

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Order designates three scheduled points of entry from the Republic of Ireland into Northern Ireland which shall be reserved exclusively for attested cattle. Seven further points of entry may be used by attested cattle provided that the Ministry receives at least five days' notice.

1960. No. 58

[C]

POULTRY

Progeny Test

SCHEME, DATED 1ST APRIL, 1960, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1949(a).

The Ministry of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section nine 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 Poultry Progeny Testing (Temporary Provisions) Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1960, and shall come into operation on the 25th day of April, 1960.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme:—

“bird” means domestic fowl.

“cockerel” means a male bird in its first season.

“pen” means a group of twenty-four pullets belonging to the same owner and housed together during the test.

“pullet” means a female bird, hatched not more than seven months previous to the commencement of the test.

“test” means the grading and recording of the eggs laid by each pen.

Entries

3.—(1) Application for entry to the Scheme shall be made in the form specified in the First Schedule.

(2) Each entry shall be a sample of twenty-four point-of-lay pullets bred by the entrant and sired by a cockerel which shall be alive at the time of commencement of the test.

(3) Pullets entered for the Scheme shall be of the same breed which may be any recognised utility pure breed. A breeder may submit more than one entry to the Scheme.

Acceptance of Entries

4. If the number of entries received exceeds the accommodation available:—

(1) Applicants shall be selected according to the following order of preference:—

- Entries from Accredited Farms Grade A.
- Entries from Accredited Farms Grade B.
- Entries from other breeders.

(2) Other things being equal, preference shall be given to entries which show—

- (a) the pedigree and egg record of the sire's dam, and
- (b) the pedigree and egg record of the dams.

Fees

5.—(1) The fee for each entry shall be £5 and shall be paid when application for entry is made.

(2) If for any reason other than the failure of the entrant to comply with the conditions in Article 7, the Ministry does not accept an entry or does not complete the testing of an entry, the fee or a part thereof shall be refunded to the entrant.

Identification

6.—(1) A breeder shall cause all chicks intended for entry to the test to be temporarily identified at the time of hatching by toe punching or leg banding in such a manner as to relate them to their dams.

(2) Permanent wing banding of the birds when required shall be done by an officer of the Ministry.

(3) Where a pen is accepted for the test, a sealed ring shall be affixed by an officer of the Ministry to the cockerel which sired the pullets.

Conditions

7.—(1) Each entry shall be selected from the progeny of one cockerel mated with at least twelve females and shall include at least one daughter of each of six of these females.

(2) Before the pen is accepted, the twenty-four pullets for the test shall be selected by an officer of the Ministry so as to be representative of the dams, subject to the provision of paragraph (1), from all the pullets from the matings which are of suitable age for the test.

(3) An entrant shall take or permit the Ministry to take in respect of his entry all the precautions against disease laid down in the Second Schedule. A pen found to contain a bird that is unhealthy or affected with disease shall not be accepted for the test.

(4) Save in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Ministry, no bird shall be returned to its owner before completion of the test.

(5) No bird which dies during the test may be replaced.

(6) All eggs laid during the test shall be sold by the Ministry and the amount realised by such sale shall be applied towards defraying the expenses of the test.

(7) The cost of transport of birds entered for the test being moved to or from the test premises shall be borne by the breeder.

Scoring System

8.—(1) Eggs shall be graded as follows during the test:—

Super Grade—Minimum Weight $2\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

First Grade—Minimum Weight 2 oz.

Second Grade—Minimum Weight $1\frac{3}{4}$ oz.

(2) The score of a pen shall consist of all normally-shelled eggs of super grade and first grade laid during the test and ten normally-shelled eggs of second grade for each pullet, provided that second grade eggs shall only count towards the score of a pen if laid during the first eight weeks of the test.

(3) Second grade eggs in excess of ten for each pullet or laid after the first eight weeks shall be included for the purpose of determining average total production and in the final report of the test.

