



2015-2016 Steer Validation Program

Texas 4-H/FFA Validation Guidelines

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.

1) Sample acquisition:

- a) During validation, the animal's hair is taken and placed in the hair sample envelope. Specific instructions found in **Hair Sample Collection Instructions** or at www.weDNAid.com.
- b) 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.

www.weDNAid.com

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

2) Chain of Custody:

- a) 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.

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

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 Texas 4-H/FFA Validation Program Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement must be completed. A copy of this form should be retained by the County Level State Steer Validation Chairperson.