

Government Circular No. 177/50.

G.O. Reference No. S. 2807/1.

The Hill Sheep Subsidy Scheme, 1950.

In accordance with the Resolution passed by Tynwald on the 21st June, 1950, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has approved a Scheme (copy of which is appended) entitled "The Hill Sheep Subsidy Scheme, 1950," providing for the payment of a subsidy on hill sheep.

By Order,

T. NESBITT.

Asst. Government Secretary.

Government Office,
Isle of Man.
12th July, 1950.

**ISLE OF MAN
TO WIT**

By His Excellency Air Vice Marshal **SIR GEOFFREY RHODES BROMET, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.**, Lieutenant Governor of the said Isle, Etc., Etc., Etc.

WHEREAS on the 21st day of June, 1950, the following resolution was passed by Tynwald:

"That the Treasurer of the Isle of Man be authorised to apply from the current revenue of this Isle during the year ending 31st March, 1951, a sum not exceeding £5,000, for the purpose of enabling the Treasurer to defray the expenses and cost of a scheme approved by the Lieutenant Governor for the payment of a subsidy on Hill Sheep."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, the said Lieutenant Governor, hereby approve the scheme set out in the Schedule hereto and intituled "The Hill Sheep Subsidy Scheme, 1950," for the purpose of giving effect to the aforesaid resolution.

GIVEN under my hand this 12th day of July, 1950.

G. R. BROMET,

Lieutenant Governor.

THE HILL SHEEP SUBSIDY SCHEME, 1950.

1.—This Scheme may be cited as “The Hill Sheep Subsidy Scheme, 1950.”

2.—The subsidy shall be payable in respect of each eligible animal in a flock fully maintained on an approved holding by breeding on hill land on the 1st day of October immediately preceding the application, subject to the conditions hereinafter contained. The subsidy is payable in respect of all regular breeding flocks of ewes of mountain breeds kept under natural conditions on hill land and managed in accordance with the recognised practices of hill sheep farming.

3.—(1)—Subsidy at the full rate of 7/6d. per eligible animal shall be paid in respect of each eligible animal of a mountain breed or a first cross between two mountain breeds, except as hereinafter provided.

(2)—Subsidy at the half rate of 3/9d. per eligible animal shall be paid in respect of each eligible animal in a regular breeding ewe flock of a mountain breed or a hardy cross of a mountain breed in a flock kept on hill land and maintained by the purchase of ewes, shearlings or ewe lambs which satisfy the conditions of this Scheme.

(3)—Flocks in which an inadequate number of ewe lambs is bred and reared annually for flock maintenance, which are wholly or partly maintained by the purchase of ewes, shearlings or ewe lambs, or which are mainly kept for the production of cross-bred or half-bred lambs will be eligible for payment at the rate of 3/9d. per eligible ewe or shearling.

(4)—“Flying flocks” where the ewes are kept for less than two breeding seasons are not eligible for the Subsidy.

(5)—Flocks eligible for Subsidy at the full rate must comply with the following conditions with regard to rams used with the flocks:—

(a) **FLOCKS CONSISTING OF EWES OF MOUNTAIN BREEDS.**

Subject to the conditions laid down in Section 3 (3), Section 3 (8) and Section 4, the rams used in the flocks must be of the same breed as the ewes themselves, or of the Border Leicester or Blue-faced Leicester breeds.

(b) **FLOCKS CONSISTING OF EWES OF A FIRST CROSS BETWEEN TWO MOUNTAIN BREEDS.**

Subject to the conditions laid down in Section 3 (3), Section 3 (8) and Section 4, the rams used in the flocks must be of the same breed as those which sired the ewes.

Flocks which do not comply with the abovementioned conditions will be eligible only for the half-rate subsidy of 3/9d. per ewe.

(6)—Where the ram used with the flock is of the Border Leicester, Blue-faced Leicester, Wensleydale or Kerry breed, and the cross-bred ewes reared are recognised for breeding purposes, payment of subsidy shall be at the half-rate of 3/9d. per eligible animal.

(7)—Mountain ewes or ewes of a first cross between two mountain breeds, with a South Down, Suffolk or other lowland ram will not be recognised as eligible animals for the purposes of the Scheme.

(8)—Where two or more mountain breeds of sheep or two or more first crosses between two mountain breeds are kept on an approved holding each breed or first cross shall be treated as a separate flock.

