1973. No. 85 **[C]**

AGRICULTURE

Headage Payments—Cattle

SCHEME, DATED THE 24TH DAY OF MARCH 1973, MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954 AS AMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) (AMENDMENT) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1957.

WHEREAS by section 1(1) of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954(**a**) the Minister of Agriculture with the approval of the Minister of Finance may make schemes whereby for the purpose of assisting the agricultural industry in Northern Ireland the Ministry of Agriculture may make payments to or for the benefit (whether direct or indirect) of farmers producing any produce specified in the Scheme:

AND WHEREAS by sub-section 1(*a*) of section 1 of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972(**b**) it is provided that so long as that section has effect all functions which apart from that Act belong to any Minister of Northern Ireland shall be discharged by the Secretary of State:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 1 of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 as amended by the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1957(**c**) and by section 1(1) of the Northern Ireland (Temporary Provisions) Act 1972 and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Cattle Headage Payments Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1973.

(2) This Scheme shall come into operation on 26th March 1973.

Definitions

2. In this Scheme—

"approved deadweight certification centre" means any place for the time being approved by the Ministry of Agriculture for the certification of the carcases of livestock for the purposes of this Scheme;

"approved liveweight certification centre" means any place for the time being approved by the Ministry of Agriculture for the certification of livestock for the purposes of this Scheme;

"certified" means certified as a home-bred animal in accordance with the standards and other conditions specified in Schedule 1.

"home-bred" means born and entirely produced in Northern Ireland;

"Ministry" means Ministry of Agriculture.

(a) 1954. c. 31.
(b) 1972. c. 22.
(c) 1957. c. 3.

Marking of cattle and carcases of cattle approved for certification

3. Cattle approved for certification at an approved liveweight certification centre will be permanently marked before removal from the centre in accordance with the marking given for liveweight certification in Schedule 2. Carcases approved for certification at an approved deadweight certification centre will be marked before removal from the centre in accordance with the marking given for deadweight certification in Schedule 2.

Headage payments

4. Subject to the provisions of this Scheme, the Ministry may make to or for the benefit (whether direct or indirect) of farmers producing home-bred cattle a payment in respect of each eligible home-bred animal which is properly certified in accordance with the standards and other conditions specified in Schedule 1, at any approved liveweight or deadweight certification centre in Northern Ireland.

5. Payments shall be made in respect of such animals certified during the periods specified and at the rates shown in Schedule 3.

6. In case of doubt as to the proper certification of an animal or as to the proper person to be paid, eligibility for payment shall be at the discretion of the Ministry.

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

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 without prejudice to any other method of recovery withhold or cause to be withheld any payment which would otherwise be or become due to that person by the Ministry under this or any other Scheme. The Ministry may also recover from a payment due under this Scheme by way of deduction any monies due by the payee to the Ministry or any other Government Department.

Dated this 24th day of March 1973.

W. S. I. Whitelaw,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

SCHEDULE 1

Cattle and carcases of cattle eligible for headage payment

1. Home-bred fat cattle or the carcases of home-bred fat cattle of the following kinds namely fat steers, clean fat heifers, young bulls and other male cattle of the standards, minimum weights and other qualifications set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 below, are eligible for headage payment. Cattle or the carcases of cattle specified in paragraphs 5 and 6 below, are subject to the exceptions mentioned therein, not eligible.

QUALIFYING STANDARDS

Steers and heifers

2. (*a*) If presented at an approved deadweight certification centre, the dressed carcase weight must be not less than 450 lb in the case of a steer and not less than 390 lb. in the case of a heifer. The carcase must be of good conformation, the rounds, loins and ribs being reasonably well fleshed and the chucks and plates reasonably thick, but the neck and foreshanks may be slightly long and thin. However, some slight lack of flesh development in the rounds is acceptable provided the minimum qualifying standards are met in all other respects. The carcases of young animals of such conformation need have only a thin exterior fat covering. Carcases from older animals may possess a rather thicker fat covering but may not be excessively fat or patchy.

(*b*) If presented at an approved liveweight certification centre, the animal must weigh not less than 7½ cwt. in the case of a steer and not less than 6½ cwt. in the case of a heifer. It must, in the opinion of the fatstock officer, be such as to produce a carcase of at least the standard specified in sub-paragraph (*a*) above.

Young bulls

3. Young bulls will only be accepted for deadweight certification. A young bull carcase must be the product of an animal which has not cut any permanent incisor teeth and must conform to the following standards:

The dressed carcase weight must be not less than 450 lb. The carcase must be of good conformation, the rounds, loins and ribs being reasonably well fleshed and the shoulders and plates reasonably thick. The shanks may be slightly long. The forequarters may be relatively heavier than in steer carcases but must not be excessively so. The exterior fat covering on carcases of such conformation may vary in quantity from medium to thin but should not be excessive or patchy. Inside, kidney and aitch fat must not be excessive but should be at least in moderate supply. Flesh should be moderately firm. Colour must not be dark but may range from a light cherry red to a slightly darker red. The chine bones should be soft and red and terminate in soft pearly white cartilage.

4. Carcases must be presented either as whole carcases or in sides, both sides together, and must conform to the specifications for dressing carcases and the conditions of weighing which are set out below:

Specifications for dressing the carcase of cattle presented for headage payment

The following offals shall be removed:

1. Hide
2. Head and tongue
3. Feet
4. Cuts and tripes with the accompanying glands:
   (i) liver
   (ii) spleen
   (iii) pancreas

5. Caul and gut fat
6. Heart and heart fat
7. Heart bread and neck bread (thymus glands)
8. Lights (lungs, trachea and larynx)
9. Thick skirt (pillar of diaphragm) (see note (*g*))
10. Tail (see note (*g*))
11. Genito-urinary organs, excluding kidneys. (When the kidneys are removed before the carcase is weighed, an addition of 3 lb shall be made to the carcase weight)
12. Large blood vessels of abdomen and thorax.

