1971. No. 334 **[C]**

PIGS

Premium Boars

SCHEME, DATED 25TH OCTOBER 1971, 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 upon it by Section 9 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 Premium Boar Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 and shall come into operation on 15th November 1971.

Revocation

2. The Premium Boar Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1969(**b**) is hereby revoked.

Definitions

3. In this Scheme—

"accredited pig herd" means a pig herd registered under the Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1968(**c**) or under the Accredited Pig Herds Scheme operated by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Republic of Ireland;

"approved" means approved by the Ministry of Agriculture;

"authorised" means authorised by the Ministry of Agriculture;

"group" means three or more persons who combine to keep a premium boar for the service of sows in their own herds;

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

"owner" means any person who keeps a premium boar for the service of sows in the district;

"premium" means a payment made in respect of a premium boar to an owner or group who has or have been selected by the County Committee of Agriculture under Article 6;

"pedigree" means entered in the Herd Book of the breed concerned and earmarked in accordance with the appropriate Herd Book regulation;

"premium boar" means a boar which after inspection by an authorised officer of the Ministry has been approved as being suitable for the award of a premium and which has been purchased by an applicant selected by a County Committee to keep a boar under this Scheme.

(**a**) 1949. c. 2.
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969, No. 176.
(**c**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968, No. 210.

Eligible boars

4. To be eligible for selection as a premium boar, a boar shall be a pedigree boar of the Large White or Landrace breed which was bred in an accredited pig herd or a herd which was accredited within three months prior to the approved sale. A boar from a first litter born in an accredited pig herd from a gilt or sow not bred in an accredited pig herd, shall also be eligible for selection if the Ministry is satisfied with the standards achieved by the dam or sire of the said boar or by the herd or herds from which such dam or sire were derived.

Age and selection of boars

5. Except where the Ministry otherwise approves, boars shall be selected and eligible for first-year premium from those which are over six months and under twelve months old and which are entered and exhibited at approved shows and sales.

Selection of applicants

6. Each County Committee shall, in accordance with the First Schedule, receive applications and select suitable owners or groups to keep premium boars.

Purchase of boars

7. Applicants selected under Article 6 shall purchase only approved boars and shall supply details of such boars to the County Agricultural Executive Officer. Premium boars shall be purchased at approved shows or sales but if a show or sale is not held the Ministry make make other arrangements for the inspection, selection and purchase of boars for premium.

Conditions and functions of County Committees

8. The conditions to be observed by an owner or group in connection with the placing out of premium boars are set out in the Second Schedule. The functions of County Committees are set out in the Third Schedule.

Premiums

9.—(1) The values of the premiums which may be paid by the Ministry under this Scheme and the methods of claiming and paying such premiums are set out in the Fourth Schedule.

(2) In addition to the payment of premiums under paragraph (1), the Ministry may, where the boar is conveyed by public transport or licensed carrier from the place of purchase to the purchaser's farm, pay half the cost of the carriage so incurred.

Penalties

10.—(1) In the event of any infringement or non-compliance with the terms and conditions contained in this Scheme, or where a boar is unable for any reason to complete the prescribed number of services, payment of the premium 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 for a boar, or obtains the service of a premium boar for his sow 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

11. The Ministry may brand or otherwise mark any premium boars and may inspect them at any time.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 20th day of October 1971.

(L.S.) *J. Parke,*
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 25th day of October 1971.

(L.S.) *C. F. Darling,*
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE (Article 6)

Selection of Applicants

1. Applications for selection by an owner or a group for payment of premium shall be made to the County Committee in such form and within such time as the County Committee may determine.

2. To be eligible, a group shall together own not less than 40 sows, provided that no member of the group shall own more than 25 sows.

3. In making selections the County Committee shall have regard to the needs of the various districts within its area.

4. The total number of applicants selected by a County Committee to keep premium boars shall be limited to the total number of premiums (first-year and second-year) approved by the Ministry for that county.

5. The County Agricultural Executive Officer shall notify those applicants who have been selected to keep premium boars and shall inform them of the shows and sales approved by the Ministry for the inspection and selection of boars.

6. A list of the applicants selected shall be forwarded to the Ministry by the County Committee immediately after the selections have been made and the list shall state the particular show or sale at which each applicant intends to purchase a boar.

SECOND SCHEDULE (Article 8)

Conditions for Premium Boars

Service season

1. The service season shall not commence before 1st January and shall close on 31st December.

2. In the case of first-year premium boars kept by owners, the service season shall commence on a date to be fixed by the County Committee not later than 1st July and not before the owner has notified the County Agricultural Executive Officer that he has purchased an approved boar.

3. In the case of premium boars kept by groups the service season shall commence as soon as the group has informed the County Agricultural Executive Officer that it has purchased an approved boar.

Service and fees

4. Each first-year premium boar shall serve not less than 30 sows and each second-year boar shall serve not less than 40 sows.

5. With the exception of premium boars owned by groups the service of sows the property of the owner of the boar shall not be recognised for premium purposes.

