



Country of Origin Labeling

Information For Parents and Exhibitors

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.

In December 2015, COOL was rescinded by the federal government for Beef and Pork products. Thus NO COOL forms are needed for beef and swine producers.

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 lamb, chicken and goats; perishable commodities (fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables); macadamia nuts; pecans; ginseng; and peanuts. For exhibitors, this would include the following species: goats, poultry and sheep, and also animals that may not be harvested until a much later time. 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.

<p>Buyers of livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed affidavit from seller of livestock • Bill of sale • Health Papers • Brand Inspection • Supporting documents identified by USDA¹ 	<p>Original producers of livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth records (lambing, kidding) • Inventory records that reconcile • Purchase and sales receipts • Supporting documents identified by USDA¹
<p>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, or lambing/kidding records, breed association registered pedigrees.</p>	

Sign county fair auction documentation—

Exhibitors will be required to sign documentation of animals that go to buying stations and or large processors from the county fair auction. The fair office/livestock/auction committees will keep these forms for a minimum of 2 years and pass on the original to the processing plant.

- Youth who are under 18 years of age need to have a parent/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>

Youth Livestock Website:

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/youthlivestock/resources/country-of-origin-labeling-cool/>



Written by: Bernie O'Rourke, Extension
Youth Livestock Specialist,
borourke2@wisc.edu, 608-263-4304

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Country of Origin Affidavit/Declaration
This form is only needed for sheep, market goats, and market poultry.

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.).

Date _____

Seller/Breeder Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City and State: _____

Phone number: _____

Number of Animals: _____

Animal ID: _____

General Description: _____

Seller/Breeder Signature _____ Date _____

Exhibitor Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

This form must be returned to the 4-H Office, Market Animal Committee,
206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014-1127 by May 15.