

# **COW/CALF CORNER**

The Newsletter

From the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

September 5, 2008

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Derrell S. Peel, OSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

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# **COOL Record-Keeping Requirements For Producers Becoming Clearer**

Derrell S. Peel, OSU Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist

As the September 30 deadline for implementation of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) approaches, industry participants are working hard to clarify details with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and to agree on language that is acceptable to all parties. Recently, the result of a broad-based industry coalition to develop language for affidavits was announced and portions of these announcements are included in the following information. The language includes three affidavit or declaration statements that provide required information on animals as they move through production and marketing channels.

You can download this printable affidavit from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) website by clicking on the following url:  
<http://www.beefusa.org/uDocs/countryoforiginaffidavit453.pdf> This may require downloading of a free software "Adobe Reader". Most newer computers already have this software in place.

The first is a continuous country of origin affidavit/declaration. This will allow producers to make a continuous origin affidavit that would be kept on file by the market, stocker, feeder or slaughter plant, until revoked by the affidavit's signer.

Part two is a supporting declaration of origin for specific transactions involving livestock from producers with a continuous affidavit on file, or as a "stand alone" affidavit/declaration related to a specific transaction. This language could be used on check-in sheets, invoices and/or other sales documents.

The third statement covers direct transactions to packers from producers, marketing businesses and feeders. The COOL law requires packers to maintain country of origin records for one year, and they must be able to obtain records from their immediate suppliers within that period, to substantiate COOL claims. This statement says the livestock supplier will maintain those records

for one year from date of delivery of the livestock, and will make them available, as required by the COOL law.

These universal declaration statements go a long way to minimizing the costs of COOL implementation for livestock producers. However, producers still need to maintain records that will verify declarations made in affidavits in the event that such records are requested.

Another important clarification, especially for stocker producers as well as some feedlots, is AMS' approval to use consolidated affidavits for commingled and resorted lots of animals. In this situation, a producer with multiple sources of animals of the same origin, may issue a single consolidated affidavit of origin for commingled sales groups, based on the set of individual affidavits of the purchase groups. Again, the producer must maintain records that verify the balance of total purchases and sales to document the overall flow of animals through the operation

## **The Impact of Montana's Brucellosis Status Change on Oklahoma**

Glenn Selk, OSU Extension Cattle Reproduction Specialist

By now you have heard that the Montana Department of Livestock announced that the USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has officially downgraded that state's brucellosis status from Class Free to Class A. What does that mean to Oklahoma beef producers who would shop for seedstock or other cattle in Montana?

According to the newsrelease from Dr. Marty Zaluski, state veterinarian for the Montana Department of Livestock: "The downgrade means Montana's livestock producers will, at a minimum, be required to test all sexually intact cattle over 18 months of age within 30 days of export. Exempt from the testing requirement are cattle sent directly to slaughter, from certified brucellosis-free herds and from ranch of origin to an approved market facility.....(Montana) Producers who export cattle are also encouraged to check regulations in destination states....." Different states have had different rules since the brucellosis detection occurred, so hopefully this will add some consistency.

Oklahoma producers that have questions about the movement of cattle from Montana to Oklahoma should contact the office of the state veterinarian in Animal Industry Division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (405-522-6131).

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