



# 4-H Youth Livestock Project for Country of Origin Labeling

## What is Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)?

This newly mandated law requires many retailers to ensure that country of origin information is provided for covered commodities (ground and whole muscle cuts of beef, lamb, pork, poultry and goats). 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 do 4-H Youth Need To Do?

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

4-H 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, feedings, records, or other similar documents) that are listed below.

4-H 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

- Signed affidavit from seller of livestock
- Bill of Sale
- Health papers
- Brand Inspection
- Supporting documents Identified by USDA

### Original Producers of Livestock

- Birth record (calving book, Pig Champ, Pig Tales, etc.)
- Inventory Records that Reconcile
- Sales receipts
- Supporting Documents Identified by USDA

Balance sheet, income statement, other financial records, scale tickets, purchase and sales receipts, closed out records and/or feed records or bills, health papers, vaccination or other health treatment records or receipts, shipping records, farrowing, calving or lambing records and breed association registered pedigrees. See <http://www.ams.usda.gov/cool/records.htm> for details.

# COOL Youth Livestock Affidavit

4-H'er Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Club: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle one species per form)

**Steer**      **Goat**                      **Sheep**                      **Swine**                      **Rabbits**                      **Poultry**

## Country of Origin Label Declaration

### Original Owner

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Animals: \_\_\_\_\_

General Description (one animal per line, include ear tag number):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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 be 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 \_\_\_\_\_ (buyer).

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_, Seller      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4-H'er: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_