1974. No. 95 **[C]**

ANIMALS

Premium Boars

SCHEME, DATED 31ST MAY 1974, MADE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1949.

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(a) 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. This Scheme may be cited as the Premium Boar Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1974 and shall come into operation on 1st August 1974.

Revocation

2. The Premium Boar Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971(b) is hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In this Scheme—

"accredited pig herd" means a pig herd registered under the Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1974(c) or under the Accredited Pig Herds Scheme operated by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Irish Republic;

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"authorised" means authorised by the Department;

"Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"group" means three or more farmers owning herds in which the total number of sows is at least 40 of which not more than 25 sows are owned by any one member of the group;

"pedigree" means entered in the Herd Book of the breed concerned and earmarked in accordance with the appropriate Herd Book regulation;

"performance tested" means the assessment of the breeding value of an animal by its own performance at a central testing station;

"premium" means a payment earned by a boar under this Scheme;

"premium boar" means a boar which after inspection by an authorised officer of the Department has been approved as being suitable for the award of a premium and which has been purchased by an applicant selected by the Department to keep a boar under this Scheme;

"progeny tested" means the assessment of the breeding value of an animal on the results achieved by the progeny under test at a central testing station;

"purchaser" means a farmer or group of farmers who purchase a boar to earn a premium under this Scheme.

(a) 1949. c. 2.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 334.
(c) S.R. (N.I.) 1974, No. 75.

Purpose of Scheme

4.—(1) The Department may pay premiums to selected farmers who purchase premium boars for the service of sows locally or to selected groups of farmers who purchase and keep premium boars for the service of sows in their herds.

(2) The premium boars are to be used to improve the stock bred by farmers resident in and farming in Northern Ireland.

Eligible boars

5. To be eligible for selection as a premium boar a boar shall be a pedigree boar of the Landrace or Large White breed which was bred in an accredited pig herd or a herd which was accredited within three months of an approved sale and which is either:

(*a*) performance tested at an approved testing station; or

(*b*) the son of a boar which was progeny tested at an approved testing station and classified as approved; or

(*c*) the son of a sire which was performance tested at an approved testing station and attained an index of at least 140 points: provided that such sire is undergoing a progeny test which shall result in it reaching approved standard before it is two years of age.

Age and selection of boars

6. Except where the Department otherwise approves, boars shall be selected for premium for the first time from those which are over six months and under twelve months old and which are entered at approved sales.

Selection of applicants

7.—(1) Applications by farmers or groups of farmers shall be made to the Department who shall be responsible for the selection of applicants.

(2) Where a group of farmers is selected to keep a boar the group shall appoint one of its members to deal with all aspects of the placing out of the boar and the group shall notify the Department of the name of the member so appointed.

(3) The Department shall notify successful applicants of the breed of boar which may be purchased and the sales approved for the selection of premium boars.

Second-year premium

8.—(1) A boar owned by a group shall not be eligible for a second-year premium.

(2) Of the boars awarded first-year premium, only those which are approved as suitable shall be eligible to earn a second-year premium and such eligible boars shall stand for service at the same place as in the previous service season unless the Department otherwise approves.

(3) The Department shall notify each owner whose boar has been approved to earn a second-year premium or whose boar has not been approved as suitable to earn such premium.

Value of premium

9.—(1) The maximum annual premium payable to a purchaser who is not a member of a group shall be £25.