

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Order maintains the existing prohibition against the importation, except under licence, of live or dead poultry or of eggs for hatching and it extends that prohibition to include eggs other than eggs for hatching and also poultry equipment from countries other than the Irish Republic.

1960. No. 63

[C]

AGRICULTURE

Accredited Poultry Farms Scheme

SCHEME, DATED 8TH APRIL, 1960, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1949(a), AND UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1958(b).

The Ministry of Agriculture by virtue and in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sub-section (1) of section nine of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland), 1949, and by sub-sections (1) and (3) of section two of the Diseases of Animals Act (Northern Ireland), 1958, and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

PART I—GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Accredited Poultry Farms (Northern Ireland) Scheme, 1960, and shall come into operation on the second day of May, 1960.

Definitions

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

“Accredited” means approved by the Ministry in accordance with this Scheme, and “accreditation” shall be construed accordingly;

“As hatched” means not sexed;

“Authorised” means authorised by the Ministry;

“Contract Supply Farm” means a farm which is not an accredited farm but is approved in accordance with the Ninth Schedule to supply under contract, to the hatchery specified in the contract, hatching eggs from birds obtained from a Parent Breeding Farm;

“Day-old chick” means a chick not more than forty-eight hours old;

“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;

- “Ministry” means the Ministry of Agriculture;
- “Parent Breeding Farm” means an accredited farm which has a contract with supply farms approved in accordance with Article 12;
- “Poultry” means domestic fowl;
- “Reactor” means a bird which has shown a positive reaction to a blood-test carried out by the Ministry;
- “Special Breeding Farm” means a farm registered under the Poultry Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1958(a).

Register of Accredited Farms

3. With the object of aiding and improving the breeding of poultry, developing its commercial characteristics, and promoting the breeding and distribution of stocks free from disease, a register of farms in Northern Ireland called “Accredited Farms” on which the stock appears to be satisfactory shall be prepared and kept by the Ministry; but the Ministry shall not be responsible for eggs or birds supplied by the owners of such farms. The Register shall contain separate sections for the different types of farm described in the Fourth Schedule.

PART II—CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL ACCREDITED FARMS

Application for Registration

4. Application for registration shall be made to the Ministry in the form prescribed in the First Schedule on or before 2nd May, 1960, provided that the Ministry may in exceptional circumstances accept applications after that date. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee as follows:—

- | | |
|--|----|
| (a) For a Special Breeding Farm | £2 |
| (b) For a farm intended to be accredited as a Parent Breeding Farm ... | £2 |
| (c) For a farm intended to be accredited in Grade I or Grade II | £1 |

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

Provisional Approval

5.—(1) Provisional approval shall be granted to an applicant

- (a) who is the owner of a Special Breeding Farm, or
 (b) who is the owner of a Parent Breeding Farm,

provided that in each case the breeding policy of the farm has been approved by the Ministry.

(2) Provisional approval may be granted to any other applicant

- (a) whose stock is, in the opinion of the Ministry, suitable for accreditation subject to satisfactory blood-test, and which has been derived from a source approved by the Ministry; and
 (b) whose farm and equipment comply with the conditions set out in the Second Schedule.

(3) The Ministry may 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.

(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1958, No. 80.

Blood Testing

6.—(1) The birds on the farm of an applicant to whom provisional approval is granted shall be blood tested as laid down in the Third Schedule.

(2) The testing of birds in the breeding flocks shall be carried out free of charge annually by an authorised officer but flocks which are kept intensively for commercial egg production in accordance with the Sixth Schedule may not require annual testing provided that there is no evidence of infection on the farm.

(3) Adequate assistance shall be provided by the applicant when the blood samples are being taken.

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

Accreditation

7.—(1) A provisionally approved farm shall be accredited as defined in the Fourth Schedule provided that:—

(a) the entire adult stock has been blood tested during 1960 in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the Third Schedule, and is free from reactors;

(b) the stock appears to an authorised officer to be healthy;

(c) 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, provided that on a Special Breeding Farm or a Parent Breeding Farm selection and identification of breeding stock shall be carried out in accordance with the approved breeding programme by or on behalf of the owner of the farm;

(d) the accommodation, management, stock, staff and equipment continue to comply with the conditions of the Scheme.

(2) Accreditation shall, unless withdrawn, remain in force until 30th November, 1961. Where an accredited farm is in the process of changing to a Contract Supply Farm, accreditation shall be withdrawn as soon as the new stock from the Parent Breeding Farm reaches point of lay.

