1987 No. 381

AGRICULTURE

Pig Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1987

Made . . . . . *25th September 1987*

Coming into operation . . *2nd November 1987*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 9(1) and (2) of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949(**a**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel(**b**), hereby makes the following Scheme:

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Pig Improvement Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1987 and shall come into operation on 2nd November 1987.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme—

"accredited herd" means a testing herd which is designated as an accredited herd by the Department in accordance with Article 14(1);

"application" means an application made in accordance with Article 4;

"approved" means approved by the Department;

"candidate herd" means a herd accepted by the Department in accordance with Article 6 but not registered;

"Committee" means the Northern Ireland Pig Production Development Committee established under section 1 of the Pig Production Development Act (Northern Ireland) 1964(**c**);

"determined price" means such price as may be determined from time to time by the Department, after consultation with the Committee;

"herd" means any number of pedigree pigs of one breed owned by the same person in respect of which he has made an application;

"litter group" means two boars and two gilts born in a litter selected by the Department;

"premises" means the housing and other facilities provided for the keeping of pigs;

"register" means the register kept in accordance with this Scheme;

"registered" means entered on the register in accordance with Article 9;

"sows" includes gilts;

(**a**) 1949 c. 2 (N.I.) as amended by S.I. 1977/1245 (N.I. 12) Article 5
(**b**) Formerly the Department of Finance: *see* S.I. 1982/338 (N.I. 6) Article 3
(**c**) 1964 c. 25 (N.I.)

"testing" means the testing of a boar or of a sample of its progeny for the purpose of assessing its breeding value;

"testing herd" means a herd entered in the register;

"testing scale" means a scale drawn up from time to time by the Department, after consultation with the Committee, being a scale determining the number of litter groups which the owner of a testing herd shall be required to test in any year, subject to a minimum of ten litter groups;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"the 1976 Scheme" means the Pig Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1976(**a**);

"veterinary surgeon" includes a veterinary practitioner.

Register of testing herds

3. For the purpose of aiding, improving and developing the breeding of pigs in Northern Ireland, the Department shall keep a register of testing herds in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme.

Application

4. Subject to Articles 7(2) and 11(3) the owner of a herd may apply to the Department, in such form as it may require, to have his herd registered.

Conditions of acceptance

5. The Department shall accept an application only where—

(*a*) the owner of the herd—

(i) furnishes evidence, in writing from a veterinary surgeon, that all pigs owned by him are free from such diseases and congenital defects as the Department may specify; and

(ii) is participating in any scheme or arrangements which may be operated by the Department for monitoring the health of and controlling disease in pigs; and

(*b*) the herd includes such number of sows which, in the opinion of the Department, can be reasonably expected to produce a sufficient number of litters so as to enable the testing of no less than ten litter groups in any year.

Acceptance of herd

6. Where the Department accepts an application, it shall notify the owner of the herd in writing of the fact and his herd shall be accepted as a candidate herd.

Rejection of herd

7.—(1) Where the Department rejects an application, it shall notify the owner of the herd in writing of the fact and of the grounds for the rejection of his herd.

(a) S.R. 1976 No. 393

(2) The owner of a herd to whom a notification has been issued under paragraph (1) shall not make any further application within the next succeeding six months.

Conditions applying to owners of candidate herds

8. The owner of a candidate herd shall comply with the provisions of the Schedule.

Registration

9. Where, in respect of a candidate herd, the Department is satisfied that for the year succeeding the issue of the notification under Article 6 the owner of that herd has complied with the provisions of the Schedule, it shall register that herd as a testing herd and shall notify the owner in writing of such registration.

Conditions applying to owners of testing herds

10.—(1) The owner of a testing herd shall—

(*a*) comply with the provisions of the Schedule; and

(*b*) in any year, sell to the Department at the determined price, such number of litter groups for testing as are required by the testing scale.

(2) Where any boar achieves the approved standard in tests carried out by the Department, the owner of the herd from which it originates shall have the right to purchase that boar from the Department at the determined price.

