

Compliance with COOL is quite simple for 4-H'ers.

Under the new USDA rule regarding Country of Origin Labeling, known as COOL, retail meat (beef, pork, lamb, goat meat, and chicken) must be certified by the retailer as to its country of origin. In order to do so, retailers will obtain affidavits certifying country of origin of all meat they purchase from wholesalers, which most often are USDA inspected packing plants. In turn, USDA inspected packing plants require an *Affidavit of Country of Origin* for all livestock they purchase. This new USDA rule will have some effect on 4-H market livestock, especially those destined for the retail meat trade. Sellers will need to provide an *Affidavit of Country of Origin* to buyers. 4-H livestock that is sold directly to end users (mom, grandpa, Uncle Jim, Jerry's Tire Company, etc.) for custom slaughter does not need an *Affidavit of Country of Origin*, since it will not be sold at retail. On the other hand, "turn" animals often are sold to a commercial packing plant. Since the final destination of 4-H market animals sold at the Fair or Junior Show often is not known, 4-H'ers should be prepared to provide buyers an *Affidavit of Country of Origin* for all beef, pigs, lambs, goats, and chickens they plan to sell.

In order to provide an *Affidavit of Country of Origin*, 4-H'ers should do the following:

1. Obtain an *Affidavit of Country of Origin* from the person from whom you purchase or obtain your meat animals. Keep this affidavit for one year after you sell the meat animals. Furnish the seller a blank *Affidavit of Country of Origin* if they don't have one.
2. When you sell meat animals, provide buyers with your own *Affidavit of Country of Origin*. Keep a record of this affidavit for one year following the sale. In order to certify the country of origin of meat animals you sell, you must have first hand knowledge of their origin. First hand knowledge means that you produced these animals or that you obtained an *Affidavit of Country of Origin* for them when you obtained them.

4-H'ers who raise their own meat animals should originate the *Affidavit of Country of Origin*.

Meat animals participating in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) need no *Affidavit of Country of Origin*, since NAIS participation is considered proof of country of origin.

4-H'ers may print any part of this document that is necessary for keeping their COOL records.

## Producer Affidavit of Country of Origin of Livestock

Whereas 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 this transaction and transferred are of US origin.

I attest that I have and will maintain records of livestock origin for one year from the date of delivery of livestock to the buyer.

I attest that these records reflecting specific transactions are available for inspection for the sole purpose of compliance with an audit as described by the country-of-origin labeling provisions contained in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 as amended. (P.L. 108-767, USCA section 1638a, 2003).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seller's Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### Description of Livestock

#### Lot 1

Number of animals \_\_\_\_\_

Swine  Sheep  Cattle  Goats

Breed or cross \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female  Castrate

Age (mo) \_\_\_\_\_

Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
(brand, ear tag number(s), tattoo, mark)

Identifying features \_\_\_\_\_  
(markings, color)

Buyer or agent \_\_\_\_\_

#### Lot 2

Number of animals \_\_\_\_\_

Swine  Sheep  Cattle  Goats

Breed or cross \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female  Castrate

Age (mo) \_\_\_\_\_

Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
(brand, ear tag number(s), tattoo, mark)

Identifying features \_\_\_\_\_  
(markings, color)

Buyer or agent \_\_\_\_\_

**Lot 3**

Number of animals \_\_\_\_\_

 Swine  Sheep  Cattle  Goats

Breed or cross \_\_\_\_\_

 Male  Female  Castrate

Age (mo) \_\_\_\_\_

Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
(brand, ear tag number(s), tattoo, mark)Identifying features \_\_\_\_\_  
(markings, color)

Buyer or agent \_\_\_\_\_

**Lot 4**

Number of animals \_\_\_\_\_

 Swine  Sheep  Cattle  Goats

Breed or cross \_\_\_\_\_

 Male  Female  Castrate

Age (mo) \_\_\_\_\_

Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
(brand, ear tag number(s), tattoo, mark)Identifying features \_\_\_\_\_  
(markings, color)

Buyer or agent \_\_\_\_\_

**Lot 5**

Number of animals \_\_\_\_\_

 Swine  Sheep  Cattle  Goats

Breed or cross \_\_\_\_\_

 Male  Female  Castrate

Age (mo) \_\_\_\_\_

Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
(brand, ear tag number(s), tattoo, mark)Identifying features \_\_\_\_\_  
(markings, color)

Buyer or agent \_\_\_\_\_

**Lot 6**

Number of animals \_\_\_\_\_

 Swine  Sheep  Cattle  Goats

Breed or cross \_\_\_\_\_

 Male  Female  Castrate

Age (mo) \_\_\_\_\_

Identification \_\_\_\_\_  
(brand, ear tag number(s), tattoo, mark)Identifying features \_\_\_\_\_  
(markings, color)

Buyer or agent \_\_\_\_\_