STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS OF A GENERAL CHARACTER ISSUED IN 1962

1962. No. 1 **[C]**

ANIMALS

Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1962

SCHEME, DATED 5TH JANUARY, 1962, 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 Nine 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 Horse Breeding Scheme (Northern Ireland), 1962, and shall come into operation on the 1st day of February, 1962.

Definitions

2. In this Scheme—

"County Committee" means a County Committee of Agriculture appointed pursuant to Section 2(1) of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland), 1949.

"Approved" means approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Selected applicant" means a person selected by a County Committee to keep a stallion under this Scheme.

"Premium" means the payment which a selected applicant is eligible to receive for allowing his premium stallion to stand for stud purposes in his district.

"Premium Stallion" means a stallion which has been approved as being suitable for the award of a premium and which is owned by a selected applicant.

"Pedigree" means entered in the Stud Book of the breed concerned.

"Horse Breeding Society" means a Society formed for the purpose of maintaining and improving the breeding of horses.

Premium, Subsidy and Grant

3. With the object of improving the breeding of horses in Northern Ireland the Ministry may aid stallion owners and horse breeding societies by means of payments as follows:—

(*a*) premiums in respect of approved stallions;

(*b*) subsidies in respect of the purchase of approved stallions; and

(*c*) grants to horse breeding societies in respect of the leasing of approved stallions.

(a) 1949. c. 2.

Eligible Breeds

4. Only pedigree stallions of the Clydesdale, Thoroughbred and Irish Draught breeds shall be eligible for assistance under this Scheme, save that the Ministry may, in special circumstances, pay premiums, subsidies or grants in respect of pedigree stallions of other breeds for service in particular districts.

Age of Stallions

5. A stallion when inspected for a first-season premium or for a subsidy or a grant shall not be less than 3 years old and, save in exceptional circumstances, shall not be more than 6 years old, the age in either case being reckoned from the first day of January in the year of its birth.

Selection of Stallions

6.—(1) The inspection of stallions for premium shall be made by the Ministry at approved centres. The names of stallions selected for premiums shall be placed by the Ministry on a list in order of merit by breeds and a copy of the list shall be sent to each County Committee. The Ministry shall notify the owner of a stallion which has been approved for premium purposes.

(2) Inspection of a stallion for subsidy or grant shall be made by the Ministry before the purchase or leasing of the stallion takes place.

Selection and Approval of Applicants

7.—(1) A County Committee shall, in accordance with Part I of the First Schedule, receive applications and select suitable persons to keep premium stallions.

(2) A County Committee shall, in accordance with Part II of the First Schedule, receive applications for subsidies to purchase stallions. The selection of applicants for such subsidies shall be made by the Ministry and only those applications which have been recommended by the County Committee will be considered for selection.

Grants to Horse Breeding Societies

8. The Ministry may make grants to horse breeding societies in respect of the leasing of approved stallions, under the conditions set forth in Part III of the First Schedule and such other conditions as the Ministry may impose.

Conditions and Authority of County Committees

9. The conditions applicable to the placing out of premium stallions and the authority and functions of County Committees shall be as set forth in the Second and Third Schedules respectively.

Values of Premiums and Subsidies

10. The values of premiums and subsidies payable by the Ministry and the methods of paying premiums shall be as set forth in the Fourth Schedule, save that the Ministry may pay such smaller amount as it may determine in respect of a premium stallion which fails to complete the prescribed number of services.

Penalties

11.—(1) In the event of any infringement of, or non-compliance with the terms of this Scheme, payment of the premium, subsidy or grant or any part thereof may be withheld by the Ministry.

(2) Any person who through misrepresentation or fraud receives or claims payment of a premium, subsidy or grant in respect of a stallion, or obtains the service of a premium stallion for his mare under this Scheme, may, in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable by law, be debarred from obtaining in future any benefit under this Scheme.

General

12. The Ministry may mark on the hoof and may inspect at any reasonable time any stallion in respect of which a premium, subsidy or grant is to be or has been paid.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 5th day of January, nineteen hundred and sixty-two.

(L.S.) *J. C. Baird,*
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 5th day of January, nineteen hundred and sixty-two.

(L.S.) *K. R. Shimeld,*
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE

PART I

SELECTION OF PREMIUM HOLDERS

The County Committee shall receive applications from persons who, if selected, are prepared to keep premium stallions for the service of mares in the county. Such applications shall be made to the County Committee in such form and within such time as the County Committee may determine.

In making selections a County Committee shall have regard to the needs of the various districts within its area and shall be guided by the list of stallions prepared by the Ministry in accordance with Article 6(1). The County Committees of two adjacent counties may, in conjunction with each other, jointly award a premium to a selected stallion.

The total number of selected applicants in a county shall be limited by the total number of premiums approved by the Ministry for that county.

The County Agricultural Executive Officer shall notify selected applicants and shall forward to the Ministry a list of such selected applicants.

PART II

APPLICATION FOR SUBSIDY

Application for a subsidy to purchase a stallion shall be made in the first instance to the County Committee which shall make a recommendation to the Ministry in accordance with the needs of the county; such recommendation shall be given only in respect of an application where a premium for the stallion concerned can be awarded in the county for a period of five successive seasons and where the applicant agrees to use the stallion for premium purposes in the county during such period.

