

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1844

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for voluntary country of origin labeling for beef, pork, and chicken.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2015

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for voluntary country of origin labeling for beef, pork, and chicken.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Voluntary Country of
5 Origin Labeling (COOL) and Trade Enhancement Act of
6 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING REQUIREMENTS**
 2 **FOR BEEF, PORK, AND CHICKEN.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 281 of the Agricultural
 4 Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638) is amended—

5 (1) by striking paragraphs (1) and (7);

6 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4),
 7 (5), (6), (8), and (9) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3),
 8 (4), (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

9 (3) in paragraph (1)(A) (as redesignated by
 10 paragraph (2))—

11 (A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the
 12 following:

13 “(i) muscle cuts of lamb and veni-
 14 son;”;

15 (B) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the
 16 following:

17 “(ii) ground lamb and ground veni-
 18 son;”;

19 (C) in clause (vi), by striking “and” at the
 20 end;

21 (D) by striking clause (viii); and

22 (E) by redesignating clauses (ix), (x), and
 23 (xi) as clauses (viii), (ix), and (x), respectively.

24 (b) NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—Section 282
 25 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.
 26 1638a) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
3 section (b)” and inserting “subsections (b) and
4 (c)”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2)—

6 (i) in the paragraph heading, by strik-
7 ing “BEEF, LAMB, PORK, CHICKEN,” and
8 inserting “LAMB,”;

9 (ii) in subparagraphs (A) through
10 (D), by striking “beef, lamb, pork, chick-
11 en,” each place it appears and inserting
12 “lamb,”; and

13 (iii) in subparagraph (E)—

14 (I) in the subparagraph heading,
15 by striking “GROUND BEEF, PORK,
16 LAMB, CHICKEN,” and inserting
17 “GROUND LAMB,”; and

18 (II) by striking “ground beef,
19 ground pork, ground lamb, ground
20 chicken,” each place it appears and
21 inserting “ground lamb,”;

22 (2) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f)
23 as subsections (d) through (g), respectively;

24 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(c) VOLUNTARY DESIGNATION OF COUNTRY OF OR-
2 IGIN FOR BEEF, PORK, AND CHICKEN.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF PACKER.—In this sub-
4 section, the term ‘packer’ has the meaning given the
5 term in section 201 of the Packers and Stockyards
6 Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 191).

7 “(2) VOLUNTARY DESIGNATION.—As deter-
8 mined by the Secretary, a packer of beef, pork, or
9 chicken may voluntarily designate any raw single-in-
10 gredient beef, pork, or chicken intended for retail
11 sale as exclusively having a United States country of
12 origin only if the beef, pork, or chicken meets the re-
13 quirements of clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subsection
14 (a)(2)(A).

15 “(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall en-
16 sure compliance with paragraph (2) in the same
17 manner as the Secretary ensures compliance with
18 subsection (a)(2)(A).

19 “(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
21 subparagraph (B), nothing in this paragraph
22 affects any other Federal marketing or regu-
23 latory program or similar State initiative.

24 “(B) UNITED STATES COUNTRY OF ORI-
25 GIN.—No Federal agency, State, or political es-

1 tablishment of a State may establish or enforce
2 a statute or administrative action that provides
3 for the labeling of any beef, pork, or chicken in-
4 tended for retail sale as exclusively having a
5 United States country of origin in a manner
6 that is less stringent than, or otherwise incon-
7 sistent with, the requirements of paragraph (2)
8 and subsection (a)(2)(A).”; and
9 (4) in paragraph (2) of subsection (g) (as re-
10 designated by paragraph (2))—

11 (A) by striking subparagraphs (B) and
12 (C); and

13 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
14 and (E) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respec-
15 tively.

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