



# Sheep and Meat Goat DNA Hair Sample Collection Instructions

Please read instructions completely before beginning process. This is an eligibility requirement for the 4-H sheep and 4-H meat goat shows at the Indiana State Fair. Collection Envelopes are available from your County Extension Office. Envelopes should be turned into your County Extension Office by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

- Clean the hair collection area to remove dirt and other contaminants. Make sure the area is dry before collecting hair. DO NOT SUBMIT WOOL- this will not be accepted.  
  
SHEEP:
    - Recommended site is a tuft of hair on the leg of the animal between the toes. NO WOOL WILL BE ACCEPTED!
    - It seems that the longer the hair, the more likely you will be to get follicles.GOAT:
    - Hair may also be collected from other coarse areas of longer hair on goats. Including: over the withers, chest, rump, tail, fetlock, or poll of your 4-H Meat Goat.
  - Use pliers to pull the hair. Make sure pliers are clean and dry.
    - Pull the hair directly away from the animal, not at an angle. This will allow the follicle to come out with the hair.
    - Do not cut the hair from the animal as the roots must be present for DNA analysis.
  - Repeat pulling process. 5 pulls may be necessary to get enough hair (a minimum of 40 hairs).
  - Visually inspect hairs to ensure follicles are attached. If follicles are not present, discard sample and start over.
  - Place the sample directly into the self-sealing collection envelope and complete the appropriate information on the front of the envelope. Avoid touching the hairs and using plastic bags.
  - Repeat the process for remaining animals. Clean/disinfect pliers and hands between collections to prevent contamination of sample. Animals that are co-enrolled with siblings only need one sample. Just be sure to list all siblings on the envelope.
  - The sealed collection envelopes with the information completed on the front of envelope should be turned into the County Extension Office at the same time as the animal ID deadline in Indiana 4-H Online (**May 15<sup>th</sup>**)
  - A “how-to” video will be available soon on the Indiana 4-H Sheep Project page and Indiana 4-H Goat Project page.
  - Please refer to the Indiana State Fair 4-H Entry Book for more information on the DNA and other project requirements.
  - For questions about this process or 4-H sheep and meat goat ID, please contact your county 4-H Educator, or Courtney Stierwalt ([dickerso@purdue.edu](mailto:dickerso@purdue.edu))
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