EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations, which are made in consequence of the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1960, increase the rates of benefit payable under certain regulations made under the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1946, in order to bring them into conformity with the higher rates of benefit payable directly under that Act by virtue of the Act of 1960. Provision is made in relation to the payment of additional benefit in the case of persons not residing in Northern Ireland. The remaining provisions are of a minor or consequential character.

1961. No. 4 **[C]**

ACCREDITED PIG HERDS AND LITTER TESTING SCHEME (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1961

SCHEME, DATED 10TH JANUARY, 1961, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1949(a).

The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland by virtue and 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 for Northern Ireland, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Accredited Pig Herds and Litter Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1961, and shall come into operation on the tenth day of January, nineteen hundred and sixty-one.

Revocation

2. The Accredited Pig Herds and Litter Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1958(b), the Accredited Pig Herds and Litter Testing (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1958(c), and the Accredited Pig Herds and Litter Testing (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1959(d), are hereby revoked as from and after the commencement of this Scheme.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme:—

"Authorised" means authorised by the Ministry.

"Herd" means the whole stock of swine, or the portion specified in accordance with paragraphs (*d*) and (*e*) of Article 5 as the case may be.

"Recognised" means recognised by the Ministry.

"Sire" means the male parent of a pig.

"Sows" includes gilts.

(a) 1949. c 2.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1958, No. 17.
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1958, No. 54.
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1959, No. 184.

Register of Accredited Herds

4. With the object of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of swine in Northern Ireland, the Ministry shall set up a register of pig herds to be called "The Accredited Pig Herds Register" in which shall be entered particulars of the herds which shall, to the satisfaction of the Ministry, have attained the standards laid down in the Third Schedule, and the names of the owners of which have complied with the conditions of this Scheme.

Application for Registration

5. An application for entry of a herd in the Accredited Pig Herds Register shall conform with the following Rules:—

(*a*) the application shall be in the form set out in the First Schedule;

(*b*) the applicant shall be a member of a recognised Herd Book Society for the Large White or Landrace breed;

(*c*) only pedigree pigs of the Large White or Landrace breed shall be eligible for entry in the Register and the following paragraphs of this Article refer only to such pigs;

(*d*) where the application is in respect of pedigree pigs of both the Large White and Landrace breeds each breed shall be regarded as a separate herd for the purposes of this Scheme;

(*e*) where the herd contains more than twenty sows, the application shall specify not less than twenty sows which together with their litters and the stock boars shall be deemed to constitute the herd of the applicant for the purposes of this Scheme. Where this paragraph applies, the applicant shall maintain not less than twenty specified sows in the Scheme so long as he owns more than that number of sows and the transfer to the herd of any sow from his remaining stock shall not take place unless notice in writing has been sent to the Ministry at least 48 hours prior to such transfer;

(*f*) where the herd does not contain more than twenty sows, the application shall include all breeding stock owned by the applicant.

Acceptance

6. The Ministry, on receipt of an application, may intimate its acceptance of a herd into the Scheme provided it is satisfied that the conditions laid down in the Second Schedule exist in respect thereof, and after receipt of notice of such acceptance the owner shall observe the following rules with respect to the herd:—

(*a*) notify the Ministry of all births within one week of the date of such birth;

(*b*) record numbers of pigs born, numbers weaned, abnormalities, weights of litters and ages and weights at slaughter and any other information which the Ministry may determine;

(*c*) weigh all pigs at 21 days and at 56 days old;

(*d*) fatten on the farm and sell live at bacon weight to the Pigs Marketing Board for slaughter all pigs not retained or sold for breeding purposes. The number of pigs sold live at bacon weight for slaughter shall be at least 40 per cent. of the total number of pigs weaned;

(*e*) mark all pigs sold live at bacon weight with a numbered metal ear tag and enter the tag number and the pedigree ear tattoo number on a card and forward the card with the pigs to the bacon factory;

(*f*) submit on request to the Ministry the grading data including weight and age at slaughter of all pigs sold for slaughter from the herd during the preceding year;

(*g*) provide all the necessary facilities and assist the Ministry's Officers in the weighing of pigs, checking of records and in all other matters connected with this Scheme;

(*h*) enter boars at shows and sales approved for the purpose of selection of premiums.

Fees

7. The owners of herds to which Article 6 applies shall pay to the Ministry, at the time of notification of birth in accordance with the above-mentioned Rules, a fee of five shillings in respect of each litter born in the herd.

Accreditation

8. When the Ministry is satisfied after its acceptance of any application that the rules contained in Article 6 of this Scheme have been complied with and further that the standards imposed by the Third Schedule have been maintained for a period of one year the herd shall be registered as an Accredited Pig Herd and shall, unless withdrawn, so remain as long as the standards laid down are maintained and the conditions imposed by this Scheme are observed and while such registration continues the owner shall:—

(*a*) Supply progeny of his stock boars as may be directed by the Ministry for testing at the Ministry's Litter Testing Station, and,

(*b*) After a date to be determined by the Ministry, mate the sows in the Accredited Pig Herd only with approved boars or the sons of approved boars.

Approved Boars

9. A boar shall become approved when four litters sired by him and born in Accredited Pig Herds have been accepted for testing at the Ministry's Litter Testing Station in accordance with the conditions set out in Part I of the Fourth Schedule and have reached the required standards as set out in Part II of that Schedule. Only boars from Accredited Pig Herds shall be eligible for approval.

Litter Testing

10.—(1) At the discretion of the Ministry, four pigs for testing from each litter shall be selected by an Authorised Officer from such litters as may comply with the conditions contained in Part I of the Fourth Schedule.

(2) Delivery of pigs to the Ministry's Litter Testing Station and payment, therefor, shall be in accordance with the Fifth Schedule.

(3) The Ministry may at its discretion accept for testing pigs from pedigree litters which are not born in Accredited Pig Herds provided that a request for such test is received from the owner at least three weeks before the litter is born. This Article shall then apply but in addition the owner shall comply with Sub-Paragraphs (*a*), (*b*), (*c*) and (*g*) of Article 6 in respect of all litters accepted for testing.

(4) The Ministry shall have absolute discretion as to which litters are tested at the Litter Testing Station.