

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY University Extension

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IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION OCTOBER 2008

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COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING FOR 4-H & FFA MEMBERS

What does Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) mean to County 4-H & FFA members and what steps will you need to follow? As many of you know, the USDA is preparing for the mandatory COOL (Country of Origin Labeling) that goes into effect September 30, 2008. There is an excellent website for those wanting to know more details on the Iowa Beef Center's webpage at www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL.htm.

The process for Youth is relatively simple! What Youth Need to Do:

The Iowa COOL Coalition has come up with a simple affidavit that can work for all species of livestock (beef, sheep, swine, poultry, goat). Affidavit is located at, www.iowabeefcenter.org/content/COOL/COOL%20Forms.doc 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.

Youth 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.)

Youth who purchase their livestock from others MUST have the producer fill out the affidavit, give it to the Youth, and the Youth should 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.

The USDA has given limited guidance on the implementation of COOL to allow for flexibility at the local level. All youth who exhibit dairy cattle, beef (market & breeding), swine, sheep, goats, rabbits, poultry, and bucket bottle calves will need to use the affidavit. It is the RESPONSIBILITY of each Youth member/ family to be in compliance with the Country of Origin Labeling guidelines.

You may consider as part of this process that exhibitor families who show large animals (beef, dairy, goats, sheep, and/or swine) apply for and obtain a premise identification number from the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship. Premise ID form - <http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us/animalIndustry/premiseIdentificationProgram.asp> There is no cost to obtain a premise id and you only need to complete this process once for a location. All youth in a family would use the same premise id number for livestock raised at a single location. If you have any questions please contact Gene Mohling at the Extension Office or email mohling@iastate.edu Your patience is appreciated as we work towards meeting these new expectations for the 2009 county fair!

COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR COURSES ANNOUNCED

Commercial pesticide applicators across Iowa will return to the classroom this fall for re-certification, in accordance with the Pesticide Act of Iowa. Instruction is offered through Iowa State University Extension's Pest Management and the Environment Program (PME), which makes the continuing instructional courses (CIC) available. More than 90 sites will be available for CIC this fall.

Scheduled courses include:

Mosquito/Public Health Pest Management, Oct. 23 Categories 7D (Community Insect Management); 8 (Public Health Pest Control) and 10.

Ornamental and Turfgrass Applicators, Nov. 12 Categories 2 (Forest Pest Control), 3O (Ornamental Pest), 3T (Turfgrass Pest Control), 3OT (Ornamental and Turf Pest Control) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Commercial Ag Weed, Insect and Plant Disease, Nov. 19 Categories 1A (Agricultural Weed Management), 1B (Agricultural Insect Control), 1C (Agricultural Crop Disease Management) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Fumigation Course, Dec. 2 Categories 7C (Fumigation) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Pest Control Operators, Dec. 3 Categories 7A (General and Household Pest Management), 7B (Termite Control), 8 (Public Health Pest Control) and 10 (Demonstration and Research).

Two courses with dates pending are:

Greenhouse and Ornamental Applicators Categories 3G (Greenhouse Pest Control), 3O (Ornamental and Turf Pest Control), and 10 (Demonstration and Research); and

Aerial Applicators Categories 10 (Demonstration and Research) and 11 (Aerial Application).

Employers and applicators receive notification during the summer about the course schedule. Additional information can be accessed at www.extension.iastate.edu/PME. For information about registration, contact your local county extension office.

FORAGE/BEDDING PRICES

Recent auctions in east central and southeast Iowa have resulted in the following forage/bedding prices:

Keosauqua (SE IA) Sat 11:30A Alfalfa: SmSq \$1.75-5.25/bale; LgRd \$30-40/bale; Grass : SmSq \$2.00-3.50/bale; Oat Hay: SmSq \$2.00-2.50/b **Kalona** (SE IA) 1st Thurs, Yr-round 11:30AM (& 3rd Thurs Oct-winter) Alfalfa: (SmSq \$2.10-3.00/bale Aug); LgSq \$30-40/b (\$120-130/T; LgRd \$40-55/bale Aug); Mixed Leg/Gr: SmSq \$2.20-3.10/b; LgRd \$50/bale; Grass: LgSq \$ 28-31/bale; (LgRd \$35-37.50/b Aug); CRP: (SmSq \$2.55/bale Aug); Straw: SmSq \$3.00/bale

APPLYING MANURE THIS FALL? CHECK YOUR APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Manure applicators that haul or handle manure from a confinement site facility with more than 500 animal units and all commercial manure applicators are required by Iowa law to be certified to apply manure in Iowa. "My best estimate based on historical numbers of certified applicators is somewhere between 300-800 applicators still need to attend training this year to maintain or renew their licenses to apply manure before the fall application season," says Angie Rieck-Hinz, Extension program specialist. Confinement site applicators must attend two hours of annual training to maintain their three-year license. Applicators must pay certification and education fees. After March 1 of the current year, applicators that are renewing their certificates must also pay a late fee. Commercial manure applicators must attend three hours of training or take and pass an exam annually. Commercial applicators that need to renew their licenses after March 1 will need to pay a late fee in addition to the certification fee and education fee. Commercial manure applicators are reminded they must be associated with a commercial manure service.

