

Swine DNA Hair Sample Collection Instructions

Please read instructions completely before beginning process. This is required for all hogs that you want eligible for the 4-H swine show at the Indiana State Fair. Collection Envelopes are available from your County Extension Office.

1. Clean the hair collection area to remove dirt and other contaminants. Make sure area is dry before collecting hair.
 - a. Recommended site is loin or rump, but if animal has been shaved, other areas include between the toes, on the jowl/face, inside the ear or around the tail head.
 - b. It seems that the **longer the hair**, the more likely you will be to get follicles.
2. Use pliers to **pull** the hair. Be sure pliers are clean and dry.
 - a. Pull the hair directly away from the animal, not at an angle. This will allow the follicle to come out with the hair.
 - b. **Do not cut the hair** from the animal as the roots must be present for DNA analysis.
3. Repeat pulling process, 5 pulls may be necessary to get enough hair (a minimum of 40 hairs is needed).
4. Visually inspect hairs to ensure follicles are attached. If follicles are not present, discard sample and start over.
5. Place the sample directly into the self-sealing, sample envelope. Avoid touching the hairs and using plastic bags.
 - a. Then fill in the appropriate information on the envelope.
6. 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.
7. The sealed collection envelopes with the information completed on the front of envelope should be turned into your County Extension Office at the same time as the swine enrollment form. They are due by May 15 (or earlier deadline set by county).
8. A “how-to” video is available at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/livestock/>

For questions about this process or 4-H swine enrollment, please contact your county 4-H Educator, or Aaron Fisher (aaronfisher@purdue.edu; 765-494-8433).

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