Records and Reports

9.—(1) Records shall be kept of:—

(a) the number and grade of all eggs laid by each pullet, and

(b) the total number and grade of eggs produced by each pen.

(2) The Ministry shall send to each entrant reports on every four-week period of the test and such report shall contain the number of eggs produced by the pen and the score of the pen during the four weeks, together with the total number of eggs of each grade produced by each pen since the beginning of the test.

(3) At the conclusion of the test the Ministry shall publish a general report on the entire test.

Awards

10.—(1) In order to be considered for an award—

(a) birds shall in the opinion of the Ministry be of suitable type for breeding, and

(b) at the conclusion of the test not more than four birds in the pen shall have died provided that a death resulting from accident or misadventure shall not be taken into account for the purposes of this sub-paragraph.

(2) A certificate in the form set out in the Third Schedule shall be awarded in respect of every pen, the score of which, calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 8, is not less than a hen-housed average of 180 eggs per pullet during the period of the test.

(3) The sire of a pen awarded a certificate in accordance with paragraph (2), shall retain the sealed ring affixed at the time of the selection of the pullets.

(4) A Perpetual Challenge Cup shall be awarded in respect of the sire of the pen with the highest score calculated in accordance with the provisions of Article 8. The winner shall hold the said Cup for one year and shall receive a replica of it for retention.

Loss or Injury

11. The Ministry cannot entertain any claim against it for the loss of birds or injury to birds while they are accommodated on the test premises or in transit to or from the said premises.

Decision

12. The Ministry's decision on all matters relating to the test and the awards shall be binding, and entries are accepted only on this understanding.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 1st day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty.

(L.S.)

W. A. V. Sanderson,
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 1st day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty.

(L.S.)

K. R. Shimeld,
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE

GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Poultry Progeny Test 1960/61

I,
of
County
hereby apply under the above-mentioned Scheme to enter 24 pullets to be selected from the progeny of the Cockerel and at least 6 Hens, details of which are given below.

I agree to comply with any rules and conditions which may be laid down and I enclose £5 being the entry fee in respect of this application.

I certify that the information given on this form is correct.

Signature.....

Date.....

DETAILS OF ENTRY

Sire

- (1) Breed
- (2) Date of Hatching
- (3) Strain of Sire
- (4) Egg record of Dam (If official give number and year)
- (5) Egg record of Sire's Dam (If official give number and year)

In the event of the death of the Cockerel, the Ministry should be notified.

Dams

Ring Number (If copper ringed at a test the No. of the ring should be given)	Date of Hatching	Where recorded	Number of Eggs laid in pullet Year			
			Super	First Grade	Below First Grade	Total
(1).....
(2).....
(3).....
(4).....
(5).....
(6).....
(7).....
(8).....
(9).....
(10).....
(11).....
(12).....
(13).....
(14).....
(15).....
(16).....
(17).....
(18).....

SECOND SCHEDULE

Precautions against Disease

1. All birds entered shall have been blood tested for Bacillary White Diarrhoea. If all the poultry on the farm from which the entry is drawn have not passed this blood test in accordance with the Ministry's requirements, the birds to be entered for the Test shall be effectively isolated from all birds which have not been blood tested and from all birds which have been exposed to infection by reactors.

2. On arrival at the Test premises, birds shall be individually examined by officers of the Ministry in order to determine if they may be accepted in accordance with Article 7(3).

3. If during the Test any bird develops a disease which in the opinion of the Ministry may endanger the health of other birds in the Test, the Ministry may decide that the birds in the pen or pens where the disease developed should—

- (a) be permitted to remain in the Test, or
- (b) be returned forthwith to the owner, or
- (c) be destroyed immediately.

4. At the end of the Test, birds shall be again submitted to blood testing for B.W.D. Any birds which react positively to the blood test shall be sold for table purposes and the proceeds of the sale shall be given to their owner.

5. Any bird dying during the Test shall be subjected to a post-mortem examination by the Ministry. The owner shall receive a copy of the report stating the cause of death.