1972. No. 163 **[C]**

SHEEP IMPROVEMENT

SCHEME, DATED 5TH JULY 1972, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1949.

The Ministry of Agriculture on behalf of the Secretary of State and 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 Ministry of Finance hereby makes the following Scheme:—

PART I

INTRODUCTORY

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1972 and shall come into operation on 1st August, 1972.

Revocation

2. The Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971(**b**) is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme:—

"accepted flock" means a flock which has been accepted by the Ministry for the purposes of the Flock Recording Scheme under Article 5;

"appropriate breed society" means the society responsible for the identification and registration of the breed in the Flock Book;

"approved" means approved by the Ministry;

"flock owner" means the owner of a flock which has been accepted by the Ministry for the purposes of the Flock Recording Scheme in accordance with Article 5;

"grant" means a payment made to any person towards the purchase of an approved ram in accordance with Articles 10 and 11;

"grant aided rams" has the meaning assigned to it by Article 11;

"incentive payment" means the payment made to a flock owner under Article 8 towards the cost of recording his flock;

"normal breeding season" means in respect of the Dorset Horn breed a twelve month period, in respect of the Border Leicester, Suffolk, Hampshire Down or other approved breeds the period from 1st December to 15th April;

"registered" means registered with the appropriate breed society;

"selected ram" means a ram which the Ministry has selected for exhibition at an approved sale in accordance with Article 6(5);

"the Ministry" means the Ministry of Agriculture.

(**a**) 1949. c. 2. (**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 254.

PART II

FLOCK RECORDING SCHEME

Objects of Scheme

4.—(1) The Ministry shall operate in accordance with this Part a Scheme to be known as the Flock Recording Scheme and may make incentive payments to flock owners participating therein as hereinafter provided.

(2) As from the commencement of this Scheme a flock which has been accepted into the Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 shall be deemed to have withdrawn from that Scheme and to have been accepted into this Scheme unless the flock owner shall within one month from the date of commencement of this Scheme notify the Ministry that he does not wish to have the flock accepted into this Scheme.

5.—(1) An application by the owner of a flock to have that flock accepted by the Ministry for the purposes of the Flock Recording Scheme shall be made to the Ministry in the form set forth in the First Schedule.

(2) Only registered pure bred flocks of the Border Leicester, Suffolk, Dorset Horn, Hampshire Down or any other approved breed may be accepted by the Ministry for the purposes of the Flock Recording Scheme.

(3) The Ministry shall not be bound to accept any flock for the purposes of the Flock Recording Scheme and shall not accept any flock unless in the opinion of the Ministry it satisfies the conditions set forth in the Second Schedule.

Conditions of acceptance

6. If the Ministry accepts an application under Article 5(1) it shall give to the flock owner a notice in writing of such acceptance and thereupon the flock owner shall in respect of the flock so accepted:

(1) record the following information in the form set forth in the Third Schedule:

(*a*) tupping dates,

(*b*) number of lambs born,

(*c*) sex;

(*d*) dates of birth,

(*e*) deaths and abnormalities,

(*f*) the weights at the times referred to in paragraph (4);

(2) ear mark, ear notch, or ear tag all lambs born within the period stipulated by the Rules of the appropriate breed society or 30 days from birth whichever is the lesser period;

(3) notify ear tattoo marks or tag numbers to the Ministry within two days of the birth of a lamb;

(4) weigh all lambs at the following times:

(*a*) at birth,

(*b*) on a date specified by the Ministry being a date when first born lambs are approximately 100 days old,

(*c*) subsequently at such intervals as may be required;

(5) in the case of Border Leicester and Suffolk flocks exhibit for sale each year at approved sales of those breeds suitable animals from those selected from the flock by the Ministry having regard to the information recorded under paragraph (1);

(6) in the case of other approved breeds keep records of all stock sold for breeding purposes and such stock shall form a reasonable proportion of the total stock sold.

