1974. No. 75 **[C]**

ANIMALS

Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme

SCHEME, DATED 17TH APRIL 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 approval of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1974 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1974.

Revocation

2. The Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1968(**b**), 1969(**c**), 1969(**d**) and 1972(**e**) are hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme—

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"authorised" means authorised by the Department;

"bacon weight" means any weight within a range deemed by the Department to conform with current market requirements for bacon pigs;

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

"Pig Production Development Committee" means the Committee established in accordance with section 1 of the Pig Production Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1964(**f**);

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

Register of Accredited Herds

4.—(1) With the object of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of swine in Northern Ireland the Department shall set up in two sections, the first to be called the Register of Accredited Elite Pig Herds and the second to be called the Register of Accredited Multiplying Pig Herds, a register of pig herds in which shall be entered the names of herd owners and particulars of their herds, but no such entry shall be made unless the Department is satisfied that the herdowner has complied in the case of an Elite Pig Herd with the conditions of Part I or in the case of a Multiplying Pig Herd with the conditions of Part II and that the herd has attained the standards required by the Department.

(**a**) 1949. c. 2.
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968, No. 210.
(**c**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969, No. 148.
(**d**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969, No. 290.
(**e**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972, No. 247.
(**f**) 1964. c. 25 (N.I.).

(2) All breeding stock in the farm business of the herdowner shall be entered in the Scheme.

(3) An owner may enter a portion of his herd in Part I and the remainder in Part II of the Scheme but in such a case not fewer than 30 sows shall be entered in Part I.

PART I—ELITE PIG HERDS

Entry to Part I

5. Entry of a herd to Part I shall be subject to the following rules:—

(*a*) The application for entry shall be in the form set forth in Schedule 1.

(*b*) Only pedigree pigs of the Large White, Landrace, Welsh or other approved breed or strain shall be eligible for entry and the following paragraphs of this Article refer only to such pigs.

(*c*) Where the application is in respect of pedigree pigs of more than one breed, each breed shall be regarded as a separate herd for the purposes of this Scheme.

(*d*) The herd shall consist of not less than twenty-five breeding sows and such sows together with the stock boars shall be deemed to constitute the herd of the applicant.

Acceptance to Part I

6. The Department on receipt of an application shall intimate its acceptance of a herd into Part I, provided that in its opinion the herd satisfies the conditions set forth in Schedule 2, and after receipt of notice of such acceptance the herdowner shall observe the following rules with respect to the herd:—

(*a*) Mark all pigs to the satisfaction of the Department.

(*b*) Register with the appropriate Breed Society all stock retained for breeding.

(*c*) Obtain the Department's written permission to return to the herd a pig which has been removed from the herd.

(*d*) Maintain not less than twenty-five sows of each breed of swine based on a quarterly average of that number over a period of one year.

(*e*) Notify the Department of all births within one week of the date thereof.

(*f*) Record the number of pigs born, the number alive at 21 days and 42 days old, abnormalities, ages and weights at slaughter and any other information that the Department may require.

(*g*) Weigh and record the weights of all pigs at 42 days old.

(*h*) Feed on the farm or on an approved fattening farm and sell live at bacon weight to the Pigs Marketing Board for slaughter all pigs not retained or sold for breeding purposes. The number of pigs sold for slaughter shall be at least 40 per cent of the total number of pigs weaned.

(*i*) Mark each pig being sold at bacon weight for slaughter with a numbered metal ear tag or other approved system of marking; enter the marked number on the card provided by the Department for such purpose and forward with the pig to the bacon factory.

(*j*) Submit each month on a form provided by the Department for that purpose details of stock sold for breeding and of stock which have died.

(*k*) Submit on request to the Department the grading data including weight and age at slaughter of all pigs sold for slaughter from the herd during the preceding year.

(*l*) Provide all the necessary facilities and assist the Department's officers in the weighing of pigs, checking of records and in all other matters connected with the Scheme.

(*m*) Permit the Department to take blood samples of any pig being recorded or to carry out any post-mortem examination as it may require.

(*n*) Supply to the Department for performance testing or progeny testing at the Northern Ireland Pig Testing Station such pigs as the Department may select.