Stamping

8.—(1) All eggs sold for hatching shall be stamped with a stamp supplied by the Ministry. Where chicks are to be sold the accompanying delivery note shall be stamped with the stamp supplied by the Ministry.

(2) 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.

(3) The stamp which is not transferable shall be returned to the Ministry on request or if there is a change of ownership of the farm.

Exemption of Individual Farms

9. The Ministry may issue a written authorisation modifying the provisions of this Scheme to the owner of an individual farm. Such modification will be based on the breeding programme of the farm.

Failure to observe conditions

10. Failure by the owner of an accredited farm to observe any of the conditions applicable to him shall be sufficient ground for the Ministry to remove the farm from the said Register.

PART III—SPECIAL BREEDING FARMS

11. A special breeding farm shall carry out the breeding programme approved by the Ministry and shall not vary it except with the written approval of the Ministry.

PART IV—CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY OWNERS
OF PARENT BREEDING FARMS

12. The owner of a Parent Breeding Farm

- (a) shall satisfy the Ministry that the breeding programme is likely to result in an improvement of the commercial characteristics of the stock;
- (b) shall not distribute any stock to a Contract Supply Farm unless under a written contract approved by the Ministry;
- (c) shall not enter into such contract with a Contract Supply Farm until the Contract Supply Farm has been inspected and approved by the Ministry in accordance with the Ninth Schedule;
- (d) shall take part in random sample tests conducted by the Ministry;
- (e) (i) shall not sell for hatching, eggs which are less than 2 oz. in weight except in the case of approved broiler crosses which shall be not less than $1\frac{7}{8}$ oz.;
(ii) nor shall he sell eggs which are over-sized, badly-shaped, thin- or rough-shelled or of inferior colour;
- (f) shall permit inspection of the farm, stock and records by an authorised officer at any reasonable time;
- (g) shall, where he suspects that disease exists amongst his flock, immediately forward sample carcasses of the affected birds accompanied by a document bearing the accredited farm stamp, and details of symptoms observed, to the Veterinary Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, The Farm, Stormont, Belfast, 4;
- (h) shall maintain the stock and equipment to the satisfaction of the Ministry in accordance with good poultry husbandry and shall carry out such disinfection and fumigation as may be directed by the Ministry.

PART V—CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED BY OWNERS OF FARMS
ACCREDITED IN GRADE I OR GRADE II

13. The owner of a farm accredited in Grade I or Grade II

- (a) (i) shall not sell for hatching, eggs which are less than 2 oz. in weight except in the case of approved broiler crosses which shall be not less than $1\frac{7}{8}$ oz.;
(ii) nor shall he sell eggs which are over-sized, badly-shaped, thin- or rough-shelled or of inferior colour;
- (b) shall issue a dated, signed and stamped delivery note with each consignment of hatching eggs or chicks showing the number of eggs or chicks in the consignment. He shall retain a duplicate copy of this note;
- (c) shall permit inspection of the farm, stock and records by an authorised officer at any reasonable time;
- (d) shall breed, hatch and rear the pullet replacements for the breeding pens in subsequent years except that to the owners of farms accredited in Grade II the Ministry may grant prior permission in writing authorising

the purchase of hatching eggs or of day-old chicks for pullet replacements from a Special Breeding Farm or from a farm accredited in Grade I;

