



Helping the livestock industry increase profitability through custom DNA services and tools.

# Guidelines for collecting hair root samples for DNA and SNP Genotyping

COLLECT HAIR FROM THE TIP OF THE TAIL (SWITCH). THE ROOT ENDS CONTAIN THE DNA. *SAMPLES ARE TO BE PULLED NOT CLIPPED.*

1. Clean the tail switch to remove any foreign material. Comb or brush the tail to remove any dead hair. If needed, wash clean and rinse with water. Wait for the tail to be completely dry. The sample must be free of urine or manure. Dirty samples will not be processed. Contamination will make the sample unfit for testing.
2. Wrap approximately 5-10 strands of hair around a finger, about 2 inches away from the skin, and give a sharp pull. Inspect the hair to ensure that the follicles are attached. Hair strands without follicles do not contain DNA and cannot be tested.
3. Repeat step #2 until you have obtained **approximately 20-30 hair roots**
4. Place all of the hair roots at one end with the long strands pointing straight down. Secure the hairs together with adhesive tape wrapped approximately 1 inch from the follicles. Place the sample in the labelled envelope and immediately seal to minimize contamination. Hair from only one animal is to be placed in each envelope.
5. If doing more than one animal, WASH HANDS before starting on the next animal or use a clean pair of surgical gloves. This will reduce the risk of cross-contamination of the samples. Repeat steps 1-4 for each animal.
6. Place the completed application form and identified hair sample envelope in a larger envelope addressed to:

Delta Genomics Centre  
Suite 4244 TEC Centre  
10230 Jasper Ave  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4P6

The package may be sent by regular Canada Post mail services.

## You will need:

- Hair sample envelope
- Application form
- Comb or brush
- Tape
- Surgical gloves (optional)