Cancellation of acceptance or registration

11.—(1) Where the owner of a candidate herd fails at any time to comply with the provisions of the Schedule, the Department may by notice in writing to him revoke the acceptance under Article 6 of that herd.

(2) Where the owner of a testing herd fails at any time to comply with the requirements of Article 10(1) the Department may by notice in writing to him cancel the registration of that herd and revoke the acceptance under Article 6 of that herd.

(3) The owner of a candidate herd or testing herd to whom a notification is issued under paragraph (1) or (2) shall not make any further application within the next succeeding six months.

Publication

12. The Department may publish in such manner as it thinks fit any information obtained by it in the course of the operation of this Scheme.

General power to test

13. Without prejudice to Article 10(1)(*b*) the Department may, at the request of the owner of a testing herd, accept for testing pigs other than those purchased by it in accordance with the provisions of that Article, subject to such terms and conditions as the Department may determine.

Accredited herds

14.—(1) Where in respect of a testing herd—

(*a*) the requirements of Article 10(1) are met; and

(*b*) at the end of any twelve month period the results obtained from the testing of pigs purchased by the Department from the owner of the herd in accordance with Article 10(1)(*b*) exceed a level determined by the Department, after consultation with the Committee;

the Department may designate that herd as an accredited herd and shall notify the owner in writing of that designation.

(2) Where the requirements of paragraph (1)(*a*) or (*b*) cease to be met the Department shall revoke the designation under paragraph (1) and shall notify the owner of the testing herd in writing of the fact and of the grounds for such revocation.

Transitional provisions

15.—(1) Any herd which, immediately before the coming into operation of this Scheme—

(*a*) was an accredited elite herd shall be registered as a testing herd, and

(*b*) was a candidate elite herd shall be accepted as a candidate herd, and any time spent as a candidate elite herd shall, for the purposes of Article 9 (Registration), be deemed to have been spent as a candidate herd.

(2) In this Article ''accredited elite herd'' and ''candidate elite herd'' have the meaning assigned by Article 2 (Interpretation) of the 1976 Scheme.

Revocation

16. The 1976 Scheme is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 25th September 1987.

(L.S.) *D. A. J. Hirrell*
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance and Personnel hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance and Personnel on 25th September 1987.

(L.S.) *D. W. Alexander*
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE (Articles 8 and 10(1))

The owner of a candidate herd or testing herd shall—

(*a*) ensure that he follows a programme for the improvement and development of the breeding of his herd;

(*b*) maintain in the herd such number of sows which, in the opinion of the Department, can reasonably be expected to produce a sufficient number of litters so as to enable the testing of no less than ten litter groups in any year;

(*c*) identify and keep identified each pig in his herd by an approved system of marking by numbers and where any such pig is sent for slaughter, forward with the pig a card provided by the Department marked with the number of the pig;

(*d*) notify the Department in writing of the birth of all pigs in the herd within one week of the date of birth;

(*e*) permit the Department to take blood samples from any pig owned by him;

(*f*) participate in respect of all pigs owned by him in any scheme or arrangements operated by the Department for monitoring the health of and controlling disease in pigs;

(*g*) maintain in respect of the herd such records and in such manner as the Department may require; and

(*h*) permit an officer authorised by the Department in writing at all reasonable times to inspect the herd and the premises on which it is kept, and to check identification marks, records and the accuracy of the equipment used for the weighing of pigs.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Scheme.)

Section 9 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949 empowers the Department of Agriculture, with the approval of the Department of Finance and Personnel, to make schemes for aiding, improving and developing the breeding of pigs.

This Scheme, which is made under that section, revokes and re-enacts with amendments the Pig Recording Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1976 ("the 1976 Scheme"), the main changes being:—

(*a*) a revision of the conditions for inclusion in the register kept by the Department of pedigree pig herds which are engaged in the testing of pigs with the purpose of assessing the breeding value of boars; and

(*b*) the introduction of mandatory levels of testing in accordance with herd size.

Provision is also made for the transition to the new Scheme of herds participating in the 1976 Scheme.