1968 No. 318

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL GRANTS GOODS AND SERVICES

The Field Drainage (Ditching) (Standard Costs) Regulations 1968

Made - - -	*4th March* 1968
Laid before Parliament	13*th March* 1968
Coming into Operation	14*th March* 1968

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 1 of the Agricultural Improvement Grants Act 1959(a) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, with the consent of the Treasury, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations, which may be cited as the Field Drainage (Ditching) (Standard Costs) Regulations 1968, shall come into operation on 14th March 1968.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:—

"approved" means approved by the Minister;

"the Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;

"work" means a work or operation of a description specified in column 1 of Schedule 2 to these regulations and which is carried out in accordance with the requirements set out in relation to that work in column 2 of that Schedule.

(2) These regulations shall have effect only as respects work carried out in accordance with a written authority given by the Minister after the commencement of these regulations.

(3) The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3. For the purpose of the payment of grant under section 15 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous War Provisions) Act 1940(c) as amended (d) relating to farm ditching and associated works the expenditure incurred in carrying out any work specified in relation to the aforesaid Act in Schedule 1 to these regulations shall, if the applicant for a grant so elects before the carrying out of the work pursuant

(a) 1959 c. 31. (b) 1889 c. 63. (c) 1940 c. 14.
(d) The relevant amending enactments are 1940 c. 50 s. 1; 1941 c. 50 s. 3; 1947 c. 48 s. 96; 1954 c. 39 s. 1; 1961 c. 48 s. 38.

to a written authority given by the Minister, be taken to be expenditure of an amount calculated at the appropriate rate or rates specified in respect of that work in column 3 of Schedule 2 to these regulations.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 1st March 1968.

(L.S.)

Frederick Peart,
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

We consent

E. Alan Fitch,
Joseph Harper,
Two of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

4th March 1968.

SCHEDULE 1

Grants for farm ditching and associated works under the Agriculture (Miscellaneous War Provisions) Act 1940 as amended

Column 1 Grant payable	Column 2 Works for which standard costs are prescribed in 2nd Schedule
50% 50% 50% 50%	Ditching Culverts Hedge trimming and clearance of overgrowth Fencing

SCHEDULE 2

Farm ditching and associated works

Description of work	Requirements	Rate	£	s.	d.
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3			
1. Ditching	Ditches shall be dug to approved gradients and shall be not less than 3′6″ deep 5′0″ across the top and 1′3″ across the bottom unless otherwise approved by the Minister; the side slopes shall be neatly trimmed and finished.	Per cubic yard (a) *Fen and Marsh Type Ditches*		1	6
		(b) *Other Ditches* Excavation including a normal amount of hedge roots.		2	0
	The sides of the ditch shall be examined for old drain outlets which have become buried. These shall be brought to the attention of the Minister and made good as required by him.	(c) *Extra on (b) above* where substantial tree roots, large stones or boulders are present.			6
	The material dug from the ditch shall be deposited not less than 2′ from the edge of the ditch and spread evenly and thinly on the field surface adjoining the ditch as soon as possible. Large stones, roots or rubbish which could cause damage to implements or stock shall be removed. In cases where spreading is not possible the excavated material shall be carted away.	(d) *Extra on (b) or (c) above* for excavation where rock, hard shale, sandstone or compacted gravel is present.		1	6

