

1971. No. 340

[C]

ANIMALS**Milk Recording and Progeny Testing**

SCHEME, DATED 29TH OCTOBER 1971, 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 9 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 Milk Recording and Progeny Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 and shall come into operation on the 1st day of November 1971.

Revocation

2. The Milk Recording and Progeny Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1964(b) is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme—

“approved” means approved by the Ministry of Agriculture;

“cow” means a female of the bovine species and unless otherwise stated includes a heifer;

“herdowner” means the owner of a herd accepted for participation in this Scheme;

“pedigree” means entered in the herd book of the breed concerned;

“Recording Officer” means an officer appointed by the Ministry to visit herds, take weights or measurements and samples of milk, and tattoo or otherwise mark cows under test.

Purposes of the Scheme

4. The Ministry may with the agreement of the owner record or supervise the recording of the milk production of cows and take samples of the milk for the purpose of determining the percentage of butterfat and solids-not-fat present in it. The information thus obtained shall be used generally for the purpose of assessing the breeding value of dairy cattle.

Eligible herds

5. Only the following types of herds shall be eligible to participate in the Scheme:—

(a) Pedigree herds of approved dairy breeds;

(b) Non-pedigree herds of approved dairy breeds where at least half the herd consists of one such breed;

(c) Herds which are approved as suitable for progeny testing purposes.

(a) 1949, c. 2,

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964, No. 33,

Application and inspection

6.—(1) Application for participation in the Scheme shall be made in such form as the Ministry may require at least one month before recording is expected to begin.

(2) Before accepting or rejecting a herd for participation in the Scheme the Ministry may inspect the herd.

Conditions of acceptance

7.—(1) The owner of a herd of the types described in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of Article 5 which is accepted for participation in this Scheme shall perform, observe and comply with the conditions set forth in Part 1 of the Schedule.

(2) The conditions set forth in Part 2 of the Schedule shall apply to recording in a herd of the type described in sub-paragraph (c) of Article 5.

Fees

8.—(1) Subject to paragraph 2 of this Article a herdowner shall for each year ending on the 31st day of March pay the following fees to the Ministry for recording the milk production of cows:—

(a) In respect of a herd of less than 10 cows under test:

For the first year a herd fee of £5 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

For the second year a herd fee of £10 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

For the third year a herd fee of £15 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

For each subsequent year a herd fee of £20 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

(b) In respect of all other herds for each year a herd fee of £20 and a lactation fee of £1 in respect of each cow.

(2) A herdowner shall up to the 31st day of March 1972 only be required to pay in respect of a herd of less than 10 cows under test a herd fee of £2.50 and in respect of all other herds a herd fee of £10 and shall not up to such date be required to pay any lactation fee.

(3) If a herd is accepted into this Scheme the fees payable in accordance with this Article for that year shall become immediately payable, and the fees for all subsequent years in which the herd remains in the Scheme shall be payable on the 1st day of April of the year in respect of which the fees are due.

(4) If a herdowner withdraws from this Scheme before the 1st day of October in any year the Ministry may refund to him half the herd fee paid by him on the 1st day of April of that year but no other refund shall be made to him.

(5) The Ministry may waive the payment of fees in respect of any cows belonging to a herd which has been approved as suitable for progeny testing if it considers such cows are providing information useful to the Ministry but in such case the Ministry shall not issue an official certificate of yield.

Calculation of yields and qualification of cows

9.—(1) As soon as possible after receiving a record of a lactation properly completed by the herdowner the Ministry shall calculate the total yield of milk and the respective contents of butterfat and solids-not-fat, the total yield

of milk being calculated from the periodical weighings or measurements recorded by the herdowner and the Recording Officer.

(2) Where it is satisfied that recording has been properly carried out the Ministry may issue free of charge to the herdowner a Certificate of Yield in respect of each completed lactation; duplicate copies of the certificate may be issued on the payment of 25p.

(3) Certificates showing particulars of all the recorded lactations of a cow may be issued by the Ministry on the payment of 50p.

(4) Statements showing annual herd average or an average of daughter yield of a privately owned stock bull may be issued by the Ministry on the payment of £1 for each statement.

(5) Where in the Ministry's opinion there are significant discrepancies between the weights or measurements recorded by the herdowner and the Recording Officer respectively the Ministry may refuse to issue a certificate or may issue a Certificate of Yield based on the weights or measurements obtained by the Recording Officer.

