

The final rule of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) came out on Jan. 16, 2009 slated to take effect March 16, 2009. This USDA rule provides consumers the knowledge and information of where their food originated. There has been much discussion on this topic since the 2002 farm bill, and it is now going into effect. This rule affects beef, lamb pork, and goats as well as other commodities like fish, nuts and ginseng.

How does this rule affect youth exhibitors? COOL does not directly regulate livestock producers, however producers have first-hand knowledge concerning the origin of their animals. Therefore, youth who purchase and or raise their animals need to know the origin of their animals, especially if sold to large-scale processors (Tyson, etc.), buying stations (Equity, etc.) or to local meat processors who sell to major retailers. Youth exhibitors may not know the final destination of their project at the time it is sold, therefore, all exhibitors should complete an affidavit of Country of Origin of their animal to be passed to the buyer of their project animal. If you purchase your project animal, it is also suggested to obtain a Country of Origin affidavit from the seller. Retain this affidavit for your own records. This provides additional evidence of the validity of the Country of Origin affidavit that the exhibitor passes to the buyer of their project animal, if it is required. There is an example form on the Extension Youth Livestock website that has all of the required information.

USDA will provide additional education and support, and this may result in changes in the program. For more information, access the USDA COOL website for these updates at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/> and click on Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), or go to the Extension Youth Livestock Website at <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/animalscience/youthlivestock/index.cfm> and click on COOL.

NOTE:

1. Taylor County Fair is required to collect a COOL affidavit for all market animals that may be sold at the Taylor County Market Animal Sales. The affidavit must be sent to the Taylor County Fair, P.O. Box 182, Medford, WI 54451, Attn: Kathy, by the Friday, the week before fair week.
2. If animals are purchased by the youth exhibitor, the sell./producer/breeder information needs to be filled out by the person they are buying from. If the youth exhibitor raised their own animal, they (the youth exhibitor) would be the sell providing the information that the animal was born on their farm.

The youth exhibitor signs the affidavit (along with their parent/guardian) where indicated.

Sale by exhibitors may need an affidavit for the buyer purchasing the animal. We suggest exhibitors bring affidavits along to the sale for this purpose.

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 on or other communications specific to the transaction and transferred are of U.S. origin (born and raised in the U.S.).

Date _____

Seller Contract Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Animals: _____

Animal ID: _____

General Description: _____

Seller Signature: _____

Date: _____

Exhibitor Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____