

Beef and Forage Review

November, 2008

Paris Office

#15 Courthouse
25 W. Walnut
Paris, AR 72855
Phone: (479)963-2360
Fax: (479)963-2360
E-Mail: loganp@uaex.edu

Lance Kirkpatrick
County Extension Agent –
Agriculture – 4-H

Booneville Office

#24 Courthouse
366 N. Broadway
Booneville, AR 72927
Phone: (479)675-2787
Fax: (479)675-4086
E-Mail: loganb@uaex.edu

Visit us on the web at:
www.uaex.edu/logan

Pesticide Applicator Training Scheduled

6:30 p.m., Monday, December 8
Jeral Hampton Meeting Place – Booneville

6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 22
First National Bank Community Center – Paris

6:30 p.m., Monday, March 30
First National Bank Community Center - Paris

Cost is \$10 payable at the door – no need to preregister. If you have any questions, give the Extension office a call.

Bangs Vaccination Dates Set

Logan County Extension offices, along with the Arkansas Poultry and Livestock Commission, will be offering free Bangs vaccinations on December 1-2. Heifers 3-12 months of age may be vaccinated.

Producers wishing to have cattle vaccinated must register with the Extension office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 20.

2008 Arkansas Farm Bill Meeting

Arkansas will host five public meetings about the 2008 Farm Bill in November at Dumas, Brinkley, Morrilton, Jonesboro and Hope.

“These meetings are critical for anyone affected by the 2008 Farm Bill,” said Dr. Bobby Coats, Extension Economist for the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture.

Each meeting begins at 9 a.m. and is expected to conclude at 3 p.m. There is no charge to attend. FSA state office specialists will be conducting the meetings. The Morrilton meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20 at the Conway County Fairgrounds.

Topics for discussion include: new direct attribution and payment limitation rules, Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP), five new Disaster Programs, new incentives to the Farm Storage Facility Loans, new options in Conservation Programs, changes to Price Support Programs and changes to the Non-insured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP).

COOL and Livestock Producers

Backgrounds

Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) is a USDA marketing program mandated by the 2002 Farm Bill which requires retailers to notify their customers of the country of origin of beef (including veal), goat meat, lamb, pork, poultry, fish and other perishable agricultural commodities. Retailers, packers and their suppliers are mutually responsible for contributing the information necessary to meet the requirements of this new law, which became effective September 30, 2008.

What this Means

Livestock producers are not directly regulated by the COOL law because livestock are not considered covered commodities. However, only producers have first-hand knowledge concerning the origin of their animals. Definitive origin information must be provided to slaughter facilities so that meat products as covered commodities can be accurately labeled at retail. Livestock producers should be prepared to provide necessary country of origin documentation to their buyers.

How to Comply with COOL

Producers may use one of the following methods to comply with the COOL law and provide required country-of-origin information to buyers.

1. **Affidavits:** Packers may rely upon producer affidavits to initiate claims. Affidavits must be made by someone having first-hand knowledge, and the affidavit must identify animals unique to the transaction.
2. **National Animal Identification System (NAIS):** Animals that are part of a NAIS-compliant system may rely on presence of an official ear tag and/or the presence of any accompanying animal markings, as applicable, to base origin claims.
3. **USDA-Approved Age Verification Program:** Participation in USDA Quality System Verification Programs (QSVP), such as the USDA Process Verified Program (PVP) and the Quality Systems Assessment (QSA) Program that contain a source verification component, is also considered acceptable evidence to substantiate COOL claims.

How to Use Affidavits

The industry has developed recommended country-of-origin affidavit statements:

If you raise, purchase or sell cattle, there are two options:

Option 1: Complete the Producer Affidavit entitled “Continuous Affidavit of Country of Origin of Livestock.” This affidavit may be provided to those parties that you frequently sell to and is only required one time.

OR

Option 2: Include the following statement on any of your business forms (printed, stamped or handwritten on a bill of sale or invoice). This statement must appear on the business form every time the animals are bought or sold:

“I attest that all livestock referenced by this document and transferred are of _____ origin.”

If you sell cattle directly to a packer, you should complete the producer affidavit entitled “Continuous Affidavit of Country of Origin of Livestock for Direct Supplier Transactions to Packers.”

You can download the affidavits at this website:

<http://www.texas cattleraisers.org/COOL/COOLAffidavits.htm>

Step Up to 840

Those of you who have Premise Identification numbers have already received a letter from the USDA along with an informational brochure introducing the 840 ID Solution. On the surface, the brochures are making the case if producers register their premises then they can buy the approved 840 National Animal ID eartags. The brochure goes on to say, “Increasingly, individual animal identification is a valuable tool for livestock marketing such as: 1) age-, source-, and process-verification, 2) Quality Assurance and 3) Country-of-Origin Labeling.”

It continues, “Concerned about COOL? Don’t be! 840 eartags are your passport to compliance. Because 840 tags use a numbering system that is unique to the United States, you can use 840 eartags to easily signal buyers that your animals are “born and raised in the USA.”

I have a few questions about the program, and they have been more of concerns than questions. First of all, as of now the Premise Identification Program is still voluntary and producers do not need to have a Premise ID to participate in the COOL program. Premise ID and the USDA’s 840 eartag program are one of many tools to assist producers in marketing their cattle. Many of you keep your breeding records on a computer or a note pad in your shirt pocket. As of now, that is enough information to meet the requirements to market your animals under the COOL program. It is a good idea to remember to request a producer affidavit printed or handwritten on a bill of sale for any livestock purchases that you purchase private treaty. This information would come in handy should you ever need to use it.

If you should have any questions about COOL or any other marketing issues, please don’t hesitate to give a call to the office.

Invitation to Activities

All of the activities mentioned in the newsletter are open to everyone regardless of race, color, national origin, age, religion, gender, disability, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
P.O. BOX 391
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300