(6) The standard lactation period recognised by the Ministry for the purpose of recording under the Scheme shall be 305 days and a lactation shall be regarded as complete on commencement of once a day milking.

(7) Where the standards prescribed by the Ministry from time to time under the Livestock Breeding Act (Northern Ireland) 1922(c) for cows of dairy breeds have been achieved during a lactation the certificate shall be endorsed to indicate that the cow is qualified to breed dairy bulls of licensing standard.

General

10.—(1) Where a herdowner fails to comply with any of the conditions of the Scheme the Ministry may withdraw its supervision of the recording of the herd, may notify the appropriate Breed Society and may refuse to re-admit the herd to the Scheme.

(2) The Ministry may, for good and sufficient reason, remove the name of any animal from its lists of qualified or other cows or from the lists of progeny of qualified cows.

(3) The Ministry may publish particulars, obtained as a result of recording under the Scheme, in respect of any cow and its progeny.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 28th day of October 1971.

(L.S.)

J. Parke,

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 29th day of October 1971.

(L.S.)

C. F. Darling,

Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE

PART 1

Conditions to be observed by herdowners in accordance with Article 7(1)

After acceptance of a herd for participation in the Scheme the herdowner shall:—

- (1) Provide an approved apparatus for the weighing or measuring of milk.
- (2) Notify the Ministry in writing of the hours at which he intends to milk his cows daily, observe these hours in practice and similarly notify the Ministry of any intention to alter such hours.
- (3) Make an individual application, in such form as the Ministry may require, in respect of each cow of which the milk production is to be recorded under the supervision of the Ministry.
- (4) Save as otherwise approved, record for each lactation the milk production of each cow under test and commence such recording on the first day on which a weighing or measurement is scheduled to be taken after each calving provided that no weighing or measurement shall be recorded during the first four days after calving.
- (5) Weigh or measure the quantity of milk yielded by each cow under test on the same weekday at intervals of six weeks during the lactation period and accurately record the weight or measurement immediately after it has been taken; the day on which measurements or weighings are taken shall not be Saturday, Sunday or Monday unless the Ministry otherwise approves.
- (6) Make the record of a lactation available for inspection as required by the Recording Officer.
- (7) Send the original record to the Ministry on the completion of the recording of each lactation, irrespective of the completion, production or duration of the lactation or the interval to the next calving of the cow.
- (8) Afford the Recording Officer all necessary facilities for making check weighings or measurements of milk yields and taking milk samples for analysis.
- (9) Earmark, or permit the Ministry to earmark, each cow under test and its progeny in such manner as will enable the cow and its progeny to be individually identified at any time.
- (10) Maintain and enter in a register, particulars of each cow participating in the Scheme, of its pedigree, identification marks, date of birth, services, calvings, milk yields and progeny and such other information as the Ministry may require.
- (11) Permit officers of the Ministry to inspect the herd at any reasonable time and afford all reasonable facilities for the carrying out of such inspection.
- (12) Notify the Ministry within two days of each calving, whether normal or otherwise, of each cow in the herd.
- (13) Ensure that the dates of birth, services and calvings and all such relevant information furnished to the Ministry under the Scheme are correct in every particular.

PART 2

**Conditions applicable to herds of the type described in
sub-paragraph (c) of Article 5**

(1) Completion of all forms and documents relating to cows being recorded free of charge for progeny testing purposes shall normally, unless otherwise approved, be carried out by the Recording Officer. Yields of milk shall be recorded by the herdowner as in Paragraph (5) of Part 1 except where otherwise arranged by the Ministry.

(2) Female progeny of the Ministry's bulls used for artificial insemination may be recorded in their first and subsequent lactations free of charge to the owner.

(3) In the case of the recording, for comparison purposes, for cows not being progeny of the Ministry's bulls used for artificial insemination only the first lactation shall be recorded free of charge to the herdowner who, however, on payment of the fees prescribed in Article 8 may have recording of the subsequent lactations supervised by the Ministry.

(4) Where a herd being recorded ceases to use the Ministry's artificial insemination service or ceases to provide useful information to the Ministry the recording free of charge may be terminated by the Ministry.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Scheme replaces the previous Scheme, the main changes being an upward revision of fees and the adoption of alternating weighings of milk production at 3-weekly intervals by the herdowner and Recording Officer. The new fees now include a herd fee and a £1 fee for each cow recorded, both fees payable yearly.