1971. No. 340 **[C]**

ANIMALS

Milk Recording and Progeny Testing

SCHEME, DATED 29TH OCTOBER 1971, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1949.

The Ministry 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 the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Milk Recording and Progeny Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 and shall come into operation on the 1st day of November 1971.

Revocation

2. The Milk Recording and Progeny Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1964(**b**) is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme—

"approved" means approved by the Ministry of Agriculture;

"cow" means a female of the bovine species and unless otherwise stated includes a heifer;

"herdowner" means the owner of a herd accepted for participation in this Scheme;

"pedigree" means entered in the herd book of the breed concerned;

"Recording Officer" means an officer appointed by the Ministry to visit herds, take weights or measurements and samples of milk, and tattoo or otherwise mark cows under test.

Purposes of the Scheme

4. The Ministry may with the agreement of the owner record or supervise the recording of the milk production of cows and take samples of the milk for the purpose of determining the percentage of butterfat and solids-not-fat present in it. The information thus obtained shall be used generally for the purpose of assessing the breeding value of dairy cattle.

Eligible herds

5. Only the following types of herds shall be eligible to participate in the Scheme:—

(*a*) Pedigree herds of approved dairy breeds;

(*b*) Non-pedigree herds of approved dairy breeds where at least half the herd consists of one such breed;

(*c*) Herds which are approved as suitable for progeny testing purposes.

(a) 1949, c. 2. (b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964, No. 33.

Application and inspection

6.—(1) Application for participation in the Scheme shall be made in such form as the Ministry may require at least one month before recording is expected to begin.

(2) Before accepting or rejecting a herd for participation in the Scheme the Ministry may inspect the herd.

Conditions of acceptance

7.—(1) The owner of a herd of the types described in sub-paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) of Article 5 which is accepted for participation in this Scheme shall perform, observe and comply with the conditions set forth in Part 1 of the Schedule.

(2) The conditions set forth in Part 2 of the Schedule shall apply to recording in a herd of the type described in sub-paragraph (*c*) of Article 5.

Fees

8.—(1) Subject to paragraph 2 of this Article a herdowner shall for each year ending on the 31st day of March pay the following fees to the Ministry for recording the milk production of cows:—

(*a*) In respect of a herd of less than 10 cows under test:

For the first year a herd fee of £5 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

For the second year a herd fee of £10 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

For the third year a herd fee of £15 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

For each subsequent year a herd fee of £20 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

(*b*) In respect of all other herds for each year a herd fee of £20 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

(2) A herdowner shall up to the 31st day of March 1972 only be required to pay in respect of a herd of less than 10 cows under test a herd fee of £2·50 and in respect of all other herds a herd fee of £10 and shall not up to such date be required to pay any lactation fee.

(3) If a herd is accepted into this Scheme the fees payable in accordance with this Article for that year shall become immediately payable, and the fees for all subsequent years in which the herd remains in the Scheme shall be payable on the 1st day of April of the year in respect of which the fees are due.

(4) If a herdowner withdraws from this Scheme before the 1st day of October in any year the Ministry may refund to him half the herd fee paid by him on the 1st day of April of that year but no other refund shall be made to him.

(5) The Ministry may waive the payment of fees in respect of any cows belonging to a herd which has been approved as suitable for progeny testing if it considers such cows are providing information useful to the Ministry but in such case the Ministry shall not issue an official certificate of yield.

Calculation of yields and qualification of cows

9.—(1) As soon as possible after receiving a record of a lactation properly completed by the herdowner the Ministry shall calculate the total yield of milk and the respective contents of butterfat and solids-not-fat, the total yield