



Country of Origin Labeling Information For Fair Staff

What is COOL?

The COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) final rule for commodities took effect on March 16, 2009. This USDA rule provides consumers with knowledge and as to where their food originated. This new requirement is not meant to be burdensome for producers to follow, but buyers of livestock projects will be asking for more information than in the past.

What Commodities are Required?

This rule affects beef (including veal), lamb, pork, chicken and goats; perishable commodities (fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables); macadamia nuts; pecans; ginseng; and peanuts. For exhibitors, this includes the following species: beef, goats, poultry, sheep and swine and also animals that may not be harvested until a much later time (for example, cull dairy cows, beef cows, and dairy goats). All animals that will eventually be harvested need to have documentation.



How does this rule affect youth exhibitors?

Ask for Documentation—Exhibitors need to make sure they collect documentation from the seller when purchasing livestock. Documentation could include the following:

- Signed affidavit from seller of livestock (Example on the 3rd page of this document)
- See other examples of Documentation in table below.

Keep documentation for 2 years minimum—Exhibitors must keep the appropriate documentation for a minimum of two years in the case of a USDA audit.

Sign county fair auction documentation—Exhibitors will be required to sign documentation for animals that go to buying stations and/or large processors such as Tyson, Cargill, Smithfield/Packerland, etc.. from the county fair. The fair office/livestock/auction committees will need to keep these forms for a minimum of 2 years and pass on the original to the processing plant.

Buyers of livestock

- Signed affidavit from seller of livestock
- Bill of sale
- Health Papers
- Brand Inspection
- Supporting documents identified by USDA¹

Original producers of livestock

- Birth records (calving, lambing, farrowing, etc..)
- Inventory records that reconcile
- Purchase and sales receipts
- Supporting documents identified by USDA¹

¹Balance sheet, income statement, other financial records, scale tickets and purchase and sales receipts, closeout records and/or feed records or bills, health papers, vaccination or other health treatment records or receipts, shipping records, farrowing, calving, or lambing records, breed association registered pedigrees.

Step by Step Approach for Fair Staff

Step 1:

Educate and notify exhibitors that they need to collect information on purchased animals. They need to collect an affidavit (example on page 3) and or retain supporting materials as described in Buyer's of Livestock table on the first page. The exhibitor needs to keep this documentation for 2 years.

Step 2:

Recognize where fair livestock goes following the county fair auction sale.

- If livestock go to local processing plants (ie: local lockers) and don't sell product to major grocers (ie: Sentry, Cub Foods) no COOL form is needed. Check with processors whether they will ask for COOL documentation. Most local processors will not require documentation. This scenario is most common for county fairs in Wisconsin.
- If livestock go to major processing plants such as Tyson, Cargill or other locations, COOL documentation will be required. Fairs should have youth and parents sign a COOL form (an example can be found on page 4). You can make the COOL verbiage be included with other forms that the fair may require. Keep this documentation for 2 years. Fill out one Tyson affidavit and send to Tyson. One affidavit is needed because one check is written.
- If livestock go to Equity and other local buying stations, COOL documentation will be required. This scenario is probably the most confusing and challenging. Usually Equity will write a check to each exhibitor for each animal, therefore each exhibitor will need to sign Equity's COOL Form (page 5). A copy should be made of this signed COOL form and kept by the fair for 2 years, the original sent to Equity. How-

ever at county fair auctions the buyer of the animal will sell it to Equity and Equity will write the check to that auction buyer. Therefore a COOL form needs to be completed by that Auction Buyer. Ideas of form completion could be having them sign a form when they get a buyer number or at payout time. Situations could be created where the buyer wouldn't need to fill out the COOL form, checks could be written to the auction/livestock committee instead. Eliminating the buyer of additional paperwork that they most likely will not understand. Other buying stations may require this similar situation. Please contact them and see what they require.

- Youth who are under 18 years of age need to have their parent's/guardian sign COOL documentation as well as the exhibitor signature.
- If youth take animals home from the fair and market them later, it will be their responsibility to complete paperwork with the entities they sell too.

For Additional Information:

USDA Website:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool>

UW Youth Livestock Website:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/youthlivestock/COOL.cfm>

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Country of Origin Affidavit/Declaration

As an affidavit is deemed by USDA as an official record of Country of Origin, I attest through first-hand knowledge, normal business records, or producer affidavit(s) that all livestock referenced by this document or other communications specific to the transaction and transferred are of U.S. origin (born and raised in the U.S.).

Exhibitor

Signature _____

Parent/Guardian

Signature _____

Continuous Country of Origin Affidavit/Declaration

As an affidavit is deemed by USDA as an official record of Country of Origin, I attest through first-hand knowledge, normal business records, or producer affidavit(s) that all livestock referenced by this document or other communications specific to the transaction and transferred are of **United States of America** origin. Should the origin of my livestock become other than that described above, I agree to notify the buyer/agent when this occurs.

This affidavit/declaration shall remain in effect until revoked in writing by the undersigned and is delivered to Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association.

Date

Signature

(_____)_____
Phone Number

Name (please print)



Address

Office Use Only
PN: _____
Market Location: _____

City, State, Zip

Web

Parent/Guardian Signature