- (e) shall not obtain hatching eggs, chicks or other birds except from a source approved by the Ministry;
- (f) shall effectively separate the birds mated for pure bred chicks from those mated for crosses;
- (g) shall mate flocks for the production of first-cross eggs or chicks only as prescribed in the Fifth Schedule;
- (h) shall, where he suspects that disease exists amongst his flock, immediately forward sample carcasses of the affected birds accompanied by a document bearing the accredited farm stamp and details of symptoms observed to the Veterinary Research Division, Ministry of Agriculture, The Farm, Stormont, Belfast, 4;
- (i) shall maintain the stock and equipment to the satisfaction of the Ministry in accordance with good poultry husbandry, and shall carry out such disinfection and fumigation as may be directed by the Ministry;
- (j) shall not sell any hatching eggs or day-old chicks after 31st May, 1961, unless he has obtained the prior permission of the Ministry in writing. He shall sell such eggs or chicks only in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the Eighth Schedule;
- (k)
 - (i) shall keep in the books provided by the Ministry for the purpose careful records of the number of eggs produced each day by the mated birds (pures and crosses separately) and, in the case of hatching eggs, chicks or stock birds, of the date supplied and the name and address of the purchaser;
 - (ii) shall record the deaths of adult birds due to disease; and
 - (iii) shall return the books to the Ministry on request;
- (l) shall, where he is selling chicks in accordance with the conditions of the Eighth Schedule or Article 2 of the Fifth Schedule, submit to the Ministry in respect of each month a return showing—
 - (i) the number of chicks of each breed or cross supplied;
 - (ii) the date on which supplied; and
 - (iii) the name and address of the purchaser.He shall forward such return to reach the Ministry not later than the 5th of the month following that to which the return relates;
- (m)
 - (i) shall mate for the production of pure bred chicks only hens which have completed at least one year's laying and which have been hatched not later than 31st March, 1959, in the case of heavy breeds and not later than 30th April, 1959, in the case of light breeds;
 - (ii) shall mate a minimum of 60 such hens of the principal breed on the farm and shall not mate more than one further pure breed or variety. If he mates a second breed or variety he shall mate at least 36 hens;
 - (iii) shall maintain the pure bred matings at least until adequate replacements have been hatched;
- (n) shall not bring additional birds into the breeding pens after the birds in the pens have been selected and ringed except with the consent of the Poultry Advisory Officer;
- (o)
 - (i) shall not keep or permit any person residing on his farm to keep, either singly or jointly with him, more than two breeds or varieties of a breed on the accredited farm, nor poultry on a farm other than

- an accredited farm, nor any poultry other than poultry in or bred from the accredited flocks;
- (ii) shall not permit any person to keep poultry other than accredited poultry on his home farm;
 - (iii) provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted as precluding the owner of an accredited farm who is changing to a Contract Supply Farm from bringing on to his farm young stock from a parent breeding farm;
 - (p) shall not bring on to the farm stock cockerels or eggs or chicks from which he intends primarily to raise stock cockerels except as prescribed in the Seventh Schedule;
 - (q) shall not vary the arranged breeding programme without consulting the Poultry Advisory Officer.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 8th day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty, in the presence of

(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 8th day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty, in the presence of

(L.S.)

K. R. Shimeld,
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND
ACCREDITED POULTRY FARMS SCHEME, 1960

Accredited Farm
Stamp No. (if
previously
accredited).

FORM NO. 1

Form of Application for Registration of Special Breeding Farms
or farms intended to be Accredited as Parent Breeding Farms

1. I (Mr., Mrs., Miss).....
(Give full Christian name and surname in Capitals)

of
(State full address)

Telephone No..... County.....
hereby apply for registration under the above-mentioned Scheme.

2. I hereby undertake, in the event of my farm being accredited, to comply with
all the provisions of the Scheme.

3. I enclose.....to the value of £2 in payment of my
(Postal Order, Cheque, etc.)
registration fee.

4. The total number of birds at present on my farm is as follows:

Birds over five months old

| Number of Males | Number of Females |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

Birds under five months old

| Number of Pullets | Date of Hatching |
|-------------------|------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

| Number of Cockerels | Date of Hatching |
|---------------------|------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

I do.

5. If my farm is *not* provisionally approved for registration I do not (delete words
which do not apply) wish to have my birds blood-tested at the appropriate fees.

6. The name of my Poultry Advisory Officer (Instructor) is.....

Date..... Signature.....

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

ACCREDITED POULTRY FARMS SCHEME, 1960

FORM No. 2

Accredited Farm Stamp No. (if previously accredited).

Form of Application for registration of farms intended to be accredited in Grade I or Grade II section

1. I (Mr., Mrs., Miss).....
(Give full Christian name and surname in Capitals)

of
(State full address)

Telephone No..... County.....
hereby apply for registration under the above-mentioned Scheme.

2. I hereby undertake, in the event of my farm being accredited, to comply with all the provisions of the Scheme.

3. I enclose.....to the value of £1 in payment of my registration fee.
(Postal Order, Cheque, etc.)

4. The total number of birds at present on my farm is as follows:

| Females Breed | No. hatched before 1st May, 1959 | No. hatched during 1959/60 in the month of | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Sept. 1959 | Oct. 1959 | Nov. 1959 | Dec. 1959 | Jan. 1960 | Feb. 1960 | March 1960 | April 1960 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

| Cockerels for Breeding Breed | No. hatched before 1st May, 1959 | No. hatched during 1959/60 in the month of | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Sept. 1959 | Oct. 1959 | Nov. 1959 | Dec. 1959 | Jan. 1960 | Feb. 1960 | March 1960 | April 1960 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

I do.

