1971. No. 256 **[C]**

BLACKFACE RAMS

SCHEME, DATED 13TH AUGUST 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 Blackface Rams Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 and shall come into operation on 1st September 1971.

Revocation

2. The Blackface Rams Scheme 1960 is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme:—

"approved" means approved by the Ministry;

"approved sale" means a sheep sale at which the Ministry has selected Blackface shearling rams which are eligible for grant;

"Blackface ram" means a Blackface ram of either the Scottish or the Mourne type;

"County Committee" means a County Committee of agriculture appointed pursuant to Section 2(1) of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949;

"flock owner" means a breeder of pure bred Blackface sheep;

"Grant A" means a grant paid to a flock owner in respect of the purchase of an approved Blackface shearling ram of £24 or one half of the amount remaining after a sum of £24 has been deducted from the purchase price of the ram whichever is the less, but not in any case less than £3;

"Grant B" means a grant paid to a flock owner in respect of the purchase of an approved Blackface shearling ram of £12 or one half of the amount remaining after the sum of £8 has been deducted from the purchase price of the said ram whichever is the less;

"Ministry" means the Ministry of Agriculture;

"Shearling ram" means a ram which was born in the normal lambing season of the year immediately preceding the year in which the approved sale at which it is purchased is held.

Objects of Scheme

4. With the object of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of sheep in Northern Ireland the Ministry may in accordance with this Scheme pay grants to flock owners for the purchase for use as stock rams of approved Blackface shearling rams:—

(a) 1949. c. 2.

(*a*) of the Scottish type; and

(*b*) of the Mourne type if placed out in a flock which is kept in approved districts of Counties Armagh and Down.

Application for Grants

5. Applications for Grant A shall be made to the Ministry and for Grant B to the County Committee of the county in which the ram is to be placed out.

Payment of Grant

6.—(1) Grant A shall be paid only to experienced breeders of Blackface rams who exhibit rams at Sales approved by the Ministry for the selection of grant aided rams and shall be paid only in respect of one approved Blackface shearling ram in the same flock.

(2) Grant A shall be paid to a flock owner only once in each period consisting of 3 breeding seasons unless the ram in respect of which grant has been paid has died or has proved infertile or unsuitable for breeding and a flock owner receiving Grant A shall not be entitled to a subsidy under the Ram Subsidies Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1962(**b**) in the same season.

(3) Grant B shall if approved by the Ministry be paid in respect of one or more approved rams placed out in the same flock.

Selection of rams

7. The Ministry shall select approved Blackface shearling rams at approved sales but if approved sales are for any reason discontinued for a period the Ministry may during that period select Blackface shearling rams on the premises upon which they are kept.

Carriage of rams

8. The Ministry may pay half the costs of the carriage of an approved Blackface shearling ram from an approved sale to the farm of the flock owner who has purchased same at the approved sale provided that the said ram is conveyed by public transport.

Conditions and payment of Grant

9. Grant will be paid subject to the conditions set forth in Part I of the Schedule hereto and an authorised officer of the Ministry will hand to a flock owner who has purchased an approved Blackface ram which has been selected for the purpose of payment of grant a form containing the said conditions and the flock owner will thereupon sign the acknowledgment set forth in Part II of the said Schedule.

General

10.—(1) If the Ministry having made a payment under this Scheme finds that the flock owner who has received the payment has failed to comply with any conditions or requirements of the Scheme or that for any reasons whatsoever such payment ought not to have been made in whole or in part it shall be entitled to recover from that flock owner the full amount of the said payment or so much of the said payment as ought not to have been so paid and such sum may be recovered as a civil debt. Without prejudice to any other method of recovery the Ministry shall be entitled to deduct any sum which it is entitled to recover from any person under this Article from any further sums which may otherwise be payable to that person by the Ministry under this Scheme.

(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1962, No. 26.