Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 1st day of March, nineteen hundred and sixty-one.

(L.S.) *A. C. Williams,*
Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations provide that employment in contributory service under the Teachers (Superannuation) Acts which is non-participating employment shall be treated as employment under a single employer.

The Regulations also include provision for the Ministry of Education to carry out the duties of the employer prescribed in the National Insurance (Non-participation—Assurance of Equivalent Pension Benefits) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1960.

1961. No. 46 **[C]**

POULTRY

Progeny Test

SCHEME, DATED 24TH FEBRUARY, 1961, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1949(a).

The Ministry of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section nine of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland), 1949, 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 Poultry Progeny Testing (Temporary Provisions) Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1961, and shall come into operation on the 1st March, 1961.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme:—

"bird" means domestic fowl.

"cockerel" means a male bird in its first season.

"pen" means a group of twenty-four pullets belonging to the same owner and housed together during the test.

"pullet" means a female bird, hatched not more than seven months previous to the commencement of the test.

"test" means the grading and recording of the eggs laid by each pen.

(a) 1949. c. 2.

Form of Test

3. The test will consist of two Sections:

Section I shall be a Progeny Test; and

Section II shall be a Random Sample Flock Test.

Entries

4.—(1) Application for entry to the Scheme shall be made in the form specified in the First Schedule.

(2) Pullets entered for the Scheme shall be of the same breed which may be any recognised utility pure breed. A breeder may submit more than one entry to each Section of the test.

Acceptance of Entries

5.—(1) Applicants for either Section shall be selected according to the following order of preference:—

Entries from Special Breeding Farms
Entries from Accredited Farms Grade I
Entries from other breeders.

If in any grade there are more entries than can be accommodated selection will be by ballot.

(2) Other things being equal, preference shall be given to entries for Section I which show—

(*a*) the pedigree and egg record of the sire's dam; and

(*b*) the pedigree and egg record of the dams.

Fees

6.—(1) The fee for each entry in each Section shall be £5 and shall be paid when application for entry is made.

(2) If for any reason other than the failure of the entrant to comply with the conditions in Article 8 the Ministry does not accept an entry or does not complete the testing of an entry, the fee or a part thereof shall be refunded to the entrant.

Identification

7.—(1) A breeder shall cause all chicks intended for entry to the test to be temporarily identified at the time of hatching by toe punching or leg banding.

(2) Permanent wing banding of the birds when required shall be done by an officer of the Ministry.

(3) Where a pen is accepted for Section I of the test, a sealed ring shall be affixed by an officer of the Ministry to the cockerel which sired the pullets.

Conditions

8.—(1) Applicable to Section I:

(*a*) Each entry which shall consist of 24 point-of-lay pullets bred by the entrant shall be the progeny of one cockerel mated with at least twelve females and shall include at least one daughter of each of six of these females. The cockerel shall be alive at the commencement of the test.

(*b*) Before the pen is accepted, the twenty-four pullets for the test shall be selected by an officer of the Ministry so as to be representative of

the dams, subject to the provision of paragraph (*a*) above, from all the pullets from the matings which are of suitable age for the test.

(2) Applicable to Section II:

(*a*) Each entry shall be a sample of 24 point-of-lay pullets bred by the entrant and selected by an officer of the Ministry at random from eggs hatched within a maximum interval of 14 days from a flock of at least 50 females.

(*b*) Before the pen is accepted, the 24 pullets shall be selected at random by an officer of the Ministry so as to be representative of the flock.

(3) Applicable to both Section I and Section II:

(*a*) An entrant shall take or permit the Ministry to take in respect of his entry all the precautions against disease laid down in the Second Schedule. A pen found to contain a bird that is unhealthy or affected with disease shall not be accepted for the test.

(*b*) Save in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Ministry, no bird shall be returned to its owner before completion of the test.

(*c*) No bird which dies during the test may be replaced.

(*d*) All eggs laid during the test shall be sold by the Ministry and the amount realised by such sale shall be applied towards defraying the expenses of the test.

(*e*) The cost of transport of birds entered for the test being moved to or from the test premises shall be borne by the breeder.

Grading and Scoring

9. All eggs laid by each bird during the test shall be graded to the British Egg Marketing Board standards in force at the commencement of the test and the score value shall be determined by the Ministry as prescribed in the Third Schedule.

Awards

10.—(1) In order to be considered for an award—

(*a*) birds shall in the opinion of the Ministry be of suitable type for breeding, and

(*b*) at the conclusion of the test not more than four birds in the pen shall have died provided that a death resulting from accident or misadventure shall not be taken into account for the purposes of this sub-paragraph.

(2) A certificate in the form set out in the Fourth Schedule shall be awarded in respect of every pen, the score of which, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Third Schedule, is not less than a hen-housed average of 180 eggs per pullet during the period of the test.

(3) In Section I the sire of a pen awarded a certificate in accordance with paragraph (2) shall retain the sealed ring affixed at the time of the selection of the pullets.

(4) Perpetual Challenge Cups shall be awarded:—

(*a*) in respect of the sire of the pen in Section I which has the highest score calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Third Schedule; and