**1971. No. 254** **[C]**

# SHEEP IMPROVEMENT

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 by virtue 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) 1971 and shall come into operation on 1st September 1971.

*Definitions*

**2.** 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 4;

"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 4;

"grant" means a payment made to any person towards the purchase of an approved ram in accordance with Articles 9 and 10;

"grant aided rams" has the meaning assigned to it by Article 10;

"incentive payment" means the payment made to a flock owner under Article 7 towards the cost of recording his flock;

"normal breeding season" means in respect of the Dorset Horn breed a calendar year and in respect of the Border Leicester and Suffolk or other approved breeds the period from 1st December to 30th April;

"ram lamb" means an uncastrated male sheep under 1 year old;

"registered" means registered with the appropriate breed society;

"selected ram" means a ram of the Border Leicester or Suffolk breeds which the Ministry has selected for exhibition at an approved annual sale in accordance with Article 5(5);

"shearling ram" means an uncastrated male sheep at least 1 year old and under 2 years old;

"the Ministry" means the Ministry of Agriculture.

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(a) 1949. c. 2.

## PART II

### FLOCK RECORDING SCHEME

*Objects of scheme*

**3.** 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.

*Eligibility*

**4.**—(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 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*

**5.** If the Ministry accepts an application under Article 4(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 14 weeks old,
   (*c*) at monthly intervals the first of such intervals to be one calendar month from the date specified by the Ministry under sub-paragraph (*b*);

(5) in the case of Border Leicester and Suffolk flock exhibit for sale each year at an approved annual sale of those breeds or at other sales by permission of the Ministry, animals selected from the flock by the Ministry having regard to the information recorded under paragraph (1).

*Inspection of flocks*

**6.** 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*

**7.** The Ministry may subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme pay to a flock owner

(1) an incentive payment of £3 in respect of
   (*a*) each ewe of the Border Leicester breed giving birth to 2 or more lambs in the normal breeding season,
   (*b*) each ewe of the Dorset Horn breed producing 2 crops of lambs containing together not less than 3 lambs within a calendar year;

(2) an incentive payment of £2 in respect of each ewe of the Suffolk Breed or of other approved breeds which has produced live lambs in the normal breeding season.

**8.** 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*

**9.** 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 10.

*Grant aided rams*

**10.** The Ministry shall determine which selected rams shall be eligible for grant under this Part and such rams are in this Scheme referred to as "Grant aided rams."

*Application*

**11.** 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 annual sale of rams of the breed concerned takes place.

*Rate and conditions of grant*

**12.** 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.

**13.** 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.

**14.** 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*

**15.** 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*

**16.** The Ministry may 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 11th day of August 1971, in the presence of

(L.S.) *J. Parke,*
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves the following Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 13th day of August 1971 in the presence of

(L.S.) *C. F. Darling,*
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE (Article 4(1))

SHEEP IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1971

Application for Entry

1. Applicant's Name .....
(BLOCK LETTERS)

Address .....

..... Tel. No. .....

hereby apply for entry of my flock to the above-mentioned Scheme.

Breed of Pedigree Flock .....

Number of flock in Breed Society flock book .....

Registered Prefix .....

2. The total number of sheep owned by me is as follows:—

**Pedigree flock**

| Ewes | Ewe hoggets | Rams |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

These are kept at .....

**Commercial flock**

| Ewes | Ewe hoggets | Rams |
|---|---|---|
| | | |

3. I hereby undertake that in the event of my flock being accepted into the Scheme I will comply with all the rules and conditions of the Scheme. I understand that should I fail to comply with the conditions and requirements of the Scheme I shall cease to be eligible for any financial incentives.

I attach a certificate from my Veterinary Surgeon certifying that my flock is clinically healthy.

Date ..... Signature .....