“Although manure applicators sometimes complain about having to take annual training, they also say that the training has helped them respond quickly and well to a spill, or learn about law changes that affect their business,” said Jen Christian, DNR environmental specialist. Commercial and confinement site applicators may meet certification requirements by scheduling an appointment with their local ISU Extension county office to watch a videotape or by contacting their local DNR field office to schedule an appointment to take the certification exam. Four certification programs will be offered this winter for confinement site and commercial manure applicators:

- **Commercial manure applicator certification is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Johnson & Washington County Extension Office.**
- **Confinement site certification is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2009, 9:30 a.m. to Noon at Gringer Ag, 2144 Old Hwy 218 S, Iowa City.**
- **Confinement site certification is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Washington County Extension Office**

For information about manure applicator certification requirements contact Greg Brenneman, Ag Engineer, at gregb@iastate.edu or 319/337-2145 and Tom Miller, Program Specialist tmiller@iastate.edu 319-653-4811.

4-H/FFA MARKET BEEF WEIGH-INS FOR 2009 FAIRS

Six calves total may be weighed in for the county fair and out-of-county events. Last year’s bucket-bottle calves must also be weighed to be shown in the market beef class for 2009. Returning bucket-bottle calves are included in the maximum of six head that may be weighed in. Breeding Heifers do not need to be weighed. State Fair requirements: \$5 per animal nominated plus \$1 additional for Ak-Sar-Ben. We will need an exhibitor and parent/guardian signature on each animal’s identification material. Retinal scanning and DNA will be taken at that time as needed. If the parent or exhibitor is unable to attend the weigh-in, we will need a signed waiver (Extension will provide the waiver forms at the weigh-ins). Advanced Feeder projects are also weighed at this time. Please check with your local county office for complete details.

- Washington County, Saturday, December 6, 2008, 8:30 a.m.-Noon, Kalona Sale Barn
- Iowa County, Saturday, December 13, 2008, 9 a.m.-Noon, Iowa Valley Vet Clinic
- Johnson County, Saturdays, January 3, 2009, 8:00 a.m.-Noon, Johnson County 4-H Fairgrounds

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR PROGRAMS SCHEDULED

The 2008-2009 private pesticide applicator continuing instructional courses have been scheduled for Iowa, Johnson and Washington County. If you wish to recertify by training and not by exam, you must attend a CIC session each year. Remember, you always have the option of taking the exam. There is a \$20 fee per person. A private pesticide applicator may attend a class offered in any county. Pre-registration is not required.

Date	Time	County	City/Area	Location
December 17	9:30 a.m.	Johnson	Hills	Hills Community Center, Hills
December 17	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Hills Community Center, Hills
December 19	9:30 a.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
January 8	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	Marengo	American Legion, Marengo
February 11	1:30 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg.
February 11	4:15 p.m.	Iowa	I-80, Exit 216	Kinze Mfg.
February 16	1:30 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Hills Community Center, Hills
February 16	7:00 p.m.	Johnson	Hills	Hills Community Center, Hills
March 12	1:30 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 12	7:00 p.m.	Washington	Washington	Washington County Extension
March 16	7:00 p.m.	Iowa	Victor	KC Hall, 210 Washington St.

PORK QUALITY ASSURANCE PLUS™

PQA Plus™ was developed by the Pork Industry Animal Care Coalition to be a continuous improvement program. The coalition, made up of pork producers, packers/processors, restaurants and food retailers, dedicated itself to finding a food-industry solution that would give confidence to consumers that U.S. pork is produced in a way that respects animal well-being. PQA Plus™ merges the food safety and animal well-being concepts of the original PQA program into three steps: individual certification through education, farm site assessment, and the opportunity for audit that gives customer credibility. For more information on PQA Plus™ contact the National Pork Board at 800-456-PORK, or go to [that Web site](#).

PROGRAM GUIDELINES, ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Pork producers with current Pork Quality Assurance™ (PQA) Level III certification should be aware that the PQA™ program has been revamped and expanded to include an animal well-being assessment. Because of this new structure and the renaming of the program to PQA Plus™, all existing PQA™ certifications will not be renewed at the end of the certification period. The Iowa Pork Industry Center and Iowa State University Extension are teaming up to provide necessary certification training for producers.

PQA PLUS™ TRAINING SESSIONS

Each session is two hours long with a registration fee of \$25 per person, payable at the training session. Preregistration is strongly encouraged to ensure that adequate materials are available for all in attendance. See the individual meeting entries below for appropriate contact information.