Inspection of flocks

7. A flock owner shall permit an authorised officer of the Ministry at all reasonable times to enter upon the premises where the flock is kept and to inspect the said premises and flock.

Incentive payments

8. The Ministry may subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme make the following payments to flock owners:

(1) an incentive payment of £3 for each ewe of the Border Leicester breed giving birth to 2 or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season.

(2) An incentive payment of £2 for each ewe of the Suffolk, Hampshire Down or other approved breed giving birth to one or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season.

(3) An incentive payment of £1 for each ewe of the Dorset Horn breed giving birth to one or more normal live lambs in the normal breeding season.

(4) An incentive payment of £3 for each ewe of the Dorset Horn breed giving birth to 3 or more crops of lambs containing in total not less than 4 normal live lambs within any period of 24 months reckoned from the date of the first notified lambing and this date shall become the operative calendar date for reckoning the incentive payments in subsequent years and provided also that incentive payments shall be made in respect of lambings notified under the Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 but not qualifying for an incentive payment under that Scheme.

9. Applications for incentive payments shall be made on the form set forth in the Fourth Schedule.

PART III

GRANTS FOR PURCHASE OF RAMS

Payment of grant

10. The Ministry may subject to and in accordance with this Part pay grants to flock owners purchasing selected rams which have been determined by the Ministry as being eligible for such grants in accordance with Article 11.

Grant aided rams

11. The Ministry shall determine at the approved sales which selected rams shall be eligible for grant under this Part and such rams are in this Scheme referred to as "grant aided rams". Only rams bred by the flock owner who exhibited them shall be considered by the Ministry for determination as grant aided rams.

Application

12. Application for grants towards the purchase of grant aided rams shall be made to the Ministry at least one month before the date of the approved sale of rams of the breed concerned takes place.

Rate and conditions of grant

13. Grants shall be payable at the rate of £24 or one half of the amount remaining after the sum of £24 has been deducted from the purchase price whichever is the less but not in any case less than £3:

(1) to a flock owner who owns a pedigree Border Leicester flock recorded in the Scheme containing not less than 25 pedigree ewes in respect of the purchase by him of a grant aided ram of the Border Leicester breed. The payment of such grant shall be subject to the conditions set out in Part I of the Fifth Schedule;

(2) to a flock owner who owns an approved Suffolk flock recorded in the Scheme containing not less than 25 pedigree ewes in respect of the purchase of a grant aided ram of the Suffolk breed. The payment of such grant shall be subject to the conditions set out in Part II of the Fifth Schedule.

14. The Ministry may pay to a flock owner who owns a pure bred Blackface flock a grant in respect of the purchase of a grant aided ram of the Border Leicester breed. The amount of the grant shall be £10 or one half the amount remaining after the sum of £18 has been deducted from the purchase price of the ram whichever shall be the less but not in any case less than £3. The payment of such grant will be subject to the conditions set out in Part III of the Fifth Schedule.

15. Flock owners who purchase a grant aided ram under the Scheme shall make application for the grant in the form set forth in the Sixth Schedule and shall sign an agreement relating to the placing out of the ram before the grant is paid.

Disqualification

16. Where a flock owner

(*a*) fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Scheme or

(*b*) through misrepresentation or fraud receives payment of any grant or incentive payment under this Scheme or in connection with a claim for any such grant or payment makes any statement which he knows to be false or does not believe to be true,

the Ministry without prejudice to any other rights or remedies available to it may suspend or cancel any acceptance or approval granted for the purposes of this Scheme and may withhold payment of grant or incentive payment and may recover as a civil debt any sums paid by way of grant or incentive payment.

General

17. The Ministry may publish or may require the breeder to publish any information which is obtained as a result of the operation of this Scheme including facts about the performance of any flock participating in the Flock Recording Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 5th day of July, 1972 in the presence of

(L.S.) *A. McKelvie,*
Senior Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Secretary of State hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 7th day of July, 1972 in the presence of

(L.S.) *A. J. Green,*
Assistant Secretary.