

SAMPLE COLLECTION AND SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Collection of Hair Samples

1. **Pull** (do not cut) hair from **tail switch**, not tail head. Make sure hair is free of fecal material and dirt. Roots must be clearly visible.
2. Approximately **20 – 30 hair roots** are needed for animals 90 days or older. For calves 6 months of age and younger please submit a blood sample.
3. Write the **animal's ID number** on the collector in the space provided.
4. Open the collector and **peel back the plastic cover**.
5. Insert the **root end** of the hair in the middle of the collector. Close the collector by sealing the plastic cover over the hair and then insert the tab into the slot.
6. **Trim the excess hair** extending from the collector. Put all collectors in an envelope with Cattle Testing Submission Form. Send form and sample to GeneSeek.

Collection of Blood Samples on Collection Cards:

1. Write an **animal's ID number** on the collector in the space provided.
2. Remove the needle from the plastic cover. Be sure to use a new needle for each animal.
3. Hold the top of the animal's ear. Use the needle to pierce the ear near the top where you are holding it.
4. Wait 5 – 10 seconds for the blood to form a drop. Discard the needle and ready the collector card.
5. Holding the collector card, press the absorbent paper portion of the card to the blood on the top side of the ear. If more sample is needed, press to the underside of the ear. Blood should be at least the size of a quarter.
6. Keep the cards separated from each other until the blood stains are dry, then insert into an envelope.
7. Fill out the Cattle Testing Submission Form. Match the tattoo number of the collector card with the corresponding identification on the paperwork. Send form and sample to GeneSeek.

Collection of Semen Samples

1. Send at least one semen straw per animal. If you would like to reduce the chances of failure in DNA testing and have access to two straws of semen per animal, send two straws in for insurance purposes. Sending only one straw significantly reduces the chances of DNA extraction for testing and may result in failure to determine a genotype.
2. Remove the straws of semen from the tank and make sure they are properly marked with the animal's registration number or herd prefix and tattoo.
3. Package the semen in a box or old ballpoint pen with protective wrapping to prevent breakage. Semen does not need to be shipped in liquid nitrogen, but a refrigerant ice pack should be included. Mark the package: Fragile, Rush, Perishable and send directly to GeneSeek. Samples should be sent overnight to arrive on a business day. Please send Cattle Testing Submission Form to the lab with the semen sample.