5. If my farm is *not* provisionally approved for registration I do not (delete words which do not apply) wish to have my birds blood-tested at the appropriate fees.

6. The name of my Poultry Advisory Officer (Instructor) is.....

Date..... Signature.....

SECOND SCHEDULE

Conditions Governing Provisional Approval

The applicant shall:

- (a) have the prescribed minimum number of pure-bred female birds of the required standard and age of one or two breeds and an adequate number of pullets of the same breed or breeds coming forward for replacements;
- (b) have available adequate incubating and rearing equipment;
- (c) have sufficient suitable land to permit of adequate segregation and of good management;
- (d) have adequate suitable housing for all the stock;
- (e) dispose of unsuitable or ineligible birds (including birds hatched after 31st March, 1960, in the case of heavy breeds and after 30th April, 1960, in the case of light breeds).

THIRD SCHEDULE

Blood Testing

All adult birds on a farm will be tested and, if no reactor is found, the farm will be considered to have passed the test.

Where on a provisionally approved farm not more than 2 per cent. of reactors is found in any one flock one clear test shall suffice. Where more than 2 per cent. of reactors occur in any one flock the Ministry may require two consecutive clear tests of this flock.

Where the Ministry is satisfied that there is wide-spread infection on any farm, it may require two consecutive clear tests of all the birds on the farm.

The sale of a flock in which reactors are found shall not necessarily relieve the owner of the obligation to have further testing carried out.

All reactors shall be isolated and, if reaction is confirmed by a subsequent laboratory test, disposed of for table purposes.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

Grading of Accredited Farms

Special Breeding Farms

Farms approved under the Poultry Breeding Scheme.

Parent Breeding Farms

Approved farms as defined in Article 2.

Grade I Farms

Farms on which all the stock is of a high standard, with general regard to type, production records and management. Results at the Ministry's Poultry Testing Station shall be taken into consideration.

Grade II Farms

Farms which are of suitable standard for accreditation but below the requirements for Grade I shall be registered in this grade.

FIFTH SCHEDULE

Conditions upon which birds may be mated for first crosses on farms accredited in Grade I or Grade II

On a farm accredited in Grade I or Grade II flocks may be mated for the production of first cross eggs or chicks provided that the following conditions are observed:—

1. *Where first cross eggs only are to be sold*

- (a) where pullets are to be mated, the birds shall be at least 12 months old at the time of mating, and mating shall not be done before 1st September, 1960;
- (b) eggs shall not be sold for hatching until at least three weeks after the date of mating;
- (c) not more than two different crosses shall be made on any farm at any one time provided that special permission may be given by the Ministry to mate not more than two different crosses of each breed or variety at any one time on farms on which there are at least 200 hens suitable for pure bred mating and on which effective arrangements have been made for the separation of the various flocks;
- (d) female birds of not more than two breeds or varieties may be mated for crosses and for pure-bred chicks;
- (e) two white or predominantly white breeds shall not be mated together without the prior permission of the Ministry in writing, except that White Leghorn may be mated with Light Sussex and Light Sussex may be mated with White Leghorn;
- (f) a Light Sussex or a Columbian Plymouth Rock male shall not be used for crossing with hens of any breed other than White Leghorn without the prior permission of the Ministry in writing;
- (g) all the eggs from birds mated for the production of first crosses shall be sold unless special permission has been obtained for the sale of first-cross chicks.

2. *Where first-cross chicks as well as first-cross eggs are to be sold*

Farms on which incubators (preferably of cabinet type) of at least 1,500 egg capacity are installed and on which there are 200 hens suitable for pure-bred mating may obtain special permission to hatch first-cross chicks. Such permission shall be granted on condition that the provisions of Article 1 have been complied with and that—

- (a) only eggs produced on the owner's farm shall be hatched;
- (b) unless the Ministry otherwise directs, the chicks shall not be retained for longer than 48 hours;
- (c) suitable facilities shall be available for ensuring cleanliness and the avoidance of the spread of disease. When chicks are being sexed and boxed and the boxes placed ready for despatch, the pure-bred chicks shall be kept separate from the first-cross chicks. A separate incubator room, a sexing and despatch room and a wash room fitted with a supply of hot and cold water, will normally be required.