Jones County Extension Office. 605 East Main Street, Anamosa. Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. To preregister, contact Larry McMullen by e-mail at lkcmull@iastate.edu or by phone at 319-462-2791. November 18, 2008; January 20, 2009; March 17, 2009; May 19, 2009; July 21, 2009

Washington County Extension Office. 2223 250th Street, Washington. Tuesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. To preregister, contact Tom Miller by e-mail at tmiller@iastate.edu or by phone at 319-653-4811. October 21, 2008; December 16, 2008; February 17, 2009; April 21, 2009; June 16, 2009

GRAIN SAFETY: AVOID THE GRAIN FLOW

AMES, Iowa -- During the fall grain harvest millions of bushels of grain flow from field to storage, but it only takes a matter of seconds for one person to become trapped in the grain flow. Grain entrapments are a dangerous situation, one that most people may not be aware of when handling grain. Flowing grain can draw in farm workers and family members within five seconds and cause them to be trapped. Most adults are helpless when trapped at knee level. The further down the person is buried, the more strength is needed to pull the person out. "The force required to remove someone buried below the surface of grain easily can exceed 2,000 pounds, which is about the same as lifting a small car," said Charles Schwab, Iowa State University Extension safety specialist. Children are more at risk around flowing grain. Because they are shorter, children would be buried faster and are helpless at shallower levels. Grain entrapment inside a grain bin can happen in several ways. Submersion in flowing grain occurs when an opening in the unloading gate causes the grain to act like quicksand, pulling a person under within seconds. A grain bridge, due to frozen or spoiled grain, can collapse, causing a person to fall and be buried alive. A third area of concern is an avalanche of a vertical grain wall, occurring when the grain breaks free and covers a person. The easiest way to reduce the risk of grain entrapment is prevention, says Schwab. He recommends these tips to avoid the dangers of flowing grain. First, never allow children to play in grain bins or ride on grain wagons. Always lock access doors to grain storage structures and shut off power to all grain handling equipment. Most importantly, never work alone when loading or unloading grain.

FALL FROST EFFECTS OF FORAGE Stephen K. Barnhart, Department of Agronomy

The first frost of the autumn generally brings a flurry of forage related questions centered around three general topics

- toxic prussic acid potential and management of frosted sudangrass and sorghum sudangrass hybrids;
- is frosted alfalfa toxic to grazing animals; and
- now that we've had frost, should I harvest the last alfalfa cutting?

Managing frosted sorghum sudangrass and sudangrass

The potential for prussic acid poisoning and management suggestions are related both to the size of the plant when frosted and the extent of frost damage. Producers should be aware that the risk of damaging levels of prussic acid is very unlikely. Prussic acid, more correctly called hydrocyanic acid (a cyanide based compound) is formed in sudangrass or sorghum sudangrass hybrids which are severely stressed or frost damaged. The hydrocyanic acid develops within a few hours after the frost and usually dissipates within a few days. The safest management is to remove cattle and sheep from frosted fields for several days. Livestock can be returned to frost injured sudangrass that is 18" or taller and sorghum sudangrass 30" or taller after about 3 or 4 days. If the grass was shorter than these heights when frost injured, withhold cattle and sheep for 10 days to 2 weeks following the frost to avoid problems. Then watch for new shoot regrowth, (tillers or "suckers") on partially frost killed plants! Direct grazing of these fresh new shoots can be toxic too. Where new shoots appear following frost, avoid grazing until 2 weeks after the "killing" frost that kills the new shoots. Prussic acid poisoning is not a common occurrence. Very few verified cases are reported by veterinarians. Maybe Iowa producers are just using good management. Consider the recommendations above to be at the low risk or conservative level. Livestock can be returned to the sudangrass or sorghum sudangrass fields following a "killing" frost and appropriate post frost delay period. Frost damaged sudangrass or sorghum sudangrass hybrids can be cut and stored as silage. Hydrocyanic acid is dissipated during wilting and partially during the ensiling process. Sudangrass or sorghum-sudangrass should never be used for horse pasture.

Is frosted alfalfa toxic?

Frost injured alfalfa, clovers, and the commonly used perennial cool-season forage grasses Do NOT have the potential to form hydrocyanic acid, are NOT considered toxic and can be safely grazed or harvested for hay or silage following a frost. There is probably a slightly higher bloat risk for grazed alfalfa and white clover the first few days after a frost. Follow normal bloat preventing grazing management when grazing alfalfa and clover. The literature notes that Indiangrass (a perennial, warm-season prairie grass) and birdsfoot trefoil have a low potential to form Hydrocyanic acid.

Should I harvest the last alfalfa cutting after the frost?

There is not a simple answer. In general, it will depend whether the frost was a "killing frost" or not. A "killing frost" is not the first light frost of the season; rather, it is a 23 or 24 F degree freeze that lasts for 4 to 6 hours or so. If the producer does not need the forage, it is best for the alfalfa plants to leave them uncut and standing through the winter. If it was the hard, killing freeze, and the producer needs the forage, harvest as soon as possible after the freeze to salvage as much of the nutritive value as possible. The longer the delay, the greater the weathering damage and leaf loss from the standing frosted plants. If the frost were a light, non killing freeze, the tops of the alfalfa plants will be visibly damaged but will not likely stop growing for the season. The best management for the plant is to allow it to continue to grow using whatever green leaf area it still has until the hard, killing freeze. Then if the producer needs the forage, it can be cut and harvested for hay or silage; or grazed.