1971. No. 77 **[C]**

AGRICULTURE

Headage Payments—Sheep

SCHEME, DATED 10TH MARCH 1971, MADE BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1954 AS AMENDED BY THE AGRICULTURE (TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE) (AMENDMENT) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1957.

The Minister of Agriculture with the approval of the Minister of Finance and in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by the Agriculture (Temporary Assistance) Acts (Northern Ireland) 1954 and 1957(a) and of all other powers him thereunto enabling, hereby makes the following Scheme:—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Scheme may be cited as the Sheep Headage Payments Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971, No. 2.

(2) This Scheme shall have effect from 29th March 1971.

Definitions

2. In this Scheme—

"Fatstock Guarantee Scheme" means the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme in operation in Great Britain and in Northern Ireland;

"Fatstock Guarantee Scheme Year" means the year as specified under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme for the time being in operation;

"home-bred" means born and entirely produced in Northern Ireland;

"sheep" means clean fat sheep or carcases of such animals;

"certified" means certified under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme.

Headage payments

3. Subject to the provisions of this Scheme, the Ministry may make to persons producing home-bred sheep a payment in respect of each eligible home-bred animal which is properly certified under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme at any Liveweight or Deadweight Certification Centre in Northern Ireland during the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme Year 1971/72.

4. Payments shall be made in respect of such animals certified during the specified periods of the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme Year 1971/72 at the rates set forth in the Schedule.

5. In case of doubt as to the proper certification of an animal, or as to the proper person to be paid, eligibility for the headage payment shall be at the discretion of the Ministry.

6.—(1) Where a butcher or meat wholesaler has home-bred sheep certified by deadweight which were not produced by him the payment shall be made to the farmer who sold the sheep to the said butcher or meat wholesaler.

(a) 1954. c. 31 and 1957. c. 3.

(2) Payment in all other cases of both liveweight and deadweight certification shall be made to the person in whose name the home-bred sheep were certified.

7. There shall be no contract or obligation on the part of the Ministry to make any headage payment and all headage payments shall be at the Ministry's discretion.

8. If the Ministry, after having made a payment under this Scheme, finds that such a payment ought not to have been made in whole or in part or that the payment was in excess of the amount properly payable it may recover from the person to whom such payment has been made the whole or any part of the sum already paid, or may withhold or cause to be withheld any payment which would otherwise be or become due to that person by the Ministry under this or any other Scheme. The Ministry may also recover from a person producing home-bred sheep by way of deduction from a payment which might otherwise be made to him under this Scheme any monies due by that person to the Ministry or to any other Government Department.

Dated this 10th day of March 1971.

Phelim O'Neill,
Minister of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.

I approve the foregoing Scheme.

Dated this 11th day of March 1971.

H. V. Kirk,
Minister of Finance for Northern Ireland.

SCHEDULE

Period	Rate of Headage payment
29th March to 16th May 1971 . .	75p
17th May to 23rd May 1971 . .	50p
24th May to 6th June 1971 . . .	25p

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Scheme enables the Ministry of Agriculture to pay to farmers headage payments in respect of home-bred sheep certified under the Fatstock Guarantee Scheme 1971/72 for the periods and at the rates set out in the Schedule.