1973. No. 85 **[C]**

AGRICULTURE

Headage Payments—Cattle

SCHEME, DATED THE 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 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.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Cattle Headage Payments Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1973.

(2) This Scheme shall come into operation on 26th March 1973.

Definitions

2. 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 livestock for the purposes of this Scheme;

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

"certified" means certified as a home-bred animal in accordance with the standards and other conditions specified in Schedule 1.

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

"Ministry" means Ministry of Agriculture.

(a) 1954. c. 31.
(b) 1972. c. 22.
(c) 1957. c. 3.

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

Headage payments

4. Subject to the provisions of this Scheme, the Ministry 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 properly certified in accordance with the standards and other conditions specified in Schedule 1, at any approved liveweight or deadweight certification centre in Northern Ireland.

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

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

8. 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 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 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

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:

Specifications for dressing the carcase of cattle presented for headage payment

The following offals shall be removed:

1. Hide
2. Head and tongue
3. Feet
4. Cuts and tripes with the accompanying glands:
   (i) liver
   (ii) spleen
   (iii) pancreas