

## TEXAS SHEEP AND GOAT VALIDATION PROCEDURES FOR A 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.

### **NOTE: A DNA ASSAY HAIR COLLECTION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL STATE VALIDATED ANIMALS.**

1. At the time of ear-tagging during state validation, each animal's hair is taken and placed in an individual hair sample envelope. **The main concern in collecting hair samples is that the root bulb MUST be attached to the hair.**
  - To properly obtain and submit a conforming Texas 4-H & FFA Livestock DNA sample, you may need to view the hair collection instructions as follows:
    1. Go to the Animal ID, Inc. homepage at [www.wednaid.com](http://www.wednaid.com).
    2. Click on the "Videos & Instructions" tab.
      - For video instructions, click on the "Sheep and Goat Hair Collection for DNA Identification" video.
    3. If you are unable to access the video or have any questions regarding the DNA sample collection process, please contact us at [support@wednaid.com](mailto:support@wednaid.com).
2. To assure chain of custody, the technician\* should place the validation 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/legal guardian, and supervising County Extension Agent (CEA) or Agricultural Science Teacher (AST) must sign the hair sample envelope after the hair has been placed inside the envelope and the envelope is sealed.

NOTE: In the event of an emergency or special situation that prevents the exhibitor's parent or legal guardian from being present at the time the hair sample(s) is/are collected and the physical validation occurs, the current *State 4-H/FFA Validation Program Waiver and Hold Harmless Agreement* must be completed. This form must be attached to the *Validation Form*. A copy of this form should be retained by the County-Level State Validation Committee Chairperson.

3. After all animals in the county have been validated according to the above procedures, the County-Level State Validation Committee Chairperson shall send the DNA samples **via priority/certified mail, return receipt requested, on or before July 8<sup>th</sup>** to:

**Texas Sheep and Goat Validation Program  
7887 US HWY 87 North  
San Angelo, TX 76901-9714**

\*Technician: Any individual designated by the County-Level State Validation Committee to be responsible for collecting DNA (hair) samples. i.e., County Extension Agent, Agricultural Science Teacher, etc.