County Commission Resolution on Mandatory 4-H and FFA Premises Registration

A Resolution of the Commissioners of the County of _____, Colorado, opposing mandatory premises registration for Colorado's 4-H and FFA programs.

WHEREAS, the Director of 4-H Youth Development Programs at Colorado State University has implemented mandatory premises registration for all Colorado 4-H livestock project animals (beef and dairy cattle, sheep, swine, goat, poultry, llama and horse);

WHEREAS, 4-H and FFA are voluntary programs that, by law, must be administered without prejudice or discrimination;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed national animal identification system is voluntary and has not been mandated by Congress;

WHEREAS, there is no legislation in the State of Colorado mandating premises registration or animal identification;

WHEREAS, attaching a premises registration to property is similar to placing a covenant on that property into perpetuity;

WHEREAS, participation in the premises registration and animal identification system places property in a permanent database and the information collected is not protected from disclosure leaving landowners vulnerable to competitive misuse or sale of private information;

WHEREAS, an existing program is already in place to identify animals intended for exhibition at the county and state fair levels;

WHEREAS, less than 25 percent of livestock production operations nation wide have registered for premises registration demonstrating the overwhelming opposition to this system;

WHEREAS, premises registration encumbers property potentially decreasing its market value and intrudes on citizens' private property rights;

WHEREAS, foisting this mandatory program on 4-H and FFA youth presents participating counties with potential civil liabilities;

WHEREAS, the County Extension Service serves at the pleasure of the County Commission;

BE IT RESOLVED that the County of _____ opposes the implementation of mandatory premises registration for 4-H and FFA programs.