

COOL and Premise ID Update for Iowa 4-H Livestock Program

As many of you know, the USDA is preparing for the mandatory COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) that goes into effect September 30, 2008. Details for Iowa 4-H livestock exhibitors and County Extension Offices can be found on the 4-H Ag/Livestock website at, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/index.htm>. Under the "Livestock ID" heading are the Premise ID and COOL information links as well as the needed affidavits for the COOL implementation.

COOL (Country of Origin Labeling)

What 4-H'ers Need to Do:

There is a COOL affidavit located on the Iowa 4-H Ag/Livestock website at, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/documents/coolinfo.pdf>. On the webpage is a link to the affidavit. Page 1 explains the steps needed to be taken as well as example documents that can be used for an audit trail. Page 2 is the actual affidavit.

4-H'ers who raise their own livestock for their projects need to fill this affidavit out and keep it on file for a minimum of two years. In the case of an audit, 4-H'ers can provide authorities with this affidavit along with other documents listed at the bottom of page 1 of the affidavit document (birth records (calving report, PigChamp, PigTales, etc.), purchase/sales receipts, etc.)

4-H'ers who purchase their livestock from others MUST have the producer fill out the affidavit, give it to the 4-H'er, and the 4-H'er must keep the affidavit on file for a minimum of two years. For example, a 4-H'er goes to buy his steer from a producer. The 4-H'er needs the producer (seller) to fill out and sign the affidavit.

What County Offices Need to Do:

County Offices should look at the website, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/documents/coolinfo.pdf>, and look at the packer with whom they do business with. County Fair staff will likely receive information from their local packer/buyer with a specific affidavit to fill out for all county fair animals. There is also a "Frequently Asked Questions" section at the above website.

More information regarding COOL can be found on the Iowa Beef Center's webpage at, <http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL.htm>.

Premise ID

Premise ID requirements for various packers can also be found on the website, <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/Agriculture/documents/coolinfo.pdf>. Tyson Fresh Meats and Hormel Foods will require Premise ID for all swine in 2009. Other packers may soon follow with this requirement so standby for updates. County fairs should keep in close contact with their local buyer for any changes. At this time, 2009 Iowa State Fair exhibitors will NOT be required to have a Premise ID number. Individuals wanting to register for a Premise ID can access the form on the web at <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry/pdf/premiseIDapp.pdf>. Questions regarding Premise ID application status can be answered by calling Iowa Dept of Ag and Land Stewardship (IDALS) at, 1-888-778-7675.