

# FIELD & FEEDLOT



NORTHWEST AREA EXTENSION

OCTOBER 2008 ISSUE

## Extension Web Sites

### Ag Decision Maker

<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/>

### Beef Center

<http://www.iowabeefcenter.org/>

### Manure Management

<http://www.agronext.iastate.edu/immag/>

### Pork Center

<http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/>

## Beef News

By Beth Doran, ISU Extension Beef Field Specialist

**Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)** – becomes effective on September 30, 2008 and includes beef, swine, sheep, goats and poultry. There are two categories of meat labels that directly involve Iowa livestock producers:

- Category 1 – exclusively born, raised and slaughtered in the U.S.
- Category 2 – born and raised in more than one country (US, Canada, and or Mexico) and slaughtered in the U.S.

In order to sell meat to retailers, packers will have to provide retailers with country of origin information about the livestock. To identify the country of origin, all of the livestock industry will need to work together to maintain information - from the original producer who birthed the animal through the food chain to the consumer's table.

Here is how the process will work. Each owner of the livestock needs to keep track of one-step-forward and one-step backward movement of animals. The owner (seller) of the livestock must provide the buyer with an affidavit indicating the following information: country of origin, name of the buyer, date, and the seller's signature and address. The seller also needs to maintain normal business records (invoices, health papers, closeouts, birthing records, etc.) that support country of origin claims if audited. The affidavits and business records need to be kept for one year from the time of sale.

Affidavits are available at: [www.lmaweb.com](http://www.lmaweb.com) Click on "COOL Materials 9/08" in the upper right hand corner of the home

page. However, a buyer of the livestock may have their own affidavit form that they are requesting from the seller. Each seller should check with their buyer to see what affidavit the buyer wants the seller to fill out and sign.

The COOL law provides that all livestock residing in the U.S. on or before July 15, 2008 are considered U.S. born and raised. This meat can be sold into retail markets as Category 1. Proof of the animal's presence in the U.S. on or before July 15, 2008 is needed. This could be an inventory sheet that lists the number of animals and identification (if known). Supporting documents might include purchase invoices, health papers, feed records for the pens, etc. These records should be kept until the animal is sold (which will likely be more than one year for breeding stock).

For more information or to view a recent webcast about COOL, check out the Iowa Beef Center website: [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org) Click on the "COOL" link located on the right hand side of the page.

**Changes in Delivering Against Live Cattle Futures Contracts** – Beginning with deliveries on the October 2008 contract, all cattle in the delivery unit must be born and raised exclusively in the U.S. In addition, at the time of delivery the seller must provide an affidavit attesting to the origin of the cattle being delivered. This affidavit is located on the web at: <http://www.cmegroup.com/company/membership/membernet/files/20080915S-4755.pdf>

Beginning with the August 2009 contract month, live graded deliveries may be made at three additional delivery points – Wray, CO; Sioux Falls, SD; and Worthing, SD.

**Changes in Counting Cattle** – Changes in Iowa environmental rules require that all animals of the same type at one location will be counted together to determine whether the farm has 1000 animal units or more and needs a NPDES permit. For instance, the number of steers in an open feedlot will be added to the number of heifers in confinement. If the total number of cattle is 1000 head or more, the farm must get a permit or reduce the size of their operation.

Cattle feeders should add all cattle together except for mature dairy cows. For instance, 300 dairy heifers outside and 750 steers in deep-bedded confinement would be added together to

equal 1050 head, which would likely need a permit. However, if you have 750 beef steers in open lot and 300 mature dairy cows in a deep-bedded confinement, you would not add the animals together, because they are of different types.

