EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Order maintains the existing prohibition against the importation, except under licence, of live or dead poultry or of eggs for hatching and it extends that prohibition to include eggs other than eggs for hatching and also poultry equipment from countries other than the Irish Republic.

1960. No. 63 **[C]**

AGRICULTURE

Accredited Poultry Farms Scheme

SCHEME, DATED 8TH APRIL, 1960, 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 (Northern Ireland) Scheme, 1960, and shall come into operation on the second day of May, 1960.

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 Supply Farm" means a farm which is not an accredited farm but is approved in accordance with the Ninth Schedule to supply under contract, to the hatchery specified in the contract, hatching eggs from birds obtained from a 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;

(a) 1949. c. 2. (b) 1958. c. 13.

"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 12;

"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(a).

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" on which the stock appears to be satisfactory shall be prepared and kept by the Ministry; but the Ministry shall not be responsible for eggs or birds supplied by the owners of such farms. The Register shall contain separate sections for the different types of farm described in the Fourth Schedule.

PART II—CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL ACCREDITED FARMS

Application for Registration

4. Application for registration shall be made to the Ministry in the form prescribed in the First Schedule on or before 2nd May, 1960, 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 Special Breeding Farm £2

(*b*) For a farm intended to be accredited as a Parent Breeding Farm ... £2

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

If the farm is not provisionally approved for accreditation in accordance with Article 5 the fee shall be returned, but if otherwise it shall be retained.

Provisional Approval

5.—(1) Provisional approval shall be granted to an applicant

(*a*) who is the owner of a Special Breeding Farm, or

(*b*) who is the owner of 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 applicant

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

(*b*) whose farm and equipment comply with the conditions set out in the Second Schedule.

(3) The Ministry may refuse to grant provisional approval to any applicant whose farm 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.

(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1958, No. 80.

Blood Testing

6.—(1) The birds on the farm of an applicant to whom provisional approval is granted shall be blood tested as laid down in the Third Schedule.

(2) The testing of birds in the breeding flocks shall be carried out free of charge annually by an authorised officer but flocks which are kept intensively for commercial egg production in accordance with the Sixth Schedule may not require annual testing provided that there is no evidence of infection on the farm.

(3) Adequate assistance shall be provided by the applicant when the blood samples are being taken.

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

Accreditation

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

(*a*) the entire adult stock has been blood tested during 1960 in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the Third Schedule, and is free from reactors;

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

(*c*) the breeding stock 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, staff and equipment continue to comply with the conditions of the Scheme.

(2) Accreditation shall, unless withdrawn, remain in force until 30th November, 1961. 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.

Stamping

8.—(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 which is not transferable shall be returned to the Ministry on request or if there is a change of ownership of the farm.

Exemption of Individual Farms

9. 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.

Failure to observe conditions

10. Failure by the owner of an accredited farm to observe any of the conditions applicable to him shall be sufficient ground for the Ministry to remove the farm from the said Register.

Part III—Special Breeding Farms

11. A special breeding farm shall carry out the breeding programme approved by the Ministry and shall not vary it except with the written approval of the Ministry.

Part IV—Conditions to be Observed by Owners of Parent Breeding Farms

12. 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 distribute any stock to a Contract Supply Farm unless under a written contract approved by the Ministry;

(*c*) shall not enter into such contract with a Contract Supply Farm until the Contract Supply Farm has been inspected and approved by the Ministry in accordance with the Ninth Schedule;

(*d*) shall take part in random sample tests conducted by the Ministry;

(*e*) (i) shall not sell for hatching, 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.;

(ii) nor shall he sell eggs which are over-sized, badly-shaped, thin- or rough-shelled or of inferior colour;

(*f*) shall permit inspection of the farm, stock and records by an authorised officer at any reasonable time;

(*g*) shall, where he suspects that disease exists amongst his flock, immediately forward sample carcases of the affected birds accompanied by a document bearing the accredited farm stamp, and details of symptoms observed, to the Veterinary Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, The Farm, Stormont, Belfast, 4;

(*h*) shall maintain the stock and equipment to the satisfaction of the Ministry in accordance with good poultry husbandry and shall carry out such disinfection and fumigation as may be directed by the Ministry.

Part V—Conditions to be Observed by Owners of Farms Accredited in Grade I or Grade II

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

(*a*) (i) shall not sell for hatching, 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.;

(ii) nor shall he sell eggs which are over-sized, badly-shaped, thin- or rough-shelled or of inferior colour;

(*b*) 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;

(*c*) shall permit inspection of the farm, stock and records by an authorised officer at any reasonable time;

(*d*) shall breed, hatch and rear the pullet replacements for the breeding pens in subsequent years except that to the owners of farms accredited in Grade II the Ministry may grant prior permission in writing authorising

the purchase of hatching eggs or of day-old chicks for pullet replacements from a Special Breeding Farm or from a farm accredited in Grade I;

(*e*) shall not obtain hatching eggs, chicks or other birds except from a source approved by the Ministry;

(*f*) shall effectively separate the birds mated for pure bred chicks from those mated for crosses;

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

(*h*) shall, where he suspects that disease exists amongst his flock, immediately forward sample carcases of the affected birds accompanied by a document bearing the accredited farm stamp and details of symptoms observed to the Veterinary Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, The Farm, Stormont, Belfast, 4;

(*i*) shall maintain the stock and equipment to the satisfaction of the Ministry in accordance with good poultry husbandry, and shall carry out such disinfection and fumigation as may be directed by the Ministry;

(*j*) shall not sell any hatching eggs or day-old chicks after 31st May, 1961, unless he has obtained the prior permission of the Ministry in writing. He shall sell such eggs or chicks only in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the Eighth Schedule;

(*k*) (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 (pures and crosses separately) 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 record the deaths of adult birds due to disease; and

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

(*l*) shall, where he is selling chicks in accordance with the conditions of the Eighth Schedule or Article 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;

(*m*) (i) shall mate for the production of pure bred chicks only hens which have completed at least one year's laying and which have been hatched not later than 31st March, 1959, in the case of heavy breeds and not later than 30th April, 1959, in the case of light breeds;

(ii) shall mate a minimum of 60 such hens of the principal breed on the farm and shall not mate more than one further pure breed or variety. If he mates a second breed or variety he shall mate at least 36 hens;

(iii) shall maintain the pure bred matings at least until adequate replacements have been hatched;

(*n*) shall not bring additional birds into the breeding pens after the birds in the pens have been selected and ringed except with the consent of the Poultry Advisory Officer;

(*o*) (i) shall not keep or permit any person residing on his farm to keep, either singly or jointly with him, more than two breeds or varieties of a breed on the accredited farm, nor poultry on a farm other than