1980 No. 92

AGRICULTURE

Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1980

Made . . . . . *6th March 1980*

Coming into operation . . . *1st May 1980*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 1(1) and (4) of the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(a) and now vested in it(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, with the approval of the Department(c) of Finance hereby makes the following Scheme:

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1980 and shall come into operation on 1st May 1980.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme—

"approved proposals" means proposals by the Board submitted in writing to and approved in writing by the Department;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"the Board" means the Seed Potato Marketing Board for Northern Ireland.

Payments to Board

3.—(1) For the purpose of assisting persons engaged in the production of seed potatoes in Northern Ireland and improving the quality, production and marketing of seed potatoes the Department may make, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme, payments to the Board towards expenditure incurred by it in the carrying out of approved proposals where the Department is satisfied that such expenditure has reasonably been so incurred.

(2) Payments under this Scheme shall only be made if the approved proposals concerned have been carried out to the satisfaction of the Department.

(3) A modification to an approved proposal must before it is implemented be first approved in writing by the Department.

Proposals eligible for approval

4.—(1) Approved proposals shall be designed to increase efficiency in the growing, handling, storing, transporting or marketing of seed potatoes.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of paragraph (1), approved proposals may relate to—

(a) 1954 c. 31 (N.I.) as amended by 1957 c. 3 (N.I.) s. 1
(b) *See* 1973 c. 36 s. 40 and Sch. 5 para. 7(1) and 1974 c. 28 s. 1 and Sch. 1 para. 2(1) and (2)
(c) *See* 1973 c. 36 s. 40 and Sch. 5 para. 8(1).

(*a*) incentives to farmers in Northern Ireland to plant seed potatoes which have a high degree of freedom from disease;

(*b*) work of an experimental, research or development nature in connection with the production, grading, handling, storing or transporting of seed potatoes;

(*c*) the survey or development of markets for seed potatoes;

(*d*) the organisation of or participation in shows or exhibitions with a view to promotion of the sale of seed potatoes grown in Northern Ireland; or

(*e*) publicity relating to the seed potato industry in Northern Ireland.

Amount of payments

5.—(1) The amount or rate of payments in respect of an approved proposal shall be such as the Department shall determine.

(2) Where an approved proposal is only partly completed the Department, if it is satisfied that the purpose of the proposal has been carried out to an extent which it considers reasonable, may pay the Board such amount as the Department considers appropriate having regard to the extent to which the proposal has been carried out.

(3) The aggregate amount of payments made to the Board under this Scheme shall not exceed £30,000.

(4) No payment may be made under this Scheme after 31st March 1981.

Revocation

6. The Seed Potato (Improvement) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1979(**d**) is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 6th March 1980.

(L.S.) *D. J. Alexander*
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 6th March 1980.

(L.S.) *Desmond R. Cole*
Assistant Secretary

(d) S.R. 1979 No. 166 (I, p. 760)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Scheme provides for payments to the Seed Potato Marketing Board for Northern Ireland to meet expenditure on measures approved by the Department of Agriculture which are designed to assist the seed potato industry in Northern Ireland and so indirectly benefit farmers producing seed potatoes.

The total amount of the payments which may be made is limited to £30,000 and no payment may be made after 31st March 1981.