

II—OLD AGE ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR FARMERS

The members of the old-age assistance scheme for farmers are all persons who are occupied as self-employed farmers or operators in agriculture and forestry including wine, fruit and vegetable growing, provided that their farm or property provides them with a permanent basis of subsistence.

The resources for the program are obtained from contributions and a State subsidy. Contributions are payable compulsorily by those whose principal occupation is farming provided they are not already required to contribute to another pension insurance scheme. The amount of contribution is the same for all contributors and is determined by the authorities elected by the members themselves. Since 1959 contributions have been 12 DM a month. In 1963 the State subsidy amounted to almost two-thirds of the benefit payments.

Under the farmers plan benefits are available, on the attainment of age 65 to the owner of the agricultural undertaking, (or to a widow at age 60) provided he ceases to manage the undertaking and undertook to transfer the property not later than his age 74, and provided the deceased, together with the widow or widower, have paid contributions for at least 180 calendar months.

The retirement benefit is a flat-rate benefit designed to supplement the free board, lodging and other benefits he would generally receive from the heir to whom he has turned over the farm. In 1963 benefits were 100 DM per month for a married couple and 65 DM for a single person.

(e) Old Age, Survivors and Disability Pensions—Sweden

Sweden has two pension systems, each providing for old age, disability, and survivors pensions. A universal scheme of "basic" pensions provides every Swedish citizen with a flat-rate pension at age 67. There are no other conditions. Flat-rate disability and survivors pensions are also available. This scheme is complemented by a social insurance program of earnings-related "supplemental" pensions that provides old age, survivors and disability pensions over and above those payable under the basic pension system.

I—BASIC SCHEME

Old Age Pensions

Basic flat-rate old-age pensions are payable at the age of 67 to all Swedes resident in the country. In 1964 the pension rate is 3,775 crowns a year. Pensions are available as early as age 63 in which case the basic pension is reduced by 0.6 per cent for each month by which the pensioner is under age 67 when he first makes his claim. For those who defer their basic pension beyond age 67, an increment in the basic pension of 0.6 per cent per month is provided. The pension can be deferred until age 70.

Disability Pensions

Disability is defined as a medically ascertained defect, mental retardation, or a physical or other handicap which causes a permanent reduction in working capacity. To qualify for the basic disability pension, it is not necessary for the applicant to have earned an income. The pension is payable between age 16, when children's allowances are discontinued, and age 67 when the basic old age pension becomes payable.

Sources:

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 ILO. *Legislative Series*, 1957, August and October, 1961 and December, 1962, Geneva.
 Belgium, *Revue Belge de Sécurité sociale*, Janvier, 1964. Brussels, 1964.
 West Germany, Ministry for Labour and Social Order, *Social Security*, Bonn, 1964.