1974. No. 9 [C]

AGRICULTURE

Headage Payments—Cattle

SCHEME, DATED THE 15TH DAY OF JANUARY 1974, MADE BY THE HEAD OF 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 Head of the Department of Agriculture with the approval of the Head of the Department of Finance and in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Acts (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) and 1957(b) and of all other powers him thereunto enabling hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Cattle Headage Payments Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1974.

(2) This Scheme shall come into operation on 21st January 1974.

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 fatstock 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.

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.

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

Headage payments

4. Subject to the provisions of this Scheme the Department may 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 is presented at an approved liveweight or approved deadweight certification centre in Northern Ireland, and which is properly certified in accordance with Schedule 1.

5. Payments shall be made in respect of such animals certified during the periods and at the rates specified in Schedule 3.

6. In case of doubt as to the proper certification of an animal or as to the proper person to be paid, eligibility for payment shall be at the discretion of the Department.

7. There shall be no contract or obligation on the part of the Department to make any headage payment and all headage payments shall be at the Department's discretion.

8. If the Department, after having made a payment under this Scheme, finds that such payment ought not to have been made in whole or in part or that the payment was in excess of the amount properly payable it may recover from the person to whom such payment has been made the whole, or any part of the sum already paid, or may without prejudice to any other method of recovery withhold or cause to be withheld any payment which would otherwise be or become due to that person by the Department under this or any other Scheme. The Department may also recover from a payment due under this Scheme by way of deduction any monies due by the payee to the Department or any other Government Department.

Application for headage payment

9.(*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.

Dated this 15th day of January 1974.

Leslie J. Morrell,
Head of the Department of Agriculture
for Northern Ireland.

I approve the foregoing Scheme.

Dated this 18th day of January 1974.

H. V. Kirk,
Head of the Department of Finance
for Northern Ireland.

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, young 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.

Young bulls

3. Young bulls will only be accepted for deadweight certification. A young bull carcase must be the product of an animal which has not cut any permanent incisor teeth and 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 kidney 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 15 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.