SIXTH SCHEDULE

Conditions upon which birds may be kept for commercial egg production on accredited farms

The owner of an accredited farm may keep for commercial egg production a flock of birds of the breed or breeds approved for accreditation in the 1960/61 season, provided that the prior approval of the Ministry is obtained. The following conditions shall apply:—

- (1) The flock shall consist only of birds which have been bred and reared on the farm.
- (2) Such flocks shall not be mated and shall be adequately segregated from the breeding flocks.

(3) A record of the egg production of such flocks shall be maintained and made available to the Ministry.

(4) Birds in these flocks shall be subject to such inspection and tests for disease as the Ministry may require.

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

Procedure to be observed by owners of Grades I and II Accredited Farms wishing to obtain Stock Cockerels

Grade I Farms

Owners of Grade I farms shall obtain stock cockerels or eggs or chicks from which primarily to raise stock cockerels only from Special Breeding Farms, Parent Breeding Farms or other Grade I farms.

Grade II Farms

Owners of Grade II farms shall obtain stock cockerels or eggs or chicks from which primarily to raise stock cockerels only from Special Breeding Farms, Parent Breeding Farms, Grade I farms or from other approved sources.

Surplus cockerels obtained by a Grade II farm shall only be eligible for sale as from a Grade II farm.

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

Conditions upon which hatching eggs or day-old chicks for table purposes may be sold

(1) The owner of an accredited farm may be permitted to sell eggs for the hatching of chicks for table purposes after the 31st May, 1961, provided that the eggs are from pures or crosses suitable for the broiler trade.

(2) The owner of an accredited farm may be permitted to sell for table purposes chicks hatched from pures or crosses suitable for the broiler trade, provided that the following conditions are observed:—

- (a) the incubator capacity is of at least 1,500 egg size and there are on the farm 200 hens suitable for pure-bred mating;
- (b) only eggs produced on the owner's farm from birds which formed the 1960/61 accredited pens are hatched;
- (c) all chicks are disposed of as day-old and as hatched;
- (d) suitable facilities are available for ensuring cleanliness and the avoidance of the spread of disease. A separate incubator room, despatch room and a washroom fitted with a supply of hot and cold water will normally be required;
- (e) two white or predominantly white breeds are not mated together without the prior permission of the Ministry in writing, except that White Leghorn may be mated with Light Sussex and Light Sussex may be mated with White Leghorn;
- (f) a Light Sussex or a Columbian Plymouth Rock male shall not be used for crossing with hens of any breed other than White Leghorn without the prior permission of the Ministry in writing.

NINTH SCHEDULE

Conditions applicable to Contract Supply Farms

- (1) Only birds supplied by the Parent Breeding Farm shall be kept on a Contract Supply Farm, with the exception that unmated stock on the farm at the time of first application may be retained unmated if it has passed the blood-test in accordance with the Third Schedule.
- (2) The owner of a Contract Supply Farm shall stamp all eggs sold for hatching with a numbered stamp identifying the farm and provided by the Parent Breeding Farm.
- (3) The owner of a Contract Supply Farm shall not send eggs for hatching to any licensed hatchery other than that specified in the contract.
- (4) The owner of a Contract Supply Farm shall not distribute for hatching eggs which are less than 2 ounces in weight except that where the eggs are from a broiler strain specially approved by the Ministry in writing they shall be not less than $1\frac{7}{8}$ ounces; nor shall eggs which are not of good shell shape and texture be distributed for hatching. Such eggs or eggs from the mated flock which are not required at the specified hatchery shall be disposed of for table purposes.
- (5) The owner of a Contract Supply Farm shall take such precautions against disease as the Ministry may from time to time direct. He shall also permit the Ministry to blood test the birds free of charge at such times as it may require. No blood testing other than that carried out by the Ministry shall be recognised.
- (6) The following records shall be kept at the Contract Supply Farm:—
Number of chicks received from the parent breeding farm.
Mortality—up to 8 weeks;
 up to point of lay;
 at end of laying season.
- (7) The stock and records shall be available for inspection by the Ministry at any reasonable time.
- (8) The Ministry may withdraw approval of the farm at any time.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This annual Scheme prescribes conditions for accredited poultry farms which are designed to aid, improve and develop the breeding of poultry. The main alterations in this year's Scheme are the addition of two new grades of farm (Parent Breeding and Special Breeding Farms) and the removal of the former Grade B farms. Grade A and Grade C farms are redesignated Grade I and Grade II.