4.—Where a flock on an approved holding is maintained by the purchase of ewes, shearlings or ewe lambs for the production of cross-bred lambs for sale, such ewes and shearlings will be regarded as eligible animals for subsidy at the half-rate provided that they are kept for at least two breeding seasons before sale off the hill. Where ewes are kept for a lesser period the flock will be disqualified under the conditions that "Flying flocks" are not eligible for subsidy.

- 5.—(a) For a flock to be self-maintained at least three full ages of breeding ewes (including shearlings) shall be kept. When less than three full ages are kept and the ewes are drafted early, it will not normally be possible to secure enough ewe lambs for flock replacement.
- (b) To maintain flock numbers, at least three full ages of ewes, or their equivalent shall be put to a mountain ram to breed pure bred ewe lambs for flock replacement. The percentage of the flock that shall be put to a mountain ram to qualify for the full rate of subsidy will depend on the average age at which the ewes are drafted.
- (c) The relationship between the number of ewe lambs required to maintain the flock and the size of the flock will depend on the age of drafting. Generally, in a flock containing three full ages of ewes (including shearlings) ewe lambs shall be 40 per cent. of the number of ewes and shearlings.

In a flock containing four full ages of ewes (including shearlings) ewe lambs shall be one third of the number of ewes and shearlings. In a flock containing five full ages of ewes (including shearlings), ewe lambs shall be at least one quarter of the number of ewes and shearlings.

Flocks not satisfying the above general conditions as to replacements, but otherwise eligible under the Scheme, shall be certified for subsidy at the half rate only.

6.—Only in exceptional cases will flocks in which ewes, shearlings or ewe lambs which have been purchased be accepted for the full rate of subsidy. The exceptional cases are:—

- (a) Where the purchases result in corresponding increase in flock numbers, and the applicant is, in effect, building up his hill sheep stock.
- (b) Where there is genuine evidence of unavoidable losses necessitating purchase to maintain flock numbers; and the applicant's system of management is such that purchases are not normally necessary.
- (c) Where, although purchases were necessary in the autumn of the year of application, the system of management during that year has been changed through the use of more mountain rams or in some other way; and the flock is henceforward likely to be maintained by breeding.

7.—The subsidy payment shall normally be payable to the occupier of the approved holding to which the eligible animals are attached and who is responsible for their breeding and management, or his legal representative. No assignment of the subsidy will be recognised.

The Board shall be entitled to be paid, on behalf of the applicant, the subsidy so payable, or any part thereof, and set off the said amount against any debt owing by the applicant to the Board.

8.—An applicant who desires to claim subsidy payment under the Scheme shall state on the official form of application:—

- (a) the number and breed of each class of eligible animal;
- (b) the name and address of the holding (or holdings) on which the animals were located, and
- (c) the numbers and breeds of ewes and shearling ewes or gimmers not of hill flocks kept by the applicant either on the holding (or holdings) or elsewhere;

and such particulars shall relate to the 1st day of October in the year of application.

9.—The Board may, at any reasonable time, require an applicant to submit in writing such particulars as the Board may require of the applicant's sales of ewes, ewe and wether lambs, and wool for the year preceding the payment of the subsidy.

10.—An application for subsidy payment under this Scheme must be forwarded to the Secretary of the Board before the 12th day of October in respect of the year of application, after which date no application will be entertained.

11.—The Board shall verify and certify the correctness of the claim and the eligibility of the animals referred to therein and forward the claim to the Treasurer of the Isle of Man, Government Office, Isle of Man, for examination and payment.

12.—For the purposes of this Scheme—

- (a) the breeding flock must be in regular ages, i.e. the flock must contain animals of all ages from shearlings to draft ewes and of a class which is kept and rears its lambs on hill land.

Occasional hand feeding in severe weather or at lambing time will not render the animals ineligible for subsidy.

- (b) "approved holding" means a holding of hill land approved by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the Board;
- (c) "hill land" means uncultivated high ground of the type classified in the Agricultural Returns as mountain and heath land used for grazing, excluding low rough moorland;
- (d) "mountain breeds" means the following mountain breeds; Blackface, Cheviot, Derbyshire, Gritstone, Herdwick, Lonk, Rough Fell, Swaledale and Welsh Mountain.
- (e) "eligible animal" means a ewe or a shearling ewe or gimmer of a mountain breed put to the ram in the year of the claim;
- (f) "Board" means the Isle of Man Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

13.—This Scheme shall come into operation on the 12th day of July, 1950.