

2012 California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta

DNA Procedures

Thank you for your participation in the California Mid-Winter Fair & Fiesta. The procedures on our DNA Collection program have been incorporated into our Local Rules for the 2012 Fair.

Program Overview:

- 1) To confirm ownership requirements as outlined by State Rules, a DNA sample will be required for each potential livestock entry. (Exhibitor must own market beef 120 days prior to the Fair; markets goats, sheep, hogs, and feeder calves 60 days prior to the Fair.)
- 2) 4-H Leaders and FFA Advisors will sign out DNA kits for each potential livestock entry in the following Divisions: Market Beef, Sheep, Swine, Goats, and Feeder Calves. Prior to distribution of DNA kits, 4-H Leaders and FFA Advisors will need to submit a pre-registration log to order the correct number of DNA kits. DNA kits should be available at the Fair Office one day after receipt of your pre-registration log. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- 3) Each exhibitor is responsible for submitting a completed DNA package by the Fair's deadlines as listed below. Although leaders and advisors may assist, it is the sole responsibility of each exhibitor to submit an acceptable DNA sample.
- 4) The exhibitor must be the only person to seal the bag, regardless of who pulls the hair sample, making them responsible for the contents of their envelope and bag.
- 5) To meet the Fair's DNA requirement, exhibitors need to do the following for each animal:
 - a. Provide two samples – referred as envelope Sample A-1 and envelope Sample A-2. Follow the tips for gathering DNA sample, see *Instructions for DNA Collections*.
 - b. Seal the envelopes with at least 20-30 hairs (with roots attached) in each envelope.
 - c. Complete information on the outside of the envelope, including signatures.
 - d. Put the two sealed evidence bags with hair sealed inside (Sample A-1 and A-2) and pull the top receipt off for your records. Be sure you complete and sign the label on the outside of the envelope. Note: You only have one chance to seal the bag. If an error is made or the seal is not secure, that kit is void and it must be exchanged for another kit. However, all bags are numbered and recorded, so you must return that voided kit to the fair office. Remember, only one animal hair sample per bag. If you do not put your information on the outside of the DNA Kit, we will not be able to confirm your sample, and it will be considered invalid and not accepted for entry.
- 6) Exhibitor must maintain possession of their collection until it is dropped in the Lock Box in the Fair's office.
- 7) Purchase deadline date is November 4, 2011 for market beef animals. DNA Collection kits for Market Sheep, Swine, Goats and Feeder Calves must be submitted by Monday, January 3, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. to be accepted as a valid Fair entry. Call the Fair office at 760.355.1181 with any questions.

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Instructions for DNA Collection

Both Exhibitor and Parent/Leader/Advisor must be present at the time of DNA Collection.

- Thoroughly wash and dry your hands. Select ONE animal and complete all the instructions before selecting another animal. DO NOT MIX ANIMAL HAIRS.
- Tag your animal with the tag that has been assigned to that animal.
- Make sure your animal is clean in the area where hair sample is being pulled. Failure to do so may result in an invalid DNA sample which may result in a disqualification of the entry.
- Pull, DO NOT CUT, the hair from the animal. When pulling hair, be sure the roots are included in the sample. The hair must contain roots for DNA testing. Avoid touching the roots and be sure the hair is dry. We need 20-30 hairs per envelope from the tagged animal.
 - a) **Steers and Feeder Calves:** It is recommended that you collect switch hair. If not from the switch, then the neck or tail head.
 - b) **Hogs:** Hair may be pulled from any part which is clean and free of debris.
 - c) **Sheep:** Do not pull wool; pull hair from below the knee. It is recommended that you pull hair directly away from the skin, NOT at an angle. This will allow the root to come out with the hair.
 - d) **Goats:** It is recommended that you pull hair directly away from the skin, not at an angle. This will allow the root to come out with the hair.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEADER/EXHIBITOR TO CONTACT THE FAIR OFFICE IMMEDIATELY TO REPLACE A LOST EAR TAG. ALL ANIMALS ARRIVING AT THE SCALE MUST HAVE EAR TAG INTACT. **ANY ANIMAL ARRIVING AT THE FAIR WITHOUT AN EAR TAG WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CROSS SCALES.**