1969. No. 49 [C]

ANIMALS

Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1969

SCHEME, DATED 6TH MARCH 1969, 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 Nine 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 Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1969, and shall come into operation on the 1st April 1969.

Revocation

2. The Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1962(b) is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme—

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

"Approved" means approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Selected applicant" means a person selected by a County Committee, to keep a stallion under this Scheme.

"Premium" means the payment which a selected applicant is eligible to receive for allowing his premium stallion to stand for stud purposes in his district.

"Premium Stallion" means a stallion which has been approved as being suitable for the award of a premium and which is owned by a selected applicant.

"Pedigree" means pure-bred and entered in the Stud Book of the breed concerned.

"Horse Breeding Society" means a Society formed for the purpose of maintaining and improving the breeding of horses.

Premium, Subsidy and Grant

4. With the object of improving the breeding of horses in Northern Ireland, the Ministry may aid stallion owners and horse breeding societies by means of payments as follows:—

(*a*) premiums in respect of approved stallions;

(*b*) subsidies in respect of the purchase of approved stallions; and

(*c*) grants to horse breeding societies in respect of the leasing of approved stallions.

Eligible Breeds

5. Only pedigree stallions of the Thoroughbred, Clydesdale, Irish Draught, Arab and Connemara breeds shall be eligible for assistance under this Scheme,

(a) 1949. c. 2. (b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1962, No. 1.

save that the Ministry may, in special circumstances, pay premiums, subsidies or grants in respect of pedigree stallions of other breeds for service in particular districts.

Age of Stallions

6. A stallion when inspected for a first-season premium or for a subsidy or a grant shall not be less than 3 years old, and save in exceptional circumstances, shall not be more than 6 years old, the age in either case being reckoned from the first day of January in the year of its birth.

Selection for Premium

7.—(1) The County Committee shall receive applications from persons who, if selected, are prepared to keep premium stallions for the service of mares in the county. Such applications shall be made to the County Committee in such form and within such time as the County Committee may determine.

(2) The inspection of stallions for premiums shall be made by the Ministry who shall send to each County Committee a list in order of merit by breeds of the names of stallions selected for premiums. The Ministry shall notify the owner of a stallion which has been approved for premium purposes.

(3) In making selections, a County Committee shall have regard to the needs of the various districts within its area and the adequacy of accommodation and facilities for the stallion and visiting mares, and shall be guided by the list of stallions prepared by the Ministry under paragraph (2).

(4) The total number of selected applicants in a county shall be limited by the total number of premiums approved by the Ministry for that county.

(5) The Secretary of the County Committee shall notify selected applicants and shall forward to the Ministry a list of such selected applicants.

(6) The conditions under which premium stallions are placed out shall be as set forth in the First Schedule.

(7) Not earlier than 1st September in any service season, and not later than the following 28th February, the owner of the premium stallion shall forward the service form and the completed claim for payment to the Secretary of the County Committee who shall be responsible for the examination and certification of all such claims and for their submission to the Ministry for payment.

Award of Subsidies

8.—(1) The County Committee shall receive application for a subsidy to purchase a stallion and shall make a recommendation thereon to the Ministry, which shall have power to accept, refuse or alter any such recommendation. Such recommendation shall have regard to the needs of the county and shall be on the understanding that the applicant will use the stallion for premium purposes for a period of five successive years.

(2) Where a County Committee recommends a subsidy and where such recommendation is accepted by the Ministry, the Ministry shall inform the applicant of the amount of the subsidy and of the conditions on which a stallion may be purchased. To be eligible for a subsidy, a stallion shall be purchased only after inspection and approval by the Ministry, who shall also be satisfied as to the reasonableness of the price.

(3) Before a subsidy is paid by the Ministry, the applicant shall sign an agreement as to the conditions attached by the Ministry thereto and if, after such payment the applicant fails to comply with any of the conditions of the