

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland), 1949, provides that a Scheme may be made for aiding, improving and developing the breeding of poultry. This Scheme, made by the Ministry of Agriculture with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, sets forth the conditions under which farms may be accredited and the procedure to be followed by the owners of such farms.

**Acreege Payments (Specified Produce Crops) Scheme
(Northern Ireland), 1957**

SCHEME DATED 3RD SEPTEMBER, 1957, MADE BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER SECTION 1(1) OF THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1954(a), AS AMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) (AMENDMENT) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1957(b),

1957. No. 185

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The Minister of Agriculture with the approval of the Minister of Finance and in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Acts (Northern Ireland), 1954 and 1957 and of all other powers him thereunto enabling, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Short Title and Commencement

1.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Acreege Payments (Specified Produce Crops) Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1957.

(2) This Scheme shall come into operation on the 1st day of September, 1957.

Definitions

2. In this Scheme—

“Specified Produce Crop” means any crop of Oats, Barley, Wheat, Rye, Mixed Cereals, Cereal Legume Mixture, Beans, Peas, Turnips, Mangels, Kale, Cabbage and Fodder Beet. or any one or more than one of these.

“Registered Farmer” means any person who has been registered as provided for in Clause 4 of the Scheme.

“Acre” means statute acre.

“Acreege Payment” means a sum calculated in respect of any or all of the specified produce crops by reference to the total acreege occupied thereby.

Acreage Payments

3. The Ministry may, subject to and in accordance with the succeeding provisions of this Scheme make a payment of £2 per acre to registered farmers in respect of specified produce crops produced in the year 1957, provided that no payment shall be made in respect of specified produce crops grown for silage.

Registered Farmer

4.—(1) Any farmer in Northern Ireland who has land under specified produce crops shall be entitled to be registered on making an application on form F.C.S. 57 to the County Agricultural Executive Officer of the County in which the applicant resides from whom the said form may be obtained, but any acreage payment shall not be made under this Scheme unless such application be made to that person and in the manner aforesaid not later than 31st day of July, 1957, or such later date as the Ministry may in special circumstances allow.

(2) A person shall not be registered for the purposes of this Scheme unless on the first day of June, 1957—

- (a) he was farming land in Northern Ireland as owner, lessee or occupier thereof or as conacre tenant thereof;
- (b) the area of the land under specified produce crops was not less in the aggregate than one acre;
- (c) he owned the specified produce crops.

(3) Where a registered farmer dies before a payment under this Scheme has been made to him, that payment may, on production of Probate, Letters of Administration or such other evidence as appears to the Ministry to be satisfactory, be paid by the Ministry to his Personal Representatives for the benefit of his Estate or, if representation has not been raised and the amount of the payment is under one hundred pounds, may be paid by the Ministry to or for the benefit of his dependants.

Computation of Acreage

5. For the purpose of calculating the area of land on which specified produce crops are grown:—

- (a) headlands shall be included;
- (b) woodland and land occupied by roads, ponds, buildings, pits and quarries shall be excluded;
- (c) each complete quarter of an acre shall be included and smaller fractions of an acre shall be disregarded.

Bad Husbandry and Negligence

6. The Ministry may withhold all or a part of an acreage payment if in its opinion specified produce crops have been adversely affected because of—

- (a) unsuitability of the land for growing such crops;
- (b) negligence in connection with the preparation of the land for the sowing or planting of such crops or with the tending, saving, or harvesting thereof; or
- (c) land in which such crops were sown or planted, having within the period of twelve months preceding the year in which a claim is made, been used in a manner calculated to impair the fertility thereof.

Crop Failures

7. Where a specified produce crop has failed after sowing or planting the Ministry may make an acreage payment in respect thereof if the Ministry is satisfied that such failure was not due to any failure to maintain the land in good condition and farm it in accordance with the rules of good husbandry.

Recovery of Monies

8. If the Ministry, after having made a payment under this Scheme finds that such payment ought not to have been made in whole or in part or that the payment was in excess of the amount properly payable it may recover from the person to whom such payment has been made the whole or any part of the sum already paid, or may withhold or cause to be withheld any subsequent payment which would otherwise be or become due to that person in respect of any specified produce crop under this or any later Scheme or would otherwise become payable by the Ministry. The Ministry may also recover from a registered farmer, by way of set off, out of a payment due to him under this Scheme, any monies otherwise due to the Ministry by that person.

Entry and Inspection

9. A properly authorised officer of the Ministry shall be permitted to enter upon any farm occupied by a registered farmer.

Miscellaneous

10. There shall be no contract or obligation on the part of the Ministry to make any acreage payment and all acreage payments shall be at the Ministry's absolute discretion.

The application of a farmer for registration as a registered farmer under the Scheme will be regarded as implying his acceptance of the conditions of the Scheme.

R. Moore,
Minister of Agriculture.

I approve of the foregoing Scheme.

Terence O'Neill,
Minister of Finance.

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

This Scheme provides for the making of Acreage Payments at the rate of £2 per acre to farmers who have grown specified produce crops in 1957.