1966. No. 16 [C]

POULTRY

Poultry Test

ORDER, DATED 20TH JANUARY, 1966, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 9 OF THE AGRICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1949(a).

The Ministry of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section nine of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949, 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 Poultry Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1966, and shall come into operation on the 1st day of February, 1966.

Revocation

2.—(1) The Poultry Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1962(b) and the Poultry Testing (Amendment) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1964(c) are hereby revoked.

(2) Notwithstanding such revocation any test which has been commenced under the said Schemes may be completed in accordance with the provisions thereof.

Interpretation

3. In this Scheme:—

"bird" means a domestic fowl.

"commercial" means used for purposes other than breeding.

"day-old chick" means a chick not more than 48 hours old.

"Gosford Advisory Committee" means the committee for the time being appointed under Section 4 of the Agriculture Act (Northern Ireland) 1949 to advise the Ministry on the running of poultry tests.

"pullet" means a female domestic fowl in its first laying season prior to a complete moult.

Purpose of Scheme

4. The Ministry may carry out tests of those commercial egg-laying strains of poultry which are available to poultry keepers to provide comparative information about the qualities of the stock under test.

Operation of Testing Station

5. The Ministry shall operate a testing station in such manner as it may determine following consultation with the Gosford Advisory Committee.

Entries

6. Application for entry to a test shall be made in such form and at such time as the Ministry may determine.

(a) 1949. c. 2.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1962, No. 4.
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964, No. 208.

Acceptance of Entries

7. Entries for test shall be selected at the Ministry's discretion from the applications which have been submitted.

Entry fee

8.—(1) The fee, which shall be paid when application for entry is made, shall be £50 per entry.

(2) If for any reason other than the failure of the entrant to abide by the prescribed conditions the Ministry does not accept any entry or discontinues the testing of an entry, the fee or such part thereof as the Ministry shall consider reasonable shall be refunded to the entrant.

Conditions

9. The conditions applicable to the test shall be as follows:—

(1) Each entry shall consist of a sample of 240 day-old chicks drawn at random by an officer of the Ministry.

(2) The entrant shall give to such officer whatever assistance and provide whatever facilities the officer may require for the drawing of the sample of day-old chicks.

(3) While all reasonable precautions shall be taken by the Ministry the drawing of a sample shall be at the entrant's risk.

(4) The day-old chicks comprising an entry shall be packed, in the presence of the officer of the Ministry who draws the sample, in non-returnable boxes supplied by the entrant. The boxes shall be sealed by the said officer.

(5) The entrant shall at his own expense arrange for the transport of the day-old chicks to the test premises.

(6) The day-old chicks drawn by an officer of the Ministry for an entry shall become the property of the Ministry on acceptance at the testing station.

(7) The laying test shall be carried out with 180 pullets drawn at random by an officer of the Ministry from those birds comprising the entry which have been reared to point of lay.

(8) The Ministry shall exclude any entry from a test if the number of pullets comprising that entry reared to point of lay is less than 180, but the Ministry may record the laying of such birds.

(9) If a bird dies during the test it shall not be replaced.

(10) The Ministry may stop the testing of any entry if it becomes apparent that birds comprising the entry are not of the breed, strain or cross mentioned in the entry form.

(11) All eggs laid during the test shall be the property of the Ministry.

(12) On completion of the test the Ministry may sell or otherwise dispose of the birds in any way it thinks fit.

Grading and Scoring

10. The grading and scoring on which the results of the tests shall be based shall be conducted in such manner and judged by such standards as the

Ministry may determine following consultation with the Gosford Advisory Committee.

Records and Publication of Results

11. The Ministry shall keep such records of the tests and publish the results of the tests at such times and in such manner as it may determine following consultation with the Gosford Advisory Committee.

Precautions against Disease

12.—(1) The Ministry shall take such precautions as may be considered necessary to prevent the introduction of disease to the testing premises and for this purpose the Ministry may carry out on the entrant's flock such tests for disease as it considers necessary.

(2) During the test the Ministry may take such action including the carrying out of tests for disease or the treatment or slaughter of birds as it may consider necessary for the detection or the prevention of the spread of disease.

(3) Any bird which dies during a test may be subjected to a post-mortem examination by the Ministry. The entrant shall receive a copy of the post-mortem report.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 20th day of January, 1966.

(L.S.) *J. A. Young,*
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Scheme.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 20th day of January, 1966.

(L.S.) *R. H. Kidd,*
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Scheme enables the Ministry to carry out at the Poultry Testing Station, Gosford, Co. Armagh, in consultation with the Gosford Advisory Committee, tests which will demonstrate the relative qualities of those strains of laying poultry which are available to commercial egg producers.