Accredited Poultry Farms Scheme

SCHEME, DATED 3RD MARCH, 1958, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTIONS 9 AND 10 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1949(a).

1958. No. 26 [C]

The Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sub-section (1) of section nine and sub-section (3) of section ten 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 Accredited Poultry Farms (Northern Ireland) Scheme, 1958, and shall come into operation on the thirty-first day of March, 1958.

Definitions

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

"Ministry" means the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.

"poultry" means domestic fowl.

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

"authorised" means authorised by the Ministry.

"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.

"poultry advisory officer" means poultry advisory officer of the Ministry.

Register of Accredited Farms

3. With the object of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of poultry and with a view to promoting the breeding and distribution of stocks thereof free from disease a register of farms in Northern Ireland called "Accredited Farms" on which the stock has been found to be satisfactory shall be prepared and kept by the Ministry but the Ministry cannot accept responsibility for eggs or birds supplied by the owners of such farms.

Application for Registration

4. Application for registration shall be made to the Ministry in the form or to the effect stated in the First Schedule on or before the 1st May, 1958, or such later date as the Ministry may allow, and shall be accompanied by a fee of 10/-. If the farm

(a) 1949. c. 2.

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

Provisional Approval

5. Provisional approval may be granted to each applicant whose farm, stock and equipment are, in the opinion of the Ministry, suitable for accreditation subject to blood test of stock and comply with the conditions for provisional approval as set out in the Second Schedule.

The Ministry may, however, 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.

Blood Testing

6. All the birds on the farm of an applicant to whom provisional approval is accorded shall be blood-tested as laid down in the Third Schedule.

The testing shall be carried out free of charge by an authorised officer and adequate assistance shall be provided by the applicant when the blood samples are being taken.

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

Accreditation

7. A provisionally approved farm on which the entire stock has been blood-tested during the summer and autumn of 1958 and is free from reactors to the blood-test in accordance with the conditions specified in the Third Schedule shall be accredited in one of the grades A, B or C, defined in the Fourth Schedule, provided that

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

(*b*) 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;

(*c*) the farm and equipment continue to comply with the conditions of the Scheme.

Accreditation will, unless withdrawn, remain in force until 30th November, 1959.

Conditions to be observed by owners of Accredited Poultry Farms

8.—(1) All eggs sold for hatching shall be stamped with a stamp supplied by the Ministry and 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.

The stamp shall be returned to the Ministry not later than 14th June, 1959, and will not be reissued until the conditions of Article 7 above have been complied with.

(2) Eggs shall not be distributed for hatching which are less than 2 oz. in weight, over sized, badly shaped, thin or rough shelled or of inferior colour for the breed.

(3) Each consignment of hatching eggs or of day-old chicks shall be accompanied by a dated delivery note, which shall show the number of eggs or of chicks in the consignment. This note shall be made out in duplicate, be signed by the owner of the farm or his representative, and be stamped with the egg stamp. The duplicate of each delivery note shall be filed at the farm and be available for inspection by authorised officers. Supplies of this delivery note shall be issued by the Ministry with the egg stamp and record books.

(4) Careful records shall be kept, in the book supplied by the Ministry for the purpose, of the number of eggs produced each day by the mated birds (pure-bred and first-cross separately) and of all sales of hatching eggs, chicks and stock birds. Deaths among the adult birds due to disease shall also be recorded. Sales and Production Record Books shall be returned to the Ministry not later than 14th June, 1959. In the case of sales the records shall include:—

(*a*) the date on which supplied;

(*b*) name and address of purchaser;

(*c*) number of eggs, chicks and stock birds of each breed supplied.

(5) The farm, stock and records shall be open to inspection by an authorised officer at any reasonable time, which may be outside ordinary working hours.

(6) When birds which carry the official sealed and numbered leg bands referred to in Article 7(*b*) are being sold or otherwise disposed of from the farm, except when sold to another accredited farm, the said leg bands shall be removed and sent to the poultry advisory officer. When birds which carry official sealed and numbered leg bands are sold to another accredited farm, the poultry advisory officer shall be advised of the numbers on their leg bands, in order that the official Stock Registers of these farms may be accurately maintained.

