

## 1988 No. 47

## AGRICULTURE

**Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1988**

*Made* . . . . . 18th February 1988

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 21st March 1988

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 9(1) and (2) of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel(b), hereby makes the following Scheme:

*Citation and commencement*

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Sheep Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1988 and shall come into operation on 21st March 1988.

*Interpretation*

2. In this Scheme—

- “application” means an application in accordance with Article 4;
- “approved” means approved by the Department;
- “100 day weight” means the weight which a lamb can reasonably be expected to attain at 100 days of age, calculated by the Department from an actual weight recorded under Part I;
- “Department” means the Department of Agriculture;
- “ewe” means a female sheep of breeding age;
- “flock” means, any number of pedigree sheep of one or more approved breeds owned by the same person in respect of which an application has been made;
- “flock group” means all sheep of the same breed in a flock;
- “ram” means a male sheep of breeding age;
- “ram lamb” means a male sheep which is not of breeding age;
- “registered flock” means a flock entered in the register;
- “recording year” means the period commencing 1st September and ending 31st August (both dates inclusive) in the next succeeding year;
- “register” means the register kept in accordance with Part I;
- “testing” means the testing of a ram or of a sample of its progeny, or of a ram lamb for the purpose of assessing its breeding value; and
- “veterinary surgeon” includes a veterinary practitioner.

(a) 1949 c. 2 (N.I.) as amended by S.I. 1977/1245 (N.I. 12) Article 5

(b) Formerly the Department of Finance: see S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Article 3

## PART I

## FLOCK RECORDING

*Register of recording flocks*

3. For the purposes of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of sheep in Northern Ireland, the Department shall keep a register of flocks in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

*Application*

4.—(1) The owner of a flock may apply to the Department, in such form as it may require, to have his flock registered.

(2) An application in respect of any recording year shall be made to the Department between 1st September and 30th November (both dates inclusive) in that year.

*Conditions of acceptance*

5.—(1) The Department shall accept an application only where—

(a) the owner of the flock:

(i) furnishes evidence in writing from a veterinary surgeon that all sheep owned by him are free from such diseases as the Department may specify and that the sheep in the flock exhibit no physical defects; and

(ii) is participating in any scheme or arrangement which may be operated by the Department for monitoring the health of, and controlling diseases in, sheep; and

(b) the flock contains not less than the specified number of ewes.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b) the specified number of ewes shall be—

(a) in the case of a flock containing sheep of the Blackface breed, 20 ewes; and

(b) in the case of any other flock, 5 ewes.

*Acceptance of application*

6. Where the Department accepts an application it shall notify the owner of the flock in writing of the fact and his flock shall be registered for the recording year in which the application was made.

*Rejection of application*

7. Where the Department rejects an application it shall notify the owner of the flock in writing of the fact and of the grounds for that rejection.

*Conditions applying to owners of registered flocks*

8. The owner of a registered flock shall comply with the provisions of the Schedule.

*Certification*

9. After the weighing of a registered flock is carried out in accordance with paragraph 1(e) of the Schedule, the Department—

- (a) shall issue to the owner of that flock a certificate containing the weighing results for each flock group; and
- (b) may issue to the owner of that flock—
  - (i) a certificate containing details of the number of lambs born to and reared by each ewe; and
  - (ii) a certificate in respect of any ram lamb born in the flock which achieves the approved standard of breeding merit.

*Cancellation of registration*

10. Where the owner of a registered flock fails at any time to comply with the provisions of the Schedule, the Department may by notice in writing to him cancel the registration of his flock.

*Transitional provisions*

11. Any flock which, immediately before the coming into operation of this Scheme, was approved under Article 4 (Application) of the Sheep Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982(a) shall be registered for the recording year which commenced on 1st September 1987.

## PART II

## TESTING OF SHEEP

*Acquisition of sheep for testing*

12. For the purpose of improving sheep breeds the Department may test such sheep as it thinks fit and it may purchase such sheep as it may require for the purpose of testing.

*Making available rams at stud*

13. The Department may make available to any person for stud purposes any ram selected by it in the course of, or as a result of, any test conducted under Article 12 or may sell to him semen from that ram for the purpose of the artificial insemination of a ewe in his flock.

*Testing of privately owned rams*

14. The Department may, at the request of the owner of a flock, accept for testing any ram lamb born in the flock subject to such terms and conditions as the Department may determine.

*Certification*

15. The Department shall issue to the owner of any ram lamb tested under Article 14 a certificate containing the details of the test results.

PART III

GENERAL

*Publication*

16. The Department may publish in such manner as it thinks fit any information obtained by it in the course of the operation of this Scheme.

*Revocation*

17. The Sheep Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982 is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 18th February 1988.

(L.S.)

*D. A. J. Hirrell*

Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 18th February 1988.

(L.S.)

*J. A. Mills*

Assistant Secretary

1. The owner of a registered flock shall:
- (a) identify and keep identified each sheep in his flock by an approved system of marking;
  - (b) within one week of its birth, notify the Department in writing of such details as it may require in respect of each sheep born in the flock;
  - (c) maintain, in respect of the flock such records, and in such manner as the Department may require;
  - (d) provide facilities which, in the opinion of the Department, are suitable for the accurate weighing of any lamb in the flock;
  - (e) permit the weighing of each lamb born in the flock at such time as the Department may direct so as to allow the calculation of its 100 day weight;
  - (f) participate in any scheme or arrangements which may be operated by the Department for monitoring the health of and controlling disease in sheep;
  - (g) permit an officer authorised by the Department in writing at all reasonable times to inspect the flock, and to check identification marks, records, and the accuracy of the equipment used for the weighing of sheep.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Scheme.)*

Section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949 empowers the Department of Agriculture, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel, to make schemes for aiding, improving and developing the breeding of sheep.

This Scheme, which is made under that Section, revokes and re-enacts with amendments the Sheep Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1982 ("the 1982 Scheme"), the main changes being:—

- (a) the introduction of a register of pedigree sheep flocks recording under the Scheme;
- (b) a revision of the conditions for the acceptance and continued participation of flocks in the Scheme; and
- (c) the introduction of provisions for the testing of rams for the purpose of assessing their breeding value.

Provisions is also made for the transition to the new Scheme of flocks participating in the 1982 Scheme.