Description of work	Requirements	Rate	£	s.	d.
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3			
2. Culverts	Culverts shall be constructed in accordance with an approved design. The pipes and other materials used shall be durable and resistant to attack by substances in the soil or water in the ditch. Pipes shall be not less than 9″ internal diameter and comply with the British Standard 556: 1966 or 4101: 1967 as determined by the Minister. The line of pipes shall be long enough to provide a usable width at ground level of not less than 12′.	Per culvert	7	0	0
3. Hedge trimming and clearance of overgrowth	Hedges and banks shall be cleared sufficiently to enable the ditch to be excavated. Overgrowth on the banks and in the ditch shall be cut down or grubbed out and the hedge adequately trimmed. All trimmings and growth shall be burnt or carted away.	Per chain		5	0
4. Fencing	*Design of fence* (i) The fence shall consist of one or two line wires, plain or barbed, erected on wooden posts. If one wire is used it shall be fixed 27″-33″ above the ground; if two wires are used the top one shall be fixed 27″-33″ and the lower one 12″-18″, above the ground. *Minimum dimensions of materials* (ii) *Galvanised line wire:* if plain, No. 8 standard wire gauge or in the case of wire with a tensile strength of not less than 70 tons per square inch. No.10 standard wire gauge; if barbed, 2 ply, 12½ standard wire gauge steel wire or 13 standard wire gauge oval section steel wire with 4 point barbs spaced at intervals of 3″. (iii) *Galvanised staples:* 1½″ long × No. 8 standard wire gauge. (iv) *Galvanised strainers:* 10″ × ⅜″ eye-bolts or other approved types of equivalent strength.	Per chain	1	10	0

Description of work	Requirements	Rate
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
		£ s. d.
	(v) *Posts and struts* shall be of wood and are to have the following minimum dimensions:	
	(a) *Straining posts:* 5′6″ long and, if round, 5″ in diameter at the top, or if sawn, 4″ × 4″.	
	(b) *Struts:* 6′0″ long and, if round, 4″ diameter at the smaller end or, if sawn, 3½″ × 3½″.	
	(c) *Intermediate posts:* 4′6″ long and, if round, 3″ in diameter at the top or, if sawn, 3″ × 3″; if of any other shape, to have an area of 7 square inches at the top.	
	(d) All round and half-round wood shall be preserved with creosote or a water-borne preservative; the method of preservation shall be impregnation under pressure or by hot and cold treatment in an open tank. All cleft and sawn wood shall be similarly treated unless it has been cut from the heart-wood of oak, larch, sweet chestnut, yew or western redcedar.	
	Erection	
	(vi) The fence shall be set parallel with the ditch and 18″ back from the top of the field bank.	
	(vii) Straining posts are to be sunk not less than 2′6″ in the ground, firmly strutted in the direction of the strain, and placed at each change of direction or acute variation of level and on the straight at intervals of not more than 165 yards. Intermediate posts shall be driven not less than 1′6″ into the ground and spaced at intervals of not more than 18′ 0″ from centre to centre.	

Description of work	Requirements	Rate
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
		£ s. d.
	(viii) Line wires shall be strained tightly between straining posts. Plain wire shall be attached thereto by strainers at both ends; barbed wire shall be stapled to straining posts or attached thereto by strainers at one or both ends. Line wires shall be attached to intermediate posts by staples which are to be driven only as far as will allow the wire the minimum of freedom in the staple.	
	(ix) Unless some other adequate form of protection exists the wire or wires shall be returned across the ditch at all gateways, culverts, other crossings and ends of ditches. Alternatively approved wooden rails may be provided. Drinking bays shall be fenced to prevent stock treading in the stream and to protect the sides of the ditch and drinking place.	
	(x) Guard fencing shall be erected as the ditch cleaning work proceeds, to prevent damage to new work by stock.	

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

The Agriculture (Miscellaneous War Provisions) Act 1940 as amended, provides that grants may be made for the cleansing or other improvement of ditches on agricultural land. The Agricultural Improvement Grants Act 1959 provides that the Minister, with the consent of the Treasury, may make regulations providing that for the purposes of the payment of grants the cost of any work specified in the regulations instead of being the actual cost of the work shall, if the applicant for a grant so elects before the carrying out of the work pursuant to a written authority given by the Minister, be taken to be such amount as may be specified in the regulations. These regulations prescribe that if an applicant for grant so elects the cost of certain ditching works for the purposes of grant shall be an amount calculated by reference to the "standard costs" set out in the Schedule.