(*o*) Participate in the Pig Health Scheme operated by the Department.

Accreditation of Elite Pig Herds

7.—(1) When the Department is satisfied after the acceptance of a herd that the rules contained in Article 6 have been observed, and that over a period of one year the standards laid down by the Department have been attained, the herd shall be registered as an accredited elite pig herd and shall, unless such registration is cancelled, so remain for a period of one year from the date of registration. While such registration continues the herdowner shall as directed by the Department supply progeny of his stock boars for testing and follow an approved programme of matings and farrowings.

(2) A herd which, on assessment, does not attain the prescribed accreditation standards or an accredited elite pig herd which fails to maintain the standards at an annual re-assessment shall be re-assessed at intervals of three months on the basis of the herd records over the preceding twelve months and shall be registered or re-registered as the case may be as an accredited elite pig herd at the first qualifying assessment: provided that a herd which fails to reach the standards on eight consecutive assessments shall be withdrawn from the Scheme.

8.—(1) The system of testing, the method employed and the standards applied at the Northern Ireland Pig Testing Station shall be determined by the Department in consultation with the Pig Production Development Committee.

(2) The Department shall have absolute discretion as to which pigs are tested at the Northern Ireland Pig Testing Station.

(3) The pigs for testing shall be delivered to the Northern Ireland Pig Testing Station by the owner at such times as the Department may require.

(4) The Department shall pay the owner for the pigs by weight at a rate determined by the Department so that the amount payable shall be approximate to the current market value of the pigs and the pigs shall become the property of the Department.

(5) The Department may at its discretion accept for testing pigs from pedigree or non-pedigree litters which are not born in an accredited elite pig herd, provided that a request for such testing is received from the owner at least three weeks before each litter is born and provided also that the herdowner shall comply with sub-paragraphs (*e*), (*f*), (*g*), (*l*) and (*o*) of Article 6 in respect of all such litters.

Assessment of performance tested boars

9.—(1) A boar which has been performance tested shall be assessed by the Department.

(2) Boars which prove satisfactory for breeding purposes as a result of the performance test shall be sold to the entrants on such terms as the Department may in consultation with the Pig Production Development Committee determine; boars which prove unsatisfactory shall be sold for slaughter.

Assessment of progeny tested boars

10.—(1) A boar which has been progeny tested shall be assessed by the Department.

(2) A boar which on test is found to be transmitting abnormalities shall be slaughtered.

PART II—MULTIPLYING PIG HERDS

Entry to Part II

11. Entry of a herd to Part II shall be subject to the following rules:—

(*a*) The application for entry shall be in the form set forth in Schedule 1.

(*b*) The herd shall comprise not less than ten breeding sows.

(*c*) All female breeding stock intended for recording shall be approved by the Department.

Acceptance to Part II

12. The Department on receipt of an application shall intimate its acceptance of a herd into Part II of the Scheme provided that in its opinion the herd satisfies the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1), (3) and (4) of Schedule 2, and after receipt of notice of such acceptance the herdowner shall observe the following rules with respect to the herd:—

(*a*) Mark all pigs to the satisfaction of the Department.

(*b*) Maintain a herd of not less than ten sows based on a quarterly average of that number over a period of one year.

(*c*) Obtain the permission of the Department prior to returning to the herd a pig which had been removed from the herd.

(*d*) Notify the Department of all births within one week of the date thereof.

(*e*) Record the number of pigs born, the number alive at 21 days and 42 days old, abnormalities, ages and weights at slaughter and any other information which the Department may require.

(*f*) Feed on the farm, or in the case of herds containing not less than 25 breeding sows, on an approved fattening farm, and sell live at bacon weight to the Pigs Marketing Board for slaughter all pigs not retained or sold for breeding purposes. The number of pigs sold for slaughter shall be at least 40 per cent of the total number of pigs weaned.

(*g*) Mark each pig being sold at bacon weight for slaughter with a numbered metal ear tag or other approved system of marking; the marked number shall be entered on a card provided by the Department for such purpose and forwarded with the pig to the bacon factory.