# DNA Collection 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 2022 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; market goats, sheep, hogs, and feeder calves must be owned by the Exhibitor **75** 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 an order form to order the correct number of DNA kits. You will be contacted when your order has been filled and ready for pickup. 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 requirements, exhibitors need to do the following for each animal:
    a. Provide two samples with the Clarifide DNA collector kit. Peel backing off from clear adhesive plastic, place hair roots onto clear adhesive plastic and seal onto attached paper. Center hair roots under the square
    b. Deposit 1 DNA collector in Sample A-1 and the other DNA collector Sample A-2. Sample bags are included in DNA kits. Follow the tips for gathering DNA samples, see Instructions for DNA Collections.
    c. Seal the plastic bags with at least 20-30 hairs (roots attached) in each bag.
    d. Provide Parent/Leader and Exhibitor signature on the outside of each bag (Sample A-1 and Sample A-2).
    e. Pull off the top receipt from Sample A-1 and Sample A-2 for your records. Place the two sealed evidence bags (Sample A-1 and Sample A-2) with hair sealed inside into the manila envelope. Be sure to complete both sides of the manila envelope, including signatures. 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.
    f. 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. All bags are numbered and recorded, so you must return all voided kits to the fair office. Remember, only one animal hair sample per bag.
6. *Complete Sections 1 and 2 of the DNA Animal Registration Form. You do not need to attach form to the DNA bag as in year's past. Bring the form to the office along with the DNA kit to be placed in the lock box. Fair staff will verify DNA paperwork with the kit and return pink copy.*
7. Exhibitors must maintain possession of their collection until it is dropped in the Lock Box in the Fair's office.
8. In order to be accepted as a valid Fair entry: Purchase deadline for **Market Beef is November 4, 2021**; DNA samples must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Purchase deadline for **Market Sheep, Swine, Goats and Feeder Calves is December 17, 2021**; DNA samples must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Call the Fair office at 760.355.1181 with any questions.

## Instructions for DNA Collection

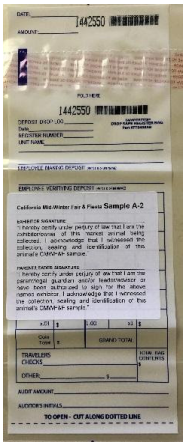
**Both Exhibitor and Parent/Leader/Advisor must be present at the time of DNA Collection.**

1) Thoroughly wash and dry your hands. Select ONE animal and complete all the instructions before selecting another animal. DO NOT MIX ANIMAL HAIRS.

2) Tag your animal with the tag that has been assigned to that animal.

3) Make sure your animal is clean in the area where the 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.

4) 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.
   - i) **Steers and Feeder Calves:** It is recommended that you collect switch hair. If not from the switch, then the neck or tail head.
   - ii) **Hogs:** Hair may be pulled from any part which is clean and free of debris.
   - iii) **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.
   - iv) **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.

<u>ANY ANIMAL ARRIVING AT THE FAIR WITHOUT A PROPER EAR TAG WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CROSS SCALES.</u>