Notes and specifications for the removal of certain offals

(*a*) The head shall be removed at the junction of the skull and the spinal column, thereby leaving the entire spinal column on the carcase;

(*b*) the forefeet shall be removed at the knee joint and the hindfeet at the hock joint;

(*c*) the "rib skirt" or diaphragm shall be trimmed to leave a margin of at least one half inch of "skin" or membranous portion along the bottom. This will leave the fleshy part of the diaphragm intact;

(*d*) there shall be no trimming of the neck beyond cutting off the ragged edges. The jugular vein may be removed cleanly but there shall be no trimming of the surrounding fat;

(*e*) no channel or kidney fat shall be removed unless a corresponding addition to the weight is made;

(*f*) the tail shall be removed at the second joint from the base bone;

(*g*) where it is trade practice to leave the thick skirt or tail or both these offals on the carcase, a weight deduction of 3 lb. will be made in respect of the tail and a weight deduction of 2 lb. in respect of the thick skirt.

Conditions of weighing carcases of cattle

Carcases must be dressed according to the specifications above, when they are weighed.

Carcases, if weighed "hot", shall be weighed within 1 hour of slaughter; if weighed "cold", within 24 hours of slaughter except when prior approval for an extension of this period has been given.

When carcases are weighed "hot" the "cold" weight will be ascertained by making rebates as follows:

	Hot weight lb.	*Rebate* lb.
Sides of beef	250 and under	4
	251 to 300	5
	301 to 400	6
	over 400	7

Condemnation

5. No headage payment will be made if a cattle carcase presented for headage payment is condemned as wholly unfit for human consumption.

6. The Scheme does not apply to

(*a*) bulls or their carcases or other male cattle or their carcases showing "bullish" characteristics except for the carcases of young bulls and other male cattle meeting the qualifying standards referred to in paragraph 3 of Schedule 1;

(*b*) cows or their carcases;

(*c*) other female cattle which are or have been pregnant or the carcases of such animals. Exceptionally, however, a carcase of such an animal may be approved for certification if in the opinion of the certifying officer, the quality of the carcase has not been seriously depreciated by the pregnancy;

(*d*) cattle or their carcases which have previously been certified as eligible for payment under this Scheme or the Fatstock (Guarantee Payments) Order 1964(**d**) as amended;

(*e*) cattle which have not been sold by auction or by private treaty unless they are for sale in the producer's own butchery business (for the purposes of the Scheme, purchase of an animal at auction by or on behalf of the vendor does not constitute a sale);

(*f*) cattle carcases which have not been sold unless they are for sale by or on behalf of the producer in a butchery business and are not intended for consumption in the producer's household, or are transferred in special circumstances approved by the Ministry;

(*g*) imported cattle or the carcases of such cattle;

(*h*) cattle carcases imported as such;

(*i*) cattle or their carcases which bear marks similar to or of a size which could have obliterated a certification mark for headage payment if one had been applied, except that in certain circumstances they may be approved for certification at the discretion of the Ministry;

(*j*) cattle or their carcases which are affected animals as defined in the Tuberculosis Order 1964(**e**) or the Tuberculosis (Compensation) (Scotland) Order 1964(**f**) or the Bovine Tuberculosis (Northern Ireland) Order 1935(**g**) and the Tuberculosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1964(**h**) or under any Orders having the like effect which amends or revokes and replaces them. In certain circumstances the owner of an animal which comes within the scope of the Tuberculosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1964 or which has been exposed to the infection of tuberculosis by contact with any such animal may be given by the inspector the opportunity to make his own arrangements for the animal's sale and slaughter as an alternative to disposal by the Ministry. Where the owner decides to make his own arrangements he may present the carcase of the animal for certification;

(*k*) cattle (or their carcases) which have been slaughtered under the Brucellosis Control Order (Northern Ireland) 1972(**i**), or under any Order having the like effect which amends or revokes and replaces it, for which compensation is payable by the Ministry. However, animals for which the owner only receives carcase value may be presented for headage payment;

(*l*) cattle presented at an approved liveweight certification centre in an excessively dirty or full condition or which are diseased or injured may not be approved for headage payment.

(**d**) S.I. 1964, No. 463 (1964 I, p. 746).
(**e**) S.I. 1964, No. 1151 (1964 II, p. 2634).
(**f**) S.I. 1964, No. 1152 (1964 II, p. 2643).
(**g**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1935, No. 39.
(**h**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964, No. 31.
(**i**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972, No. 94.

SCHEDULE 2

Marking of cattle and carcases of cattle approved for certification

Liveweight certification

The marking will be a circular punch hole of approximately one-half inch diameter surrounded by a tattoo mark consisting of dots in a circular pattern placed in the left ear of the animal.

Deadweight certification

The marking will be a mark comprising a St. Andrew's cross within a circle of approximately one and a half inch diameter.

SCHEDULE 3

Period	*Rate of headage*
	£
26th March to 3rd June 1973	6
4th June to 10th June 1973	4
11th June to 17th June 1973	2

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Scheme enables the Ministry of Agriculture to pay headage payments in respect of home-bred cattle certified in accordance with the qualifying standards and other conditions specified in Schedule 1.