

1969. No. 49

[C]

ANIMALS

Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1969.

SCHEME, DATED 6TH MARCH 1969, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1949.

The Ministry of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section Nine of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(a), 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 Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1969, and shall come into operation on the 1st April 1969.

Revocation

2. The Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1962(b) is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme—

“County Committee” means a County Committee of Agriculture appointed pursuant to Section 2(1) of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949.

“Approved” means approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

“Selected applicant” means a person selected by a County Committee, to keep a stallion under this Scheme.

“Premium” means the payment which a selected applicant is eligible to receive for allowing his premium stallion to stand for stud purposes in his district.

“Premium Stallion” means a stallion which has been approved as being suitable for the award of a premium and which is owned by a selected applicant.

“Pedigree” means pure-bred and entered in the Stud Book of the breed concerned.

“Horse Breeding Society” means a Society formed for the purpose of maintaining and improving the breeding of horses.

Premium, Subsidy and Grant

4. With the object of improving the breeding of horses in Northern Ireland, the Ministry may aid stallion owners and horse breeding societies by means of payments as follows:—

- (a) premiums in respect of approved stallions;
- (b) subsidies in respect of the purchase of approved stallions; and
- (c) grants to horse breeding societies in respect of the leasing of approved stallions.

Eligible Breeds

5. Only pedigree stallions of the Thoroughbred, Clydesdale, Irish Draught, Arab and Connemara breeds shall be eligible for assistance under this Scheme.

save that the Ministry may, in special circumstances, pay premiums, subsidies or grants in respect of pedigree stallions of other breeds for service in particular districts.

Age of Stallions

6. A stallion when inspected for a first-season premium or for a subsidy or a grant shall not be less than 3 years old, and save in exceptional circumstances; shall not be more than 6 years old, the age in either case being reckoned from the first day of January in the year of its birth.

Selection for Premium

7.—(1) The County Committee shall receive applications from persons who, if selected, are prepared to keep premium stallions for the service of mares in the county. Such applications shall be made to the County Committee in such form and within such time as the County Committee may determine.

(2) The inspection of stallions for premiums shall be made by the Ministry who shall send to each County Committee a list in order of merit by breeds of the names of stallions selected for premiums. The Ministry shall notify the owner of a stallion which has been approved for premium purposes.

(3) In making selections, a County Committee shall have regard to the needs of the various districts within its area and the adequacy of accommodation and facilities for the stallion and visiting mares, and shall be guided by the list of stallions prepared by the Ministry under paragraph (2).

(4) The total number of selected applicants in a county shall be limited by the total number of premiums approved by the Ministry for that county.

(5) The Secretary of the County Committee shall notify selected applicants and shall forward to the Ministry a list of such selected applicants.

(6) The conditions under which premium stallions are placed out shall be as set forth in the First Schedule.

(7) Not earlier than 1st September in any service season, and not later than the following 28th February, the owner of the premium stallion shall forward the service form and the completed claim for payment to the Secretary of the County Committee who shall be responsible for the examination and certification of all such claims and for their submission to the Ministry for payment.

Award of Subsidies

8.—(1) The County Committee shall receive application for a subsidy to purchase a stallion and shall make a recommendation thereon to the Ministry, which shall have power to accept, refuse or alter any such recommendation. Such recommendation shall have regard to the needs of the county and shall be on the understanding that the applicant will use the stallion for premium purposes for a period of five successive years.

(2) Where a County Committee recommends a subsidy and where such recommendation is accepted by the Ministry, the Ministry shall inform the applicant of the amount of the subsidy and of the conditions on which a stallion may be purchased. To be eligible for a subsidy, a stallion shall be purchased only after inspection and approval by the Ministry, who shall also be satisfied as to the reasonableness of the price.

(3) Before a subsidy is paid by the Ministry, the applicant shall sign an agreement as to the conditions attached by the Ministry thereto and if, after such payment the applicant fails to comply with any of the conditions of the

agreement, he shall be required by the Ministry to refund the amount of such subsidy.

Grants to Horse Breeding Societies

9.—(1) A horse breeding society which wishes to receive a grant from the Ministry shall agree to make an approved stallion available for the service of mares in approved districts.

(2) Inspection of the stallion for grant shall be made by the Ministry before the leasing of the stallion takes place.

(3) The society shall keep a record of the names and addresses of the persons whose mares have been served, together with the dates of such service, and this record shall be submitted to the Ministry when the grant is being claimed and at such other time as the Ministry may require.

Values of Premiums, Subsidies and Grants

10.—(1) The values of premiums, subsidies and grants payable by the Ministry shall be as set forth in the Second Schedule, save that the Ministry may pay such smaller amount as it may determine in respect of a premium stallion which fails to complete the prescribed number of services.

(2) In addition to the payment of subsidies as in paragraph (1) the Ministry may, where the stallion is conveyed by public transport from the place of purchase to the purchaser's farm, pay two-thirds of the cost of the carriage so incurred.

