1978 No. 321

ANIMALS

Artificial Insemination (Pigs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978

Made	23*rd October* 1978
Coming into operation . . .	1*st December* 1978

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 5 of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following regulations:

Title and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Artificial Insemination (Pigs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978 and shall come into operation on 1st December 1978.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"Artificial Insemination Centre" means a centre from which a service of artificial insemination for sows is provided;

"approved Artificial Insemination Centre" means an Artificial Insemination Centre operated by or licensed by the Department;

"herd owner" means a person who owns one or more female pigs;

"licensed operator" means the person to whom a licence to operate a Private Artificial Insemination Centre has been issued by the Department;

"Private Artificial Insemination Centre" means an Artificial Insemination Centre which is not operated by the Department;

"semen" means boar semen;

"sow" includes gilt.

Control of Private Artificial Insemination

Private Artificial Insemination Centres

3. A person shall not operate a Private Artificial Insemination Centre in Northern Ireland except under the authority of a licence issued by the Department and subject to the conditions set out in the First Schedule and to such other conditions as may be specified in the licence.

Licence to practice Artificial Insemination

4. A person other than a person employed at an Artificial Insemination Centre operated by the Department shall not artificially inseminate a sow unless—

(*a*) he has been issued by the Department with a licence to practice artificial insemination; or

(*b*) the sow is being artificially inseminated with semen collected from a boar in the same herd; or

(a) S.I. 1975/1834 (N.I. 17)

(*c*) he is a private veterinary practitioner and he is artificially inseminating a client's sow for therapeutic reasons.

5.—(1) A person shall not be issued with a licence to practice artificial insemination unless he has received such instruction in artificial insemination as is acceptable to the Department.

(2) Only persons employed by a Private Artificial Insemination Centre licensed under Regulation 3 or a herd owner or a whole-time employee nominated by him may be issued with a licence to practice artificial insemination. A licence issued to a herd owner or a whole-time employee nominated by him shall be subject to the conditions set out in the Second Schedule and to such other conditions as may be specified in the licence.

Collection and sale of semen

6.—(1) The collection of semen for sale is prohibited, except in an approved Artificial Insemination Centre.

(2) Where semen is to be collected for sale in Northern Ireland only a boar approved by the Department shall be used. The Department may limit sales from any such boar while there is insufficient evidence to assess its breeding merit. If a boar is approved for this purpose it shall remain continuously at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre for a period immediately preceding the date of the first collection of semen of 28 days or such time as it takes for the boar to pass all veterinary and other tests required by the Department whichever is the longer. No semen collected from such boar shall be sold unless the boar has passed all such veterinary and other tests required by the Department.

(3) Where semen is to be collected for sale outside Northern Ireland the boar shall remain continuously at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre for a period immediately preceding the first collection of semen of 28 days or such other period as is required by the licensing authority of the country of destination, whichever is the longer. No semen collected from such boar shall be sold unless the boar has passed all veterinary and other tests required by the Department.

(4) The Department may undertake the collection of semen on behalf of the owner of a boar in Northern Ireland.

Storage of semen

7.—(1) Storage of semen, other than the storage on his own premises of semen collected by a herd owner from a boar in his own herd for use in sows in the same herd, is prohibited except at an approved Artificial Insemination Centre or on the premises of a person licensed to practice artificial insemination under these Regulations.

(2) All storage facilities shall be approved by the Department.

(3) The Department may undertake the storage of semen on behalf of the owner of a boar in Northern Ireland.

Distribution and sale of semen

8. The distribution and sale of semen is prohibited except from an approved Artificial Insemination Centre.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 23rd October 1978.

(L.S.) *W. H. Parker*
Assistant Secretary

FIRST SCHEDULE

Conditions for the operation of a Private Artificial Insemination Centre

1. All operations in a Private Artificial Insemination Centre shall be under the supervision and control of a veterinary surgeon approved by the Department for the purpose.

2. A person employed by a Private Artificial Insemination Centre shall not be permitted to practice artificial insemination unless he has been issued with a licence by the Department for that purpose.

3. A licence shall be valid only for the period stated therein.

4. Semen shall only be collected and stored in premises approved by the Department and only equipment and methods approved by the Department shall be used for or employed in the collection and storage of semen.

5. The licensed operator shall ensure that each sow artificially inseminated, if not already identifiable by means of a tattooed earmark or other acceptable means of identification is tattooed or marked at the time of the first insemination so as to enable it to be identified.

6. The licensed operator shall ensure that all progeny resulting from an artificial insemination with semen supplied by the centre are tattooed in one ear within 28 days of birth with a sufficient identification mark or otherwise marked by an acceptable means of identification. All abnormal births shall be notified to the Department immediately.

7. The licensed operator shall keep a record showing, in respect of each boar approved by the Department, the date and place of each artificial insemination of a sow, the name and address of the owner thereof, and the breed and name or other sufficient identification of the sow. Such records shall be available at all reasonable times to inspection by any authorised officer of the Department, who shall be at liberty to make any copy thereof or extract therefrom.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Conditions for the issue of a licence to a herd owner or his whole-time employee to practise artificial insemination

1. A licence shall only be valid for the period stated therein.

2. A licence shall be valid only for the artificial insemination of sows in the herd specified therein and a separate licence will be required in respect of each herd under the same ownership.

3. Only semen obtained in accordance with Regulation 6 or semen imported under a licence issued by the Department may be used.

4. Semen stored on the farm of the owner of the herd specified in the licence shall be kept in a container of a type approved by the Department, and such semen shall not be transferred to other premises without the approval of the Department.

5. When semen from a boar not the property of the herd owner is used for artificial insemination the herd owner shall keep records showing particulars of all sows inseminated, the dates of inseminations including repeat inseminations, the boar used and the date of birth and sex of the resultant progeny. Each sow inseminated shall, if not already identified by a tattoo mark or other acceptable means of identification be so tattooed or marked at the time of the first insemination with such mark as will enable it to be identified. All abnormal births shall be notified to the Department immediately.

6. Authorised officers of the Department shall have access to the premises, equipment and records of the licensee at all reasonable times.

7. The licence shall not be transferable.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations provide for:—

1. The licensing of privately operated centres for the artificial insemination of pigs.

2. The licensing of herd owners or whole-time employees nominated by them to carry out artificial insemination in their own herds.

3. Control over the collection, storage, distribution and sale of boar semen.

A contravention of these regulations constitutes an offence under Article 10 of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975.