Where an application for a subsidy is approved the Ministry shall inform the applicant of the amount of the subsidy and of the conditions on which a stallion may be purchased. To be eligible for a subsidy a stallion shall be purchased only after inspection and approval by the Ministry.

Before a subsidy is paid by the Ministry, the applicant shall sign an agreement in such form as the Ministry may determine and if, after such payment, the applicant fails to comply with any of the conditions of such agreement, he may be required by the Ministry to refund the amount of such subsidy.

PART III

GRANTS TO HORSE BREEDING SOCIETIES

A horse breeding society which wishes to receive a grant from the Ministry shall agree to make an approved stallion available for the service of mares in approved districts. The amount of grant shall be determined by the Ministry with the approval of the Ministry of Finance. The fees charged for each service shall not, without the written permission of the Ministry, exceed £3 per mare payable at time of service and £5 payable on proof of foal and, similarly, the groom's fee, if any, for such service shall not exceed 10/-.

The society shall keep a record of the names and addresses of the persons whose mares have been served, with dates of such service, and this record shall be submitted to the Ministry when the grant is being claimed and at such other time as the Ministry may require.

SECOND SCHEDULE

CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO PREMIUM AND SUBSIDY STALLIONS

SERVICE SEASON

The service season for a premium stallion shall be the calendar year. Provided that the service season shall not commence for the purpose of this Scheme until the owner of the stallion has been notified by the County Agricultural Executive Officer that he has been selected to keep a premium stallion.

SERVICE AND FEES

Save in exceptional circumstances, the prescribed number of mares to be served in order to qualify for the premium shall be twenty-five in the case of a Thoroughbred and fifteen in the case of a Clydesdale or Irish Draught stallion. For an approved stallion of any other breed the minimum number of services shall be such number as the Ministry may determine. The service of mares the property of the owner of the stallion will not be recognised for premium purposes. The service fee (inclusive of the groom's fee) for the prescribed number of services shall be fixed by the County Committee provided that such service fee in the case of a Thoroughbred stallion shall not exceed £4 at time of service and £6 on proof of foal, in the case of a Clydesdale or Irish Draught stallion shall not exceed £2 at time of service and £4 on proof of foal, and in the case of an approved stallion of any other breed shall not exceed such amount as may be determined by the Ministry. These fees shall not apply in respect of the service of a mare entered or eligible for entry in the Stud Book by a premium stallion of the same breed. After the prescribed number of mares has been served the owner of the stallion may charge such fee as he may decide.

A mare to be eligible for service under this Scheme shall be the property of a farmer who is a rated occupier in a rural or urban district of a county in Northern Ireland.

SERVICE RESTRICTIONS

The owner of a premium stallion shall not, before the prescribed number of mares has been served, reserve the use of the stallion for mares the property of any individual. The stallion owner shall keep in the service book supplied by the Ministry a record of the names and addresses of persons whose mares have

been served, with dates of such services, at the fee fixed by the County Committee and the service book shall be produced for inspection on request by any officer of the Ministry or by the County Committee.

The owner of a premium stallion shall have the right to refuse the use of his stallion in any case where he is satisfied that the service would be prejudicial to the stallion or where the owner of a mare presented for service has failed to pay the fee due for any service previously obtained under this Scheme. The reason for such refusal in either of these circumstances shall be communicated immediately to the County Agricultural Executive Officer who shall notify the Ministry of the circumstances in which service has been refused.

THIRD SCHEDULE

Authority and Functions of County Committees

Subject to the approval of the Ministry, a County Committee may lay down conditions or requirements as it deems advisable in regard to:—

(*a*) the number of premium stallions which any one owner may possess;
(*b*) the number of mares which any one owner may send to a premium stallion for service;
(*c*) permitting the service of mares owned by any persons who would otherwise be excluded in accordance with the terms of the Second Schedule;
(*d*) the number of services required for premium purposes subject to the minimum prescribed for each breed in the Second Schedule;
(*e*) the breeding or location of mares the service of which may count towards the earning of a premium by each breed of stallion;
(*f*) fixing the service fee subject to the maximum prescribed for each breed in the Second Schedule;
(*g*) requiring stallions to stand at certain centres during the service season;
(*h*) authorising the owner of a premium stallion to demand a certificate of freedom from contagious or hereditary disease in respect of any mare brought for service.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

Values of Annual Premiums and Subsidies

The maximum values of annual premiums payable under this Scheme shall be:—

For Thoroughbred Stallions	£70
For Clydesdale and Irish Draught Stallions	£45
For any other breed of stallion	£30

The amount of any subsidy under this Scheme to an applicant shall be such amount as the Ministry may determine, provided that the subsidy which may be paid in respect of any one stallion shall not exceed, in the case of a Thoroughbred stallion, two-thirds of the purchase price or £600 whichever is the less or, in the case of a stallion of any other breed, one-half of the purchase price or £400, whichever is the less.

Claiming and Payment of Premiums

Not earlier than 1st September in any service season, and not later than the following 28th February, the owner of the premium stallion shall forward to the County Agricultural Executive Officer the service form and the completed claim for payment.

The County Agricultural Executive Officer shall be responsible for the examination and certification of all such claims and for their submission to the Ministry for payment.