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SOURCE Bashkimi

ORDER OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS REGULATES MANAGEMENT OF PASTURES

In the Order on the Management, Development, and Rental of State Pastures and Grasslands, the Council of Ministers has issued the following regulations, effective 10 days after their publication in Bashkimi:

All winter and summer grazing lands except those assigned to the state agricultural and livestock enterprises for exploitation shall be administered directly by the Executive Committees of the districts.

All grazing lands shall be divided into three classes according to regulations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. This classification shall be based upon the type of grass, the presence or absence of streams where livestock can drink during the summer, buildings and shelters, distances from transportation route, and distances from consuming centers.

The rent for the pastures and grazing lands shall be paid in kind (in milk) according to the feeding capacity and quality of the pasture, as follows: in winter pastures, 3.5 kilograms, 2.75 kilograms, and 2 kilograms per head for Classes I, II, and III, respectively; in summer pastures, 1.75 kilograms, 1.5 kilograms, and 1 kilogram per head; in winter and summer pastures, 1.25 kilograms, 1.5 kilograms, and 2.75 kilograms per head.

When such difficulties as distance from cheese makers or commercial coöperatives prevents payment in milk, the rental may be paid in butter. For this purpose one kilogram of butter is regarded as equivalent to 15 kilograms of sheep's milk or 22 kilograms of goat's milk.

Agricultural and livestock cooperatives and private farms where fine pure-bred sheep are raised are entitled to a 25-percent reduction in rent.

Milk or butter in payment of rent for winter pastures shall be delivered during April, and rent for summer pastures during June. The district Agriculture and Forestry Sections shall compile a list of grazers who rent the pastures, recording the number of livestock and the amount of milk or butter produced, and forward it to the district Financial Section. When the grazer pays his rent to the cooperative or cheese maker, he shall receive a receipt.

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Pastures shall be leased for a period of 5 years. Preference shall be given to livestock and agricultural cooperatives raising fine purebred sheep, crop purchase enterprises, livestock cooperative unions, and private stock raisers who have authorization from the Executive Committee.

The district Executive Committees may reserve not more than 10 percent of all the pastures in the district to be rented out on a temporary basis for extraordinary needs.

Subletting of pastures and grazing lands by the lessee is prohibited in any form. The lessee must use the pastures exclusively for his own livestock as provided in the contract.

The lessee may reserve part of the pasture for hay or seed it with clover for feed for his livestock.

Lessees must conform with the orders of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the improvement of livestock and make improvements specified in the contracts. Any increase in the feeding capacity of the pasture as a result of these improvements shall be to the benefit of the lessee.

Lessees shall not graze more livestock on the pasture than the predetermined capacity of the pasture.

Lessees shall be responsible for the maintenance of improvements in the pasture including buildings, gates, etc.

When the pasture is part of a block that has been rented to several farmers, they shall be jointly responsible for carrying out the improvements specified in the contract, and shall be jointly liable for the payment of fines levied for not carrying out such improvements, as specified in the contract.

Contracts for winter and summer pastures for 1949-50 shall be signed for one year. Long-term (5-year) leases shall not begin until the winter of 1950-51.

Lessees who sublet pastures, fail to make the prescribed improvements, or graze too many animals on a pasture shall be ousted from the pasture and fined up to 15,000 lek. Joint lessees who fail to make specified improvements shall be ousted from the pasture and are liable to punishment as stated in the contract.

Executive Committees of the district General Committees who cause damage by removing livestock without justification shall be responsible for payment for the damage caused.

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