

### Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)

As of March 16, 2009, the United States Department of Agriculture's rule on "Country of Origin Labeling" (COOL) took effect. This rule provides consumers with the knowledge as to where their food originated. The rule has been in place for fruits and vegetables and has been in effect for meat products since early spring. To comply with the new ruling, exhibitors must first maintain proof-of-purchase (i.e. bill of sale, receipt, etc) or an affidavit/declaration indicating animals which will later be shipped to market are of US Origin.

**Country of Origin Affidavit/Declaration:** The Country of Origin Affidavit/Declaration must be completed and maintained by exhibitors for two years. This affidavit should be signed by the breeder/seller and indicates the animal(s) was born and raised in the United States. It is the **EXHIBITORS' RESPONSIBILITY to complete and maintain this affidavit/declaration for at least two years.** This affidavit/declaration is an important record keeping tool in case of a USDA audit with regards to the origin of the animals entering the food chain.

#### Country of Origin (COOL) Affidavit/Declaration

As an affidavit is deemed by USDA as an official record of Country of Origin, I attest through first-hand knowledge, normal business records, or producer affidavit(s) that all livestock referenced by this document or other communications specific to the transaction and transferred are of U.S. origin (born and raised in the U.S.).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Seller/Breeder Contact Information

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

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

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Animal ID: \_\_\_\_\_

General Description of Animals:

Seller/Breeder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibitor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**To be maintained by the EXHIBITOR for a minimum of two years**