1973. No. 87 [C]

AGRICULTURE

Payment of Bonuses for Carcase Quality

SCHEME, DATED 24TH DAY OF MARCH 1973, MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954 AS AMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) (AMENDMENT) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1957.

WHEREAS by section 1(1) of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) the Minister of Agriculture with the approval of the Minister of Finance may make schemes whereby for the purpose of assisting the agricultural industry in Northern Ireland the Ministry of Agriculture may make payments to or for the benefit (whether direct or indirect) of farmers producing any produce specified in the Scheme:

AND WHEREAS by section 1(4) of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 a Scheme made under that Act may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Scheme made under that Act:

AND WHEREAS by sub-section 1(*a*) of section 1 of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972(b) it is provided that so long as that section has effect all functions which apart from that Act belong to any Minister of Northern Ireland shall be discharged by the Secretary of State:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 1 of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 as amended by the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1957(c) and by section 1(1) of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972 and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Short title and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Carcase Quality Bonus Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1973 and shall come into operation on 26th March 1973.

Revocations

2. The Carcase Quality Bonus Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1967(d), the Carcase Quality Bonus (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1970(e), the Carcase Quality Bonus (Amendment No. 2) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1970(f), the Carcase Quality Bonus (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971(g), the Carcase Quality Bonus (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1972(h) and the Carcase Quality Bonus (Amendment No. 2) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1972(i) are hereby revoked.

(a) 1954. c. 31.
(b) 1972. c. 22.
(c) 1957. c. 3.
(d) S.R. & O. 1967, No. 252.
(e) S.R. & O. 1970, No. 12.
(f) S.R. & O. 1970, No. 193.
(g) S.R. & O. 1971, No. 238.
(h) S.R. & O. 1972, No. 73.
(i) S.R. & O. 1972, No. 238

Definitions

3. In this Scheme—

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

"carcase" means the carcase of a bovine animal;

"certified" means certified at an approved deadweight certification centre in accordance with the standards and other conditions specified in Schedules 1, 2 and 5.

"graded" means graded by an officer of the Ministry;

"Ministry" means Ministry of Agriculture.

Marking of carcases approved for certification

4. Carcases approved for certification will be marked in accordance with the marking given in Schedule 3.

Payments

5. Subject to the provisions of this Scheme the Ministry may make to or for the benefit (whether direct or indirect) of farmers producing cattle a payment in respect of each certified carcase which has been graded at an approved deadweight certification centre and found to be in the Grade U or Grade L category referred to in Schedule 2.

Rates of payments

6. The rates of payment shall be as set out in Schedule 4.

7. In case of doubt as to the proper certification or grading of a carcase or as to the proper person to be paid, eligibility for the payment shall be at the discretion of the Ministry.

8. There shall be no contract or obligation on the part of the Ministry to make any payment under this Scheme and all such payments shall be at the Ministry's discretion.

9. If the Ministry, 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 the 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 Ministry under this or any other Scheme. The Ministry may also recover from a payment due under this Scheme by way of deduction any monies due by the payee to the Ministry or any other Government Department.

Dated this 24th day of March 1973.

W. S. I. Whitelaw,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

SCHEDULE 1

Carcases eligible for grading

1. The carcases of 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 and in Schedule 2 are eligible for grading. The carcases of cattle specified in Paragraphs 5 and 6 below are, subject to the exceptions therein mentioned, not eligible.

QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Steers and heifers

2. (*a*) General Class

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 must not be excessively fat or patchy.

(*b*) Young lightweight animals

The animal must not have cut any permanent incisor teeth and the dressed carcase weight must not be less than 410 lb. in the case of a steer and not less than 345 lb. in the case of a heifer. The carcase must be moderately compact and moderately thickly fleshed throughout with rounds moderately well developed and rounded, loins and ribs thick and well fleshed. The neck and shanks must be relatively short. Fat covering, which should be smooth and evenly distributed over the exterior of the carcase, may vary in quantity from medium to light. Cod or udder, kidney and aitch fat should be adequate but not excessive. If the loins or ribs are only moderately thick and moderately well fleshed, the carcase will not be rejected provided it satisfies these specifications in all other respects.

Young bulls

3. A young bull carcase must be the product of an animal which has not cut any permanent incisor teeth and must conform to either of the following standards:

(*a*) General class

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.

(*b*) Special young lightweight bulls

The dressed carcase weight must be not less than 410 lb. The carcase must be moderately compact and moderately thickly fleshed throughout with rounds moderately well developed and rounded. Loins, ribs and shoulders should be thick and well fleshed. Shanks and neck must be relatively short. The forequarters may be relatively heavier than in steer carcases but must not be excessively so.

Fat covering, which must be present, should be smooth and evenly distributed over the carcase exterior and may vary in quantity from medium to light. Inside, kidney and aitch fat should be adequate but not excessive.

Flesh must be moderately firm. Colour must not be dark but may range from light cherry red to a slightly darker red. The chine bones should be soft and red and terminate in soft pearly white cartilage.

If the loins or ribs are only moderately thick and moderately well fleshed the carcase will not be rejected provided it satisfies these specifications in all other respects.

4. Carcases must be presented at deadweight centres approved by the Ministry. They 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.

Specifications for dressing the carcases of cattle presented for grading

The following offals shall be removed:

1. Hide
2. Head and tongue
3. Feet
4. Guts and tripes with the accompanying glands:
   (i) liver;
   (ii) spleen;
   (iii) pancreas.
5. Caul and gut fat
6. Heart and heart fat
7. Heart bread and neck bread (thymus glands)
8. Lights (lungs, trachea and larynx)
9. Thick skirt (pillar of diaphragm). (See note (*g*).)
10. Tail (See note (*g*).)
11. Genito-urinary organs, excluding kidneys. (When the kidneys are removed before the carcase is weighed, an addition of 3 lb shall be made to the carcase weight)
12. Large blood vessels of abdomen and thorax.

Notes and specifications for the removal of certain offals

(*a*) The head shall be removed at the junction of the skull and the spinal column, thereby leaving the entire spinal column on the carcase;

(*b*) the forefeet shall be removed at the knee joint and the hindfeet at the hock joint:

(*c*) the "rib skirt" or diaphragm shall be trimmed to leave a margin of at least one half inch of "skin" or membranous portion along the bottom. This will leave the fleshy part of the diaphragm intact;

(*d*) there shall be no trimming of the neck beyond cutting off the ragged edges. The jugular vein may be removed cleanly but there shall be no trimming of the surrounding fat;

(*e*) no channel or kidney fat shall be removed unless a corresponding addition to the weight is made;

(*f*) the tail shall be removed at the second joint from the base bone;

(*g*) where it is trade practice to leave the thick skirt or tail or both these offals on the carcase, a weight deduction of 3 lb. will be made in respect of the tail and a weight deduction of 2 lb. in respect of the thick skirt.

Conditions of weighing carcases of cattle

Carcases must be dressed according to the specification above, when they are weighed.