Authority of County Committees

11. The authority and functions of County Committees shall be as set forth in the Third Schedule.

Penalties

12.—(1) In the event of any infringement of, or non-compliance with the terms of this Scheme, payment of the premium, subsidy or grant or any part thereof may be withheld by the Ministry.

(2) Any person who through misrepresentation or fraud receives or claims payment of a premium, subsidy or grant in respect of a stallion, or obtains the service of a premium stallion for his mare under this Scheme, may, in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable by law, be debarred from obtaining in future any benefit under this Scheme.

Ministry's Right of Inspection

13. The Ministry may inspect at any reasonable time any stallion in respect of which a premium, subsidy or grant is to be or has been paid.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 6th day of March 1969.

(L.S.)

A. E. W. Steen,
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 10th day of March 1969.

(L.S.)

James V. Morrison,
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Conditions Applicable to Premium Stallions Service Season

1. The service season for a premium stallion shall be the calendar year, provided that the service season shall not commence for the purpose of this Scheme until the owner of the stallion has been notified by the Secretary of the County Committee that he has been selected to keep a premium stallion.

2. Save in exceptional circumstances, the prescribed number of mares to be served in order to qualify for the premium shall be as follows:—

Thoroughbred stallion	20 mares
Clydesdale or Irish Draught stallion	15 mares
Arab or Connemara stallion	20 mares
Any other approved breed of stallion	Such number as the Ministry may determine.

The service of mares the property of the owner of the stallion will not be recognised for premium purposes.

3. The service fee (inclusive of the groom's fee) for the prescribed number of services shall be fixed by the County Committee provided that such service fee shall not exceed the amounts shown hereunder for the breeds indicated.

Thoroughbred	£7 at time of service and £5 on proof of foal;
Clydesdale and Irish Draught	£5 at time of service and £5 on proof of foal;
Arab and Connemara	£4 at time of service and £4 on proof of foal;
Any other approved stallion	Such amount as may be determined by the Ministry.

These fees shall not apply in respect of the service of a mare entered or eligible for entry in the Stud Book by a premium stallion of the same breed. After the prescribed number of mares has been served the owner of the stallion may charge such fee as he may decide.

4. A mare to be eligible for service under this Scheme shall be the property of a person resident in Northern Ireland.

5. The owner of a premium stallion shall not, before the prescribed number of mares has been served, reserve the use of the stallion for mares the property of any individual.

6. The stallion owner shall keep in the service book supplied by the Ministry a record of the names and addresses of persons whose mares have been served, with dates of such services, at the fee fixed by the County Committee and the service book shall be produced for inspection on request by any authorised officer of the Ministry or by the County Committee.

7. The owner of a premium stallion shall have the right to refuse the use of his stallion in any case where he is satisfied that the services would be prejudicial to the stallion or where the owner of a mare presented for service has failed to pay the fee due for any service previously obtained under this Scheme. The reason for such refusal in either of these circumstances shall be communicated immediately to the Secretary of the County Committee who shall notify the Ministry of the circumstances to which service has been refused.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Values of Premiums, Subsidies and Grants

1. The maximum values of annual premiums payable under the Scheme shall be:—

For Thoroughbred stallions	£120
For Clydesdale or Irish Draught stallions	£50
For Arab or Connemara stallions	£50
For any other approved breed of stallion	£50

2. The amount of any subsidy under this Scheme payable to any applicant shall be such amount as the Ministry may determine, subject to the following maxima for any one stallion of the breeds indicated:—

For Thoroughbred stallions	two-thirds of the purchase price or £2,000, whichever is the less;
For Clydesdale or Irish Draught, Arab or Connemara stallions	one-half of the purchase price or £400, whichever is the less;
For any other approved breed of stallion	Such amount as the Ministry may determine.

3. The amount of grant to a Horse Breeding Society shall be determined by the Ministry. The fees charged for each service shall not, without the written permission of the Ministry, exceed £4 per mare payable at time of service and £8 payable on proof of foal and similarly the groom's fee, if any, for such service shall not exceed £1.

THIRD SCHEDULE

Authority and Functions of County Committees

Subject to the approval of the Ministry, a County Committee may lay down conditions or requirements as it deems advisable in regard to:—

- (a) the number of premium stallions which any one owner may possess;
- (b) the number of mares which any one owner may send to a premium stallion for service;
- (c) permitting the service of mares owned by any persons who would otherwise be excluded in accordance with the terms of the First Schedule;
- (d) the number of services required for premium purposes subject to the minimum prescribed for each breed in the First Schedule;
- (e) the breeding or location of mares the service of which may count towards the earning of a premium by each breed of stallion;
- (f) fixing the service fee subject to the maximum prescribed for each breed in the First Schedule;
- (g) authorising the owner of a premium stallion to demand a certificate of freedom from contagious or hereditary disease in respect of any mare brought for service.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Scheme which has been re-enacted with improved rates of subsidies and premiums provides for:—

- (a) premiums to be paid to selected applicants to keep stallions for the service of mares in the county;
- (b) the payment of subsidies in respect of the purchase of approved stallions with assistance on the freight costs.