1978 No. 189

AGRICULTURE

Milk Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978

Made . . . . . *4th July* 1978

Coming into operation . . . *4th September* 1978

The Department(a) of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(b) as amended by Article 5 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1977(c) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and with the approval of the Department(a) of Finance hereby makes the following Scheme—

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Milk Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1978 and shall come into operation on 4th September 1978.

Revocation

2. The Milk Recording and Progeny Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971(d) is hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In this Scheme:—

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"cattle breed society" means a society responsible for the entry or registration of animals of a particular breed of the bovine species in the herd book for that breed;

"cow" means a female of the bovine species and includes a heifer;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"herd" means a herd of cows;

"herd book" means a register kept by a cattle breed society of the particulars of cattle eligible to be entered therein;

"lactation" means the period commencing with calving and ending when the cow requires to be milked only once a day;

"milk recorder" means a person appointed by the Department to visit herds, take weights or measurements and samples of the milk of cows, and to check the herd register;

"recording" means in respect of a herd the keeping of a register, containing the information mentioned in paragraph 2 of the Schedule, by the herd owner and the periodic taking of weights or measurements and samples of the milk of cows by the milk recorder.

(a) Formerly Ministry: *see* 1973 c. 36 Sch. 5 para. 8(1)
(b) 1949 c. 2 (N.I.)
(c) S.I. 1977/1245 (N.I. 12)
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971 No. 340 (p. 1570) as amended by S.R. 1977 No. 270

Application

4.—(1) A herd owner may apply to have his herd accepted by the Department for the purpose of recording. The application shall be in such form as may be required by the Department.

(2) The Department may inspect the herd before accepting or rejecting an application.

Conditions of acceptance

5. If the Department accepts an application in respect of a herd under Article 4 it shall give the herd owner notice in writing of such acceptance and as and from the receipt of such notice the herd owner shall in respect of that herd comply with the conditions set out in the Schedule.

Calculation of yields

6. The yield and composition of milk of cows in the herd recording shall be calculated from periodic weighings by the milk recorder and the analyses thereof by the Department.

Certification

7. The Department may issue to a herd owner whose herd has been accepted for the purpose of recording certificates in respect of the milk yield during lactation of cows in his herd and if he so requests such certificates relating to such other matters in connection with the recording of the herd as the Department considers to be in accordance with the purposes of this Scheme.

Cancellation of acceptance or certification

8. When any herd owner whose herd has been accepted for the purpose of recording fails to observe or comply with any provisions thereof the Department may revoke or suspend that acceptance and may cancel any certificate issued to him under this Scheme.

Withdrawal

9. A herd owner may on giving 2 weeks notice in writing to the Department withdraw from this Scheme.

Continuance of recording

10. A herd recording under the Milk Recording and Progeny Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 at the date of the coming into operation of this Scheme shall be accepted for recording under this Scheme without the necessity for an application under Article 4.

Publication

11. The Department may publish in such a manner as it sees fit the names of the owners of herds being recorded and any other information pertaining to those herds.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 4th July 1978.

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

The Department of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland on 5th July 1978.

(L.S.) *R. McMurray*
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE (Article 5)

Conditions to be complied with in relation to a herd after acceptance under the Scheme

A herd owner shall:—

1. Maintain a register of all animals in the herd.

2. Enter in the register:—

(*a*) the particulars of parentage, date of birth and identification marks of each cow and in the case of animals registered with cattle breed societies, the appropriate registration number;

(*b*) the dates of service and where applicable repeat services of all females in the herd with the name of the sire used;

(*c*) the dates of birth and the sex of all calves born in the herd.

3. Permit the milk recorder to make periodic weighings or measurements of milk yields and to take milk samples for analysis from each cow in the herd.

4. Notify the Department in writing of the hours at which he intends to milk his cows daily, observe these hours in practice and similarly notify the Department of any intention to alter such hours.

5. Identify each cow in the herd in a manner approved by the Department.

6. Provide approved equipment for the weighing or measuring of milk.

7. Inform milk recorders of the birth of each calf and whether born alive or dead since their previous visit.

8. Provide such facilities for the checking of records, weighing or measuring of milk yields, taking of milk samples and all other matters connected with the Scheme as the Department shall require.

9. Permit authorised officers of the Department at all reasonable times to inspect the herd, check identification marks, dates of birth, weighings and measurements and the accuracy of the weighing and measuring equipment.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The object of this Scheme is to provide a means whereby the breeding value of dairy cattle in Northern Ireland may be assessed and thus to bring about improvements in the quality of dairy stock and greater efficiency in dairy herd management.

The Scheme replaces the Milk Recording and Progeny Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971.

The main changes are:—

(1) the herdowner must enter all the cows in his herd in the Scheme;

(2) the herdowner is no longer required to make weighings of milk.