1963. No. 57 **[C]**

AGRICULTURE

Accredited Poultry Farms Scheme

SCHEME, DATED 25TH MARCH, 1963, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1949(a). AND UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1958(b).

The Ministry of Agriculture by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sub-section (1) of section nine of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949, and by sub-sections (1) and (3) of section two of the Diseases of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1958, 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

GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Accredited Poultry Farms Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1963, and shall come into operation on the 26th day of March, 1963.

Definitions

2. In this Scheme, unless the context otherwise requires:—

"Accredited" means approved by the Ministry in accordance with this Scheme, and "accreditation" shall be construed accordingly.

"As hatched" means not sexed.

"Authorised" means authorised by the Ministry.

"Contract Rearing Farm" means a farm which is not an accredited farm but is approved by the Ministry to rear under contract chicks obtained from a Parent Breeding Farm for subsequent distribution to a Contract Supply Farm in accordance with the Ninth Schedule.

"Contract Supply Farm" means a farm which is not an accredited farm but is approved in accordance with the Eighth Schedule to supply under contract, to those hatcheries specified in the contract, hatching eggs from birds obtained from a Parent Breeding Farm, or from a Rearing Farm under contract to that Parent Breeding Farm.

"Day-old chick" means a chick not more than forty-eight hours old.

"Heavy Breeds" and "Light Breeds" have the meanings commonly accepted by poultry keepers. Examples of heavy breeds are Rhode Island Red, White Wyandotte, Light Sussex, Buff Rock and Barred Rock, and of light breeds are White Leghorn, Black Leghorn, Brown Leghorn and Ancona.

"Ministry" means the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Parent Breeding Farm" means an accredited farm which has a contract with supply farms approved in accordance with Article 17.

"Poultry" means domestic fowl.

"Reactor" means a bird which has shown a positive reaction to a blood test carried out by the Ministry.

"Special Breeding Farm" means a farm registered under the Poultry Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1958(c).

(a) 1949. c. 2. (b) 1958. c. 13. (c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1958, No. 80.

Register of Accredited Farms

3. With the object of aiding and improving the breeding of poultry, developing its commercial characteristics, and promoting the breeding and distribution of stocks free from disease, a register of farms in Northern Ireland called "Accredited Farms" which have been accredited in accordance with this Scheme shall be prepared and kept by the Ministry. The Register shall contain separate sections for the different types of farm described in the Fourth Schedule.

Reservation

4. The Ministry neither gives nor implies any guarantee as to the quality or health of eggs or stock from Registered farms and the Ministry shall not be liable for losses incurred by any person due to disease or any other shortcoming in such eggs or stock.

PART II

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL ACCREDITED FARMS

Application for Registration

5. Application for registration shall be made to the Ministry in the form prescribed in the First Schedule on or before 11th April, 1963, provided that the Ministry may in exceptional circumstances accept applications after that date. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee as follows:—

(*a*) For a farm intended to be accredited in Grade I or Grade II £1

(*b*) For a Special Breeding Farm £2

(*c*) For a farm intended to be accredited as a Parent Breeding Farm ..... £2 plus an additional fee of 10/- in respect of each Supply Farm under contract to the Parent Breeding Farm.

In addition, if while accredited under this Scheme, a Parent Breeding Farm enters into a contract with any other supply farm it shall pay 10/- in respect of such farm at the time of entering into the contract.

If the farm is not provisionally approved for accreditation in accordance with Article 6 the fee shall be returned, but if otherwise it shall be retained.

Provisional Approval

6.—(1) Provisional approval shall be granted to a farm—

(*a*) which is a Special Breeding Farm; or

(*b*) which is a Parent Breeding Farm,

provided that in each case the breeding policy of the farm has been approved by the Ministry.

(2) Provisional approval may be granted to any other farm—

(*a*) on which the stock is, in the opinion of the Ministry, suitable for accreditation subject to satisfactory blood test and on which the stock has been derived from a source approved by the Ministry; and

(*b*) which, together with its equipment, complies with the conditions set out in the Second Schedule.

(3) The Ministry may refuse to grant provisional approval to any farm which was registered in a previous year and was removed from the Register by reason of the failure on the part of the owner to observe any of the conditions of the Scheme.

Accreditation

7.—(1) A provisionally approved farm shall be accredited as defined in the Fourth Schedule where:—

(*a*) the entire stock which is sufficiently mature, with the exception of birds kept in accordance with the Sixth Schedule, has been blood tested during 1963 as laid down in the Third Schedule and is free from reactors, provided that the Ministry may accredit at its discretion a farm on which a part of the stock has been blood tested and is free from reactors and where it is satisfied that this part has been effectively isolated from the remainder of the stock;

(*b*) the stock appears to an authorised officer to be healthy;

(*c*) any breeding stock on the farm has been selected by an authorised officer who has also marked with sealed and numbered leg bands supplied by the Ministry the birds selected for pure-bred matings, provided that on a Special Breeding Farm or a Parent Breeding Farm selection and identification of breeding stock shall be carried out in accordance with the approved breeding programme by or on behalf of the owner of the farm;

(*d*) the accommodation, management, stock and equipment continue to comply with the conditions of the Scheme.

(2) Accreditation shall, unless withdrawn or surrendered, remain in force until 31st August, 1964. Where an accredited farm is in the process of changing to a Contract Supply Farm, accreditation shall be withdrawn as soon as the new stock from the Parent Breeding Farm reaches point of lay.

Withdrawal of Accreditation

8. The Ministry may withdraw accreditation from and remove from the Register any farm or part of a farm in the event of the person in whose name it is accredited and registered failing to observe any of the conditions applicable to him.

Identification

9.—(1) All eggs sold for hatching shall be stamped with a stamp supplied by the Ministry. Where chicks are to be sold the accompanying delivery note shall be stamped with the stamp supplied by the Ministry.