The deadline to apply for a permit is December 31, 2008. There are several steps that must be completed (in the following time-line) before DNR can issue the permit:

- Get started NOW!!!
- Decide if this applies to your operation (if you are unsure, contact your regional DNR Office).
- Take soil samples this fall and test soils for phosphorus levels for the nutrient plan.
- Select a consultant to develop a Nutrient Management Plan or combine an existing Manure Management Plan with a new Nutrient Management Plan. Or, alternatively, the producer can develop these plans.
- Select a consulting engineering to develop plans for any construction that is required.
- Provide public notice.
- Submit a complete application to DNR by December 31, 2008

**Iowa Beef Center Newsletter** – The Iowa Beef Center has a monthly newsletter, “Growing Beef,” that is available online. It may be accessed at: [www.iowabeefcenter.org](http://www.iowabeefcenter.org) and is located under “Resources” near the bottom of the page. Two issues have been published. August dealt with early weaning; September focused on culling cows.

## Road Safety, A Shared Responsibility

*By Joel DeJong, ISU Extension Field Agronomist*

Getting harvest from the field to market can be dangerous work, but doing it in traffic on Iowa’s highways and county roads extends the hazards to other drivers and their passengers. Motor vehicle collision fatalities are well documented with over 42,000 people dying in motor vehicle crashes in 2006 nationally. The largest percent (53.7 percent) of fatal crashes nationally are those that happen in rural areas. While farm tractors and other farm equipment comprise a small percent of total motor vehicles nationally, the percentage of fatal motor vehicle collisions involving farm equipment is almost five times higher than other vehicle collisions. In crashes involving farm vehicles, the farm vehicle operator was killed nearly twice as often as an occupant of the other motor vehicle.

The most likely types of collisions are left-turn and rear-end collisions. The left-turn collision happens when the farm vehicle is about to make a wide left turn and the vehicle behind begins to pass. The second most common incident is the rear-end collision, where another vehicle approaches farm equipment and is unable to slow down to avoid a collision. This happens because of large difference in travel speeds of these two types of vehicles.

Charles Schwab, Iowa State University Extension farm safety specialist, says proper lighting and marking for farm vehicles is only half of the solution. Motor vehicle drivers also must read the signs and be on the lookout for farm traffic, especially in the weeks ahead. Higher speeds used on rural roads, changeable conditions and a variety of traffic all contribute to these injuries.

In Iowa, motorists also must be aware of farm traffic, which can be difficult to spot, plus it travels at much slower speeds than normal traffic. “Motorists may be unfamiliar with the outlines of farm equipment, especially at dusk when operators are returning from fields or moving between fields. Unfamiliarity can cause a split-second delay in reaction that, in many cases, can lead to a collision,” he says.

Here are defensive-driving tips for rural roads this fall:

- As soon as you see a slow-moving vehicle (SMV) emblem, brake as if you were approaching a stop sign.
- Look for hand or turn signals from the farm vehicle operator, indicating a left-turn.
- When passing, make sure you can see the farm vehicle in your rearview mirror before you get back in your lane.

Here are some questions in preparation for fall for crop producers:

- Get behind each of your tractors and wagons. Do you see SMV signs easily?
- Do your flashers on your tractors all work? How about direction signals?
- If travelling at night, do you have lights on the back of all wagons? Do they work?
- Has all maintenance been done to insure safety?

Road safety is a shared responsibility so make sure you know your part this fall.

## October Is Pork Month

*The following list of pork facts of Iowa was taken from The Iowa Pork Producers Association web page at: [www.iowapork.org](http://www.iowapork.org)*

### Iowa’s Pork Producers

- With more than 8,000 hog farms, thousands of Iowans are making their living raising hogs. Pork producers range from multi-generational farm families to up-and-coming young producers.
- With its abundant feed supplies, cutting edge production technology and committed producers who provide the best in animal care, Iowa is well suited for pork production.
- Iowa is the top pork producing state! Approximately 25 million hogs or more are raised in Iowa each year. That’s 27% or more of the nation’s hogs.

