



2026 Ohio State Fair DNA Sample Collection and Ohio State Fair Nomination Protocol Document

Ohio State Fair will NOT be providing EID tags for 2026

I/we, the market beef exhibitor and parent/guardian (if the exhibitor is younger than 18 years of age), understand that by sealing and signing across the envelope closure of the provided DNA sample, I/we are fully responsible for the collected DNA material placed in the envelope to be of sufficient testing amount (20 – 30 hair samples with follicles) and free of any debris that will prohibit a reference match DNA test. Lack of sufficient DNA material or cleanliness of the sample for DNA verification will be grounds for disqualification of the market beef animal in question.

2026 Ohio State Fair DNA Sample Collection Instructions

Samples must be RECEIVED at the Ohio State Fair by JANUARY 15, 2026

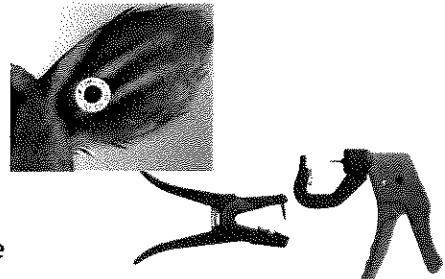
NO requests for kits will be taken after January 2nd and requests MUST be in writing via email to Andrea Hershey

- Open your packet of collection materials and confirm the following are included:
 - Hair sample collection envelope with Ohio State Fair logo on the front;
 - DNA Sample Collection and OSF Nomination Protocol Document;
 - Envelope seal - Ohio State Fair logo sticker (1"x1")
- Remove collection envelope and fill out all the pertinent information. You will need one kit for each Steer and/or Market Heifer you plan to nominate for the 2026 Ohio State Fair. **PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY!**

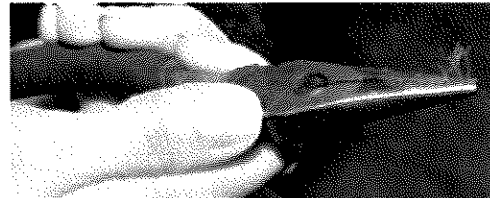
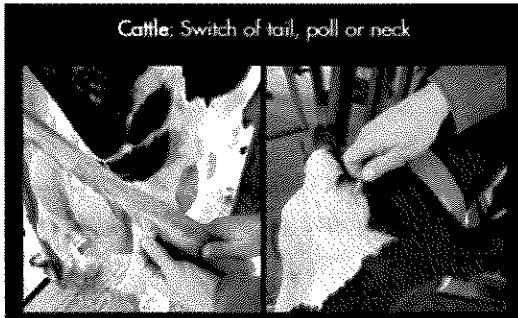
The animal must be tagged with an EID (Electronic Identification) tag with a 15-digit number **starting with 840** (if your animal already has been tagged with a 15-digit EID tag, another tag should not be used). Note: If planning on attending a BEST show, you must have your EID tags in your calves prior to arriving at your first BEST sanctioned show.

If your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) already has an EID tag in either ear, then begin following instruction #3 and skip #4. If there is no EID tag in either of your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) ears, skip instruction #3 and follow instruction #4.

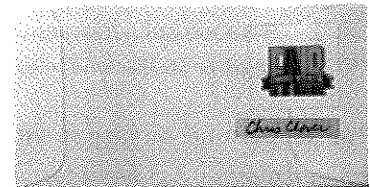
- Your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) have an EID Tag:
 - Since your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) have an EID tag in one ear, you must write the 15-digit number on your sample collection envelope. Your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) may have come from a state or breeder who require and/or use EID as a way of identification, respectively. **These cannot be removed! You cannot have two EID tags in one animal.**
 - Confirm the number is correct that you wrote on the front of the envelope. This is the identification that will be used for your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) during the 2026 OSF. Once you have documented the EID number on the front of the envelope and have confirmed it is correct, you are ready to collect your hair sample (instruction #5).
- Your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) does not have an EID tag:
 - Write the 15-digit EID number from the EID tag on the front of sample collection envelope.
 - Using a Universal Total Tagger (Red) or EID Ultra Retract-O-Matic Tagger from Allflex, insert the tag into your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) ear. *If you have not done this before please ask for help from someone experienced.*



- c. Once the tag is inserted it cannot be removed for any reason. This will be your Steer(s) and/or Market Heifer(s) permanent identification through the 2026 Ohio State Fair.
5. Once you have completed filling in the required information on the envelope, you can now collect the hair sample.
- a. Hair should be dry;
 - b. If hair has excess dirt and debris, please brush out;
 - c. **DO NOT CUT the HAIR!** The root of each hair strand contains the necessary information for DNA testing;



- d. Use fingers or pliers to grasp approximately 8-10 hairs close to the skin and pull;
 - e. Repeat until you have approximately 20-30 hairs with root follicles attached. Root follicles will appear clear to opaque in color and resemble the shape of a teardrop at the root of the hair strand;
 - f. Place the 20-30 hairs with root follicles attached in the envelope, and seal the envelope;
 - g. Clean hands or pliers between samples.
6. Now that you have collected a sample to submit to the Ohio State Fair and you have sealed the collection envelope, place the provided 1"x1" Ohio State Fair logo sticker across the seal of this sealed envelope.
7. Additionally sign your name across the seal of the collection envelope.
8. Lastly, your completed sample must be submitted in one of the following ways:
- a. Give to your county Extension professional for a signature, and s/he will submit it to the Ohio State Fair;
 - or
 - b. Give to your FFA Advisor for a signature and s/he will submit it to the Ohio State Fair; or
 - c. Obtain either your FFA advisor's or Extension professional's signature and submit your collection envelope directly to:



The Ohio Expo Center and State Fair*
 c/o Andrea Hershey
 717 East 17th Avenue
 Columbus, OH 43211-2698

***Note:** The hair sample envelopes must be placed in another mailing envelope addressed to the OSF address listed above. The preprinted coin envelopes for sample submission are not intended to serve as an envelope mailer. Collection envelopes for each individual animal nominated to show at the Ohio State Fair **MUST BE RECEIVED at the Ohio State Fair by JANUARY 15, 2026. THIS IS NOT A POSTMARK DATE! Submit ONE envelope PER ANIMAL.**

If you are submitting through your county Extension office or your FFA advisor, be sure to take your samples in early enough so they have enough time to submit the nominations prior to the OSF deadline. If you are sending the nominations directly, please be sure to allow enough time for your submissions to be RECEIVED by the Ohio State Fair to meet the deadline of January 15, 2026. Each animal nominated must have an individual submission (one envelope per animal), however multiple envelopes can be sent in one mailing to the Ohio State Fair. *For questions, please contact Andrea Hershey at [A. Hershey@expo.ohio.gov](mailto:A.Hershey@expo.ohio.gov).*