Texas 4-H/FFA Validation Program
Procedures for DNA Assay Hair Collection

The DNA Assay brings the most powerful technology developed for human forensics to bear on the problem of animal identification. Whether animal or human, an individual’s DNA is fixed at the moment of fertilization and can be determined from an analysis of blood or tissue samples. The assay provides individual-specific identification and has been validated in scientific literature and thousands of criminal cases.

Sample acquisition:

1) At the time of ear-tagging during state validation, the animal’s hair is taken and placed in the hair sample envelope. Specific instructions on collecting the hair sample are attached in the Animal ID Cattle Hair Sample Collection Instructions or you can find it on the web at www.weDNAid.com.

   Click on the “Support” page (top right)
   Click on “Texas 4-H & FFA” link
   A box will emerge and you will be asked for a user name and password
   Type “txshow” into the username
   Type “txshow07” into the password and then press enter
   Then you will enter the Texas 4-H & FFA support page
   Next go to the bottom of the page and review the Hair Sample Collection Instructions and/or Video for the relevant species

   The main concern is collecting at least 30 hair samples with the root bulb attached. This will require more than one pull, and pulls should be from the tail switch.

2) To assure chain of custody, the technician* should place the validation visual ear tag number on the sample card in front of, and evident to, the exhibitor(s) and his/her parent or legal guardian. The technician, exhibitor(s), exhibitor’s parent or exhibitor’s legal guardian, and supervising County Extension Agent or Agricultural Science Teacher must sign the hair sample envelope after the hair has been placed inside the envelope and the envelope sealed.

   NOTE: In the event of an emergency or special situation that prevents the exhibitor’s parent or exhibitor’s legal guardian from being present at the time the hair samples are collected and the validation occurs, the 2013-2014 Texas 4-H/FFA Validation Program Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement must be completed. This form must be attached to the validation form. A copy of this form should be retained by the County Validation Committee Chairman.

3) After all of the animals in the county have been validated according to the above procedures, the County Validation Committee Chairman shall send the hair samples via priority/certified mail, return receipt requested, on or before July 1 to:

   Dr. Darrell A. Dromgoole (979) 845-7896
   Associate Director - County Programs
   600 John Kimbrough Blvd., Ste. 509
   7101 TAMU
   College Station, Texas 77843-7101

* Technician - any individual designated by the County Validation Committee to be responsible for collecting hair samples i.e., County Extension Agent, Agricultural Sciences Teacher, etc.