6. The service fee for the prescribed number of services shall be fixed for its area by each County Committee, provided that the maximum fee shall not exceed £1 per sow inclusive of all charges. An additional charge at such rate as the County Committee shall determine may be made to cover the keep of a sow which is left on an owner's farm for more than two days.

7. After the prescribed minimum number of sows has been served, an owner may charge such fee as he may decide.

8. A sow to be eligible for service under this Scheme must be the property of a group, a farmer who is a rated occupier in a county in Northern Ireland or of a herdsman or bona-fide agricultural worker resident in such a county.

Service restrictions

9. An owner shall not before the prescribed number of sows has been served reserve the use of the boar for sows the property of any individual.

10. Sows shall be served in the order in which they are presented.

11. The owner shall keep on the service form supplied by the Ministry a record of the names and addresses of persons whose sows have been served, with dates of such services and the amount of the fee charged. This form shall be produced for inspection on request by an authorised officer or by the County Committee.

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

Inspection of boars for second-year premiums

13. A boar owned by a group shall not be eligible for a second-year premium.

14. Of the boars awarded first-year premiums only those which are approved as suitable to stand for a second year under this Scheme shall be eligible to earn second-year premiums. A boar which is not well developed or which shows signs of having been badly cared for shall not be eligible to earn a second-year premium.

15. An owner whose boar is selected for a second-year premium shall produce such evidence as the Ministry may require of the fruitfulness of the boar in the first service season.

16. A boar approved as eligible to earn a second-year premium shall stand for service at the same place as in the previous service season, unless the County Committee otherwise approves.

17. The Ministry shall send to the County Committee a list of owners whose boars have been approved as eligible to earn second-year premiums and a list of owners whose boars have not been so approved.

18. The County Agricultural Executive Officer shall notify each owner who has not been selected by the County Committee to receive a second-year premium or whose boar has not been approved as suitable to stand for a second year.

19. The owner of a first-year premium boar which is selected as suitable for a second-year premium shall retain such boar for a second season as a premium boar unless he obtains the consent of the County Committee to dispose of it.

Additional conditions for premium boars owned by groups

20. The group shall keep a record of the sows served by the premium boar with the dates of service and such record shall be produced for inspection on request by an authorized officer.

21. The group shall keep the premium boar in a healthy breeding condition on their farms for at least 12 months from the date of purchase and shall not during this period dispose of it to any other person without the written consent of the Ministry. No other boar shall be kept by the group unless such boar is of premium standard.

THIRD SCHEDULE (Article 8)

Functions of County Committees

Subject to the approval of the Ministry, a County Committee may lay down conditions or requirements regarding:

(1) the number of premium boars which an owner may possess, provided that:—

(*a*) no owner shall keep a premium boar and any other boar on the same farm unless such other boar has been bred in an accredited pig herd and is approved as being up to the premium standard;

(*b*) no owner shall except with the approval of the Ministry possess two premium boars of the same breed unless located at least two miles by road from each other;

(2) the number of sows which any one person may send to a premium boar for service;

(3) the obtaining of permission for the service of sows owned by any persons who would otherwise be excluded in accordance with the terms of the Second Schedule;

(4) the latest date for the commencement of the service season in accordance with the Second Schedule;

(5) the service fee (subject to a maximum of £1) and a charge per day from the third day onwards to cover the keep of a sow which is left on the farm of an owner for longer than two days.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

PART I

Value of Annual Premium for Boars Belonging to Owners

1. The maximum values of premiums payable under this Scheme to owners shall be:—

(*a*) For "approved boars", sons of "approved boars" and "Group I performance tested boars" as defined in the Accredited Pig Herds and Pig Testing Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1968 . . . . £25

(*b*) For any other boar selected in accordance with the Scheme . £15

CLAIMING AND PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS

2. Not earlier than 1st September in any service season and not later than the following 28th February an owner having a premium boar shall forward to the County Agricultural Executive Officer the service form, and complete the claim for payment.

3. 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.

PART II

Value of Premium Payable for Boars Purchased by Groups

1. The amount of premium which the Ministry may pay to a Group for a premium boar purchased by them shall be half the amount remaining after the sum of £25 has been deducted from the approved purchase price of the boar and subject to a maximum premium of £30 for a boar described in paragraph 1(*a*) of Part I above or of £20 for a boar described in paragraph 1(*b*) of Part I above.

Claiming and Payment of Premiums

2. Not later than 14 days following purchase of the boar the group shall forward to the County Agricultural Executive Officer the receipt for such purchase.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This Note is not part of the Scheme, but is intended to indicate the general purport.*)

This Scheme revokes and re-enacts the 1969 Scheme, the main change being that groups of breeders may now join together to buy a premium boar to be used on sows in their own herds. Premium boars may now be placed out as follows:—

(1) With persons selected by the County Committee of Agriculture to keep boars for the service of sows in the district;

(2) with groups of three or more persons who join together to buy a premium boar for use in their own herds exclusively.