification centre any person designated by the Department of Agriculture to be responsible at that centre for certifying that animals for which headage payment is claimed have been graded marked and sold in accordance with the conditions of this Scheme;

"Department" means Department of Agriculture;

"home-bred" means born and entirely produced in Northern Ireland.

(a) 1954. c. 31. (b) 1957. c. 3. (c) 1974. c. 28.

Marking of cattle and carcases of cattle approved for certification

3. Cattle approved for certification at an approved liveweight certification centre will be permanently marked before removal from the centre in accordance with Schedule 2. Carcases approved for certification at an approved deadweight certification centre will be permanently marked before removal from the centre in accordance with Schedule 2.

Headage payments

4. Subject to the provisions of this Scheme, the Department may in its discretion make to or for the benefit (whether direct or indirect) of farmers producing home-bred cattle, a payment in respect of each eligible home-bred animal which the Department is satisfied has been properly certified in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1 at any approved liveweight or deadweight certification centre in Northern Ireland.

5. For each animal so certified during a period mentioned in the first column of Schedule 3 the payment shall be that specified for that period in the second column of Schedule 3.

6. Such payments shall be made to such persons and at such times as the Department may think proper.

7.(*a*) Application for headage payments shall be made in the form and at the times required by the Department;

(*b*) Headage payments shall be made subject to the condition that the applicant will comply with all reasonable requirements of the Department and any of its officers and in particular will permit them to inspect his books livestock and land and afford them all reasonable facilities for doing so.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture
this 30th day of December 1974.

(L.S.)

J. A. Young,
Permanent Secretary

The Department of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance
this 31st day of December 1974.

(L.S.)

K. R. Shimeld,
Second Secretary

SCHEDULE 1

Cattle and carcases of cattle eligible for headage payment

1. Home-bred fat cattle or the carcases of home-bred fat cattle of the following kinds namely fat steers, clean fat heifers, bulls and other male cattle of the standards, minimum weights and other qualifications set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 below, are eligible for headage payment. Cattle or the carcases of cattle specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 below are, subject to the exceptions mentioned therein, not eligible.

QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Steers and heifers

2(*a*) If presented at an approved deadweight certification centre, the dressed carcase weight must be not less than 450 lb in the case of a steer and not less than 390 lb in the case of a heifer. The carcase must be of good conformation, the rounds, loins and ribs being reasonably well fleshed and the chucks and plates reasonably thick, but the neck and foreshanks may be slightly long and thin. However, some slight lack of flesh development in the rounds is acceptable provided the minimum qualifying standards are met in all other respects. The carcases of young animals of such conformation need have only a thin exterior fat covering. Carcases from older animals may possess a rather thicker fat covering but may not be excessively fat or patchy.

(*b*) If presented at an approved liveweight certification centre, the animal must weigh not less than 7½ cwt in the case of a steer and not less than 6½ cwt in the case of a heifer. It must, in the opinion of the fatstock officer, be such as to produce a carcase of at least the standard specified in sub-paragraph (*a*) above.

Bulls

3. Bulls will only be accepted for deadweight certification. A bull carcase must conform to the following standards:

The dressed carcase weight must be not less than 450 lb. The carcase must be of good conformation, the rounds, loins and ribs being reasonably well fleshed and the shoulders and plates reasonably thick. The shanks may be slightly long. The forequarters may be relatively heavier than in steer carcases but must not be excessively so. The exterior fat covering on carcases of such conformation may vary in quantity from medium to thin but should not be excessive or patchy. Inside, kidney and aitch fat must not be excessive but should be at least in moderate supply. Flesh should be moderately firm. Colour must not be dark but may range from a light cherry red to a slightly darker red. The chine bones should be soft and red and terminate in soft pearly white cartilage.

4. Carcases must be presented either as whole carcases or in sides, both sides together, and must conform to the specifications for dressing carcases and the conditions of weighing which are set out below. Carcases may be dressed either with the kidney knob and channel fat completely removed or with the kndney knob and channel fat left in. If dressed with the kidney knob and channel fat removed the dressed carcase weights referred to in sub-paragraph (*a*) of paragraph 2 and the dressed carcase weight referred to in paragraph 3 shall be reduced by 16 lb.

Specifications for dressing the carcase of cattle presented for headage payment.

The following offals shall be removed:

1. Hide
2. Head and tongue; The ears may be examined by the certifying officer before slaughter in order to determine eligibility. Exceptionally, when approved by a fatstock officer, the ears may be left naturally attached to the carcase until it has been examined for eligibility.