



Complying Youth Livestock Project for Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)

What is Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)?

This newly mandated law requires many, though not all, retailers to ensure that country of origin information is provided for covered commodities (ground and whole muscle cuts of beef, lamb, pork, poultry, and goat). Packers and processors that supply covered commodities to their retail customers must provide COOL information.

4-H'ers are not directly regulated by COOL, but for retail claims they are required to provide documentation that indicates their project's country of origin; because covered commodities are required to be country-of-origin labeled, definitive origin information must be provided to slaughter facilities.

What 4-H and FFA Youth Need to Do:

A simple affidavit ("COOL Youth Livestock Affidavit") has been developed that can work for all species of livestock (e.g., beef, sheep, swine, poultry, goat). The "COOL Livestock Affidavit" is located at agbiopubs.sdstate.edu. Included with the affidavit is an explanation of the steps that need to be taken and example documents that can be used for an audit trail.

4-H and FFA youth who raise their own livestock for their projects need to fill out this affidavit and keep it on file for a minimum of two years. In the case of an audit, the youth can provide authorities with this affidavit, along with other documents (i.e., health papers, sales receipts, feeding records, or other similar documents) that are listed at the bottom of page 1 of the affidavit document.

4-H and FFA youth who purchase their livestock from others MUST have the producer fill out the affidavit. The producer will then give the affidavit back to the youth, and the youth should keep the affidavit on file for a minimum of two years. Example: A 4-H'er goes to buy a steer from a producer. The 4-H'er gives the affidavit to the producer (the seller) to fill out and sign. The producer fills out the affidavit. The producer gives the completed affidavit back to the 4-H'er.

Examples of documents to maintain for at least two years as an audit trail.

Buyers of livestock	Original producers of livestock
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed affidavit from seller of livestock • Bill of sale • Health papers • Brand inspection • Supporting documents identified by USDA¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth records (calving book, PigChamp, Pig Tales, etc.) • Inventory records that reconcile • Sales receipts • Supporting documents identified by USDA¹

¹ Balance sheet, income statement, other financial records, scale tickets, 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.

See <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/records.htm> for details.

Country of Origin Label Declaration

Date: 10/20/2006

Seller contact information

Name: John Doe

Address: 12345 Highway 14

City & State: Somewhere, SD 57000

Phone Number: (605) 555-4444

Number of Animals: 3

General description: This transaction includes three steers:

ear tag (right ear) blue 845 - solid black

ear tag (right ear) yellow 888 - black brockle face

ear tag (right ear) yellow 801 - red bald face

I attest through firsthand knowledge, normal business records, or producer affidavit(s) that all livestock referenced by this document or other communication specific to the transaction and transferred are of U.S. only or U.S. Canadian or Mexican origin. Should the origin of my livestock become other than that described, I agree to notify the buyer/agent at occurrence.

This affidavit/declaration shall remain in effect until revoked in writing by the undersigned and is delivered to Johnny 4-H (agent/buyer).

Signed: _____, Seller Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____

(if seller is a minor)

Country of Origin Label Declaration

Date: _____

Seller contact information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____

Phone Number: _____

Number of Animals: _____

General description: _____

I attest through firsthand knowledge, normal business records, or producer affidavit(s) that all livestock referenced by this document or other communication specific to the transaction and transferred are of ___ U.S. only or ___ U.S. Canadian or Mexican origin. Should the origin of my livestock become other than that described, I agree to notify the buyer/agent at occurrence.

This affidavit/declaration shall remain in effect until revoked in writing by the undersigned and is delivered to _____ (agent/buyer).

Signed: _____, *Seller* **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ **Date:** _____

(if seller is a minor)