

Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Position on Lamb Tail Docking Issue

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The mission of Colorado State University Cooperative Extension is to provide information and education, and encourage the application of research-based knowledge.

The State 4-H office and county Extension offices cannot dictate show rules to county fairs or the state fair. It is up to local fair boards and state fair management to set their rules and in turn enforce those rules. However, it does lie within the mission of Cooperative Extension to:

- provide Extension clientele with accurate, research-based information to individuals, livestock shows, fairs, and various associations on which Extension clientele can use to base policies and rules.
- cooperate in research projects to further the knowledge and research base to address this issue.

When requested, assist a county fair board in the successful implementation of enforceable policies and rules to address the issue. Examples include:

- the .7 inch minimum standard used in some states as measured with the De-Tail Device.
- the 2006 Wyoming State Fair policy of minimum of three (3) full coccygeal/caudal vertebrae in place.

While Cooperative Extension cannot dictate rules and procedures to livestock shows, we do have the obligation to ensure that Extension educational efforts are based on sound production and animal husbandry principles. CSU Cooperative Extension also strives to ensure that policies guiding the management of 4-H livestock projects are congruent with the recommended sound management practices set forth by animal industry and animal health organizations.