## Animal Well-Being

- Producers have a vested interest in protecting the health and well-being of their livestock. Each animal receives the best of care because the producer's livelihood is at stake.
- Most hogs are raised inside modern, environmentally controlled barns. This practice allows producers to watch and care for each animal, prevent disease and keep them comfortable year 'round.

## The Value of Manure

- With skyrocketing nitrogen prices, livestock manure is a valuable commodity to farmers. The nutrients found in manure are vital to corn and soybean plants.
- Most producers inject liquid manure from barn holding pits directly into the ground, or land apply manure and then immediately incorporate the nutrients with tillage equipment. These practices conserve the nutrients and help reduce odor during and after application.
- Pork producers annually develop and manage extensive manure management plans to ensure every gallon of manure is properly applied. By determining the exact amounts of nutrients needed by the soil, producers significantly reduce the risk of over-application and potential run-off.

## Boosting the Iowa Economy

- The Iowa pork industry contributes nearly \$12 billion to the Iowa economy each year.
- More than \$2 billion is contributed in annual payroll income.
- Hogs are the largest consumers of corn and soybeans produced in the state, eating roughly a third of the grain produced in Iowa each year.

## Protecting the Environment

- Producers drink the same water and breathe the same air as everyone else, so producers utilize sound environmental practices.
- Manure management plans, soil and water conservation practices, air quality strategies, wildlife habitat management and environmental management innovations are all critical components of a pork producer's operation.
- By regularly attending training and certification programs, pork producers stay abreast of the latest environmental protection methods.

## Dedicated to Community Involvement

- Pork producers care about their communities. They participate and contribute to programs that help make their towns and cities better places to live. You'll find producers on school boards, volunteering at school functions, leading civic organizations, helping with fundraisers, and donating pork to homeless shelters.
- The Iowa pork industry creates more than 63,000 jobs for Iowans. Veterinarians, truck drivers, feed suppliers, equipment manufacturers, meat managers and others all work closely with pork producers. When pork producers flourish, communities are strong.

## Being Neighborly

- Pork producers are proactive and committed to being good neighbors by using the latest technology and management practices to reduce livestock odor.
- Good relations are maintained by visiting with neighbors about expansion plans and informing them before applying manure.
- Many producers now site livestock buildings in locations that will have the lowest impact and be the least offensive to neighbors.

## Producing Safe, Wholesome Food

- Pork is now leaner than skinless chicken breast, thanks to production improvements and changes in genetics, feeding and management practices.
- Producers actively participate in Pork Quality Assurance Plus and other food safety and animal care programs to ensure the quality and safety of the pork products they produce.

## Preparing For Corn Harvest

By Kris Kohl, ISU Extension Ag Engineer Field Specialist

The crop report puts our crop progress about 2 weeks behind normal. The last 2 weeks of September have helped the crop progress move more corn to maturity. The dynamics of drying a wet corn crop have changed in the last year.

### 10 Facts to Consider

1. Propane has increased more than electricity, making nature air drying more economically competitive.
2. It takes about 4 times more time to dry 20% corn down to 15% than 18% corn down to 15%.
3. Shallower grain depths will dry faster.
4. Combination hot air drying to 18%, and cooling/natural air drying can increase drying capacity by 50% - 100%, and improves test weight.
5. Corn test weight normally goes down 1#/test weight for every four points of moisture above 15%. Twenty-five percent corn will read 53.5#/bu. and will read 56#/bu. @ 15%.
6. New combines and grain carts can harvest corn faster than old driers can dry it.
7. During a normal October, corn will lose about 2-3 points per week, during November, about 1-1.5 points per week.
8. Field frozen corn will behave like dry corn until it thaws.
9. More corn goes out of condition because of temperature than goes bad because of moisture. Keep the fans running!
10. Corn prices are higher than any time in our lifetime. Enjoy the harvest, be safe and don't overload the dryer.

Above normal temperatures and dry weather is needed for a mature and dry crop. Good yields will push everything to capacity so get prepared.