STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1968 No. 1218

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL GRANTS, GOODS AND SERVICES

The Field Beans Scheme 1968

Laid before Parliament in draft

Made - - -	*26th July* 1968
Coming into Operation	*26th July* 1968

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State, acting jointly, in pursuance of section 40 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968(a) and all their other enabling powers, with the approval of the Treasury, hereby make the following scheme, a draft of which has been laid before Parliament and approved by both Houses of Parliament :—

Citation and extent

1. This scheme, which may be cited as the Field Beans Scheme 1968, shall apply to the United Kingdom.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires—

"crop year" means a period of 12 months commencing with 1st July in any year ;

"declaration of acreage" and "declaration of harvesting" have the meanings given to them in paragraph 6 ;

"field beans" means beans of the species *Vicia faba* of the kind usually grown for feeding to stock, and includes horse beans and tick beans, but not broad beans ;

"the Minister", in relation to Scotland, means the Secretary of State, and in relation to any other part of the United Kingdom, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food ;

"occupier", in relation to land in Scotland, means the person who has the right to use that land for growing a crop of field beans, and, in relation to land in Northern Ireland, includes a person who, by virtue of an agreement, whether written or otherwise, has the right to the use of the land.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply to the interpretation of this scheme as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(a) 1968 c. 34.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

Grants for field beans

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this scheme, the Minister may make payments at the rate of £5 per acre in respect of crops of field beans which are grown for harvesting in any crop year during the period commencing with 1st July 1968 and ending with 30th June 1971.

(2) A payment under this scheme in respect of a crop of field beans grown in any crop year may be made to the person who at the end of 1st September in that crop year is the occupier of the land on which the crop is grown.

(3) Payment shall not be made to a person under this scheme in respect of—

(*a*) a self-sown crop; or

(*b*) a crop which is grown mixed with any other crop; or

(*c*) a crop of less than one-acre.

(4) Fractions of an acre shall be rounded down to the nearest quarter of an acre.

(5) Normal-sized headlands, hedges and ditches attributable to the area on which the crop is grown shall be included in the acreage of the crop.

Harvesting conditions

4.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, no payment shall be made under this scheme in respect of a crop of field beans unless it has been harvested as grain or is available for harvesting as grain.

(2) If a crop or any part of a crop fails after 31st August in the crop year in which it was intended that it should be harvested, and the Minister is satisfied that the failure was not brought about by any fault on the part of the occupier, he may make a grant in respect of the crop notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) above.

Withholding and reduction of grant where crops are inadequate

5. Where in the opinion of the Minister, having regard to the weather and other natural conditions, a crop is unduly small in relation to the acreage of land on which it is grown, or has been adversely affected by the unsuitability of the land for growing the crop, the Minister may withhold payment in respect of the crop or reduce the amount of such payment to such extent as he considers reasonable.

Applications

6.—(1) No payment may be made under this scheme in respect of a crop of field beans unless the following applications for payment have been made to the Minister in such manner as he may direct:—

(*a*) a first application, in this scheme referred to as a declaration of acreage, stating the acreage of field beans sown; and

(*b*) a second application, in this scheme referred to as a declaration of harvesting, stating the acreage of field beans harvested as grain or available for harvesting as grain.

(2) Unless the Minister otherwise directs, a declaration of acreage in respect of a crop of field beans grown in any crop year shall be made so as to be received by him not later than 31st July in that crop year, and a declaration of harvesting not later than 31st March in that crop year.

Information and inspection

7. It shall be a condition of payment under this scheme that any person who desires to be paid in respect of a crop shall to the best of his ability provide the Minister with such information about the crop as he may require, and shall, if requested, permit him to inspect the crop and the land on which it is grown.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 22nd July 1968.

(L.S.) *Cledwyn Hughes,*
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Given under the Seal of the Secretary of State for Scotland on 24th July 1968.

(L.S.) *William Ross,*
Secretary of State for Scotland.

Approved on 26th July 1968.

B. K. O'Malley,
Joseph Harper,
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Scheme.)

Section 40 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968 enables grants to be paid for break crops. This United Kingdom scheme, which relates only to field beans, is the first to be made under that section. Grants of £5 per acre may be made in respect of field beans grown for harvesting in the three year period commencing on 1st July 1968. The crop must be harvested as grain or available for harvesting as grain, and grant is payable to the person who is the occupier of the land at the end of 1st September. The scheme provides for the making of applications, for the calculation of the acreage of a crop and for excluding payment on less than one acre. Payment may be reduced or withheld where a crop is inadequate. Applicants must if requested provide information about the crop and permit the Minister to inspect it and the land on which it is grown.