(7) Each farm accredited shall be a breeding station and the owner shall breed, hatch and rear the pullet replacements for the breeding pens in subsequent years, except that in the case of Grade C farms the Ministry may grant prior permission in writing authorising the purchase for pullet replacements of hatching eggs or day-old chicks from a farm accredited in Grade A or B.

(8) Hens for pure-bred mating shall have completed at least one year's laying and shall have been hatched not later than 31st March, 1957, in the case of heavy breeds, and not later than 30th April, 1957, in the case of light breeds. At least 60 hens of the principal breed on the farm, or 36 hens in the case of a breeder who is specialising in pedigree breeding, shall be mated for the production of pure-bred chicks and not more than one

further pure breed or variety of a breed may be mated on any farm. If a second breed or variety of a breed is kept, at least 36 hens of the breed or variety shall be mated for pure-bred chicks. In the case of heavy breeds, the pure-bred matings shall be maintained at full strength until at least 1st January, 1959, and in the case of light breeds until at least 1st March, 1959, provided that the Ministry may in the light of prevailing circumstances vary these dates on farms where replacements have already been hatched.

(9) The owner of an accredited poultry farm shall not obtain eggs, chicks or other birds other than from a source approved by the Ministry.

(10) Additional birds shall not be brought into the breeding pens after they have been selected and arranged, without the consent of the poultry advisory officer.

(11) Birds for the production of pure-bred chicks shall be efficiently separated from those mated for first crosses.

(12) Where any bird dies on an accredited farm the owner shall forward the carcase immediately to the Veterinary Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, The Farm, Stormont, Belfast, for examination and report, accompanied by a document bearing the accredited farm stamp.

(13) Where an accredited farm is sold the egg stamp shall be returned to the Ministry by the person to whom it was issued.

(14) The owner of an accredited farm or any person residing on his farm shall not keep, either singly or jointly, more than two breeds or varieties of a breed, on the accredited farm, unless with the permission referred to in Article 9 below; nor shall they keep, on an accredited farm, any poultry other than the poultry in the accredited flocks; nor shall they keep any poultry on another farm other than an accredited farm.

(15) The matings as arranged at the beginning of the season shall remain unchanged until at least the 1st January, 1959, subject to the proviso to paragraph (8) of this Article.

(16) Flocks may be mated for the production of first cross eggs or chicks only as prescribed in the Fifth Schedule.

(17) A flock of birds of the breed or breeds approved for accreditation in the current year may be kept for commercial egg production under an intensive system only as prescribed in the Sixth Schedule.

(18) Stock cockerels or eggs or chicks from which primarily to raise stock cockerels shall only be brought on to an accredited poultry farm as provided in the Seventh Schedule.

(19) The owner of an accredited poultry farm shall not vary the arranged breeding programme without consulting the poultry advisory officer and normally the introduction of a new breed shall be approved only once in five years.

(20) It shall be the duty of the owner of an accredited farm to maintain the stock and equipment to the satisfaction of the Ministry in accordance with the practice of good poultry husbandry and at the appropriate times to carry out, so far as is reasonably practicable in the Ministry's opinion, such disinfection and fumigation as may be specified in the Ministry's Leaflet No. 59 or in any subsequent general directions issued by the Ministry from time to time.

9. Where the Ministry approves a special breeding programme it may issue a written authorisation modifying the provisions of this Scheme relating to the number of breeds kept, the mating of pullets, and the keeping of birds intensively, and subject to the maintenance of complete pedigrees and records of production under official supervision.

10. Failure by the owner of an accredited farm to observe any of the conditions in Article 8 or to comply with the conditions of any of the Schedules to this Scheme shall be sufficient ground for the Ministry to remove the farm from the said Register.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 3rd day of March, 1958, in the presence of

(L.S.) *W. A. V. Sanderson,*
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves of the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 3rd day of March, 1958, in the presence of

(L.S.) *K. R. Shimeld,*
Assistant Secretary.