(2) The advertising, sale or distribution of hatching eggs or chicks shall not begin until the stamp is received. All advertisements shall include a reference to the number on the stamp.

(3) The stamp shall be returned to the Ministry—

(*a*) in all cases where reactors are found, where the Ministry has evidence that disease exists on the farm or where accreditation is withdrawn;

(*b*) on request; and

(*c*) where there is a change of ownership.

Sale of Hatching Eggs

10. The owner of an accredited farm shall not sell for hatching:—

(*a*) eggs which are less than 2 oz. in weight except in the case of approved broiler crosses which shall be not less than $1\frac{7}{8}$ oz. in weight; or

(*b*) eggs which are over-sized, badly shaped, thin- or rough-shelled, or of inferior colour.

Maintenance of Stock and Equipment

11. The owner of an accredited farm shall maintain the stock and equipment to the satisfaction of the Ministry.

Inspection

12. The owner of an accredited farm shall permit the inspection of the farm, stock, equipment and records by an authorised officer at any reasonable time.

Keeping of Birds for Commercial Egg Production

13. The owner of an accredited farm may keep birds for commercial egg production. Where such birds are kept they shall be kept in accordance with the conditions of the Sixth Schedule.

Disease Precautions

14.—(1) An applicant for registration or an owner of an accredited farm shall permit the Ministry to take all the precautions against disease set out in paragraph (1) of the Third Schedule.

(2) An applicant for registration or an owner of an accredited farm shall take all the precautions against disease set out in paragraph (2) of the Third Schedule.

(3) No blood testing other than that carried out by the Ministry shall be recognised for the purposes of this Scheme.

Modification of Conditions Applying to Individual Farms

15. The Ministry may issue a written authorisation modifying the provisions of this Scheme to the owner of an individual farm. Such modification will be based on the breeding programme of the farm.

PART III

SPECIAL CONDITION APPLICABLE TO OWNERS OF FARMS ACCREDITED AS SPECIAL BREEDING FARMS

16. A special breeding farm shall comply with the terms of the Poultry Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1958.

PART IV

SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO OWNERS OF FARMS ACCREDITED AS PARENT BREEDING FARMS

17. The owner of a Parent Breeding Farm

(*a*) shall satisfy the Ministry that the breeding programme is likely to result in an improvement of the commercial characteristics of the stock;

(*b*) shall not bring on to the Parent Breeding Farm stock from any outside source without the prior permission of the Ministry in writing;

(*c*) shall not distribute any stock to a Contract Supply Farm or a Contract Rearing Farm unless under a written contract approved by the Ministry;

(*d*) shall not enter into such contract with a proposed Supply Farm until that farm has been inspected and approved by the Ministry in accordance with the Eighth Schedule;

(*e*) shall not enter into such contract with a proposed Rearing Farm until that farm has been inspected and approved by the Ministry in accordance with the Ninth Schedule;

(*f*) shall not permit stock distributed to one Contract Supply Farm to be moved to another Contract Supply Farm without the prior approval of the Ministry in writing;

(*g*) shall each year submit an entry to Section II of the Ministry's Poultry Test at Gosford of all breeds, strains or crosses mated on Contract Supply Farms.

PART V

SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO OWNERS OF FARMS ACCREDITED IN GRADE I OR GRADE II

18. The owner of a farm accredited in Grade I or Grade II

(*a*) (i) shall keep on the accredited farm only pure bred birds and shall not keep female birds of more than two breeds or varieties of a breed;

(ii) shall not keep or permit any person residing on his farm to keep, either singly or jointly with him, poultry on a farm other than an accredited farm, nor any poultry other than poultry in or bred from the accredited flocks;

(iii) shall not permit any person to keep poultry other than accredited poultry on his home farm;

provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted as precluding the owner of an accredited farm who is changing to a Contract Supply Farm from bringing on to his farm young stock from a Parent Breeding Farm or from a Contract Rearing Farm;

(*b*) shall not bring on to the farm, stock cockerels or eggs or chicks from which he intends primarily to raise stock cockerels except as prescribed in the Seventh Schedule;

(*c*) shall obtain hatching eggs, chicks or other birds only from a source approved by the Ministry and shall retain for inspection evidence of such purchase;

(*d*) shall mate flocks for the production of first-cross eggs or chicks only as prescribed in the Fifth Schedule;

(*e*) shall, where reactors are found on the blood testing of his poultry, or the presence of Fowl Typhoid, Pullorum (Bacillary White Diarrhoea) or other Salmonella disease is confirmed by post-mortem examination, cease distributing hatching eggs, day-old chicks or older stock until he is notified by the Ministry that he may resume distribution;

(*f*) shall issue a dated, signed and stamped delivery note with each consignment of hatching eggs or chicks showing the number of eggs or chicks in the consignment. He shall retain a duplicate copy of this note;

(*g*) (i) shall keep in the books provided by the Ministry for the purpose careful records of the number of eggs produced each day by the mated birds and, in the case of hatching eggs, chicks or stock birds, of the date supplied and the name and address of the purchaser;

(ii) shall return the books to the Ministry on request;

(*h*) shall, where he is selling chicks in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Fifth Schedule submit to the Ministry in respect of each month a return showing—

(i) the number of chicks of each breed or cross supplied;

(ii) the date on which supplied; and

(iii) the name and address of the purchaser.

He shall forward such return to reach the Ministry not later than the 5th of the month following that to which the return relates.

PART VI

SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO OWNERS OF FARMS ACCREDITED IN GRADE I

19. In addition to complying with the requirements specified in Article 18 the owner of a farm accredited in Grade I

(*a*) shall breed, hatch and rear the pullet replacements for the breeding pens in subsequent years;