

## Instructions for Hair Sample Collection from Cattle

Hair samples should be collected and placed in the GeneSeek sample collection device.

1. Hair samples should be collected from the tail switch (end of tail) of a restrained animal. The hair follicles found at the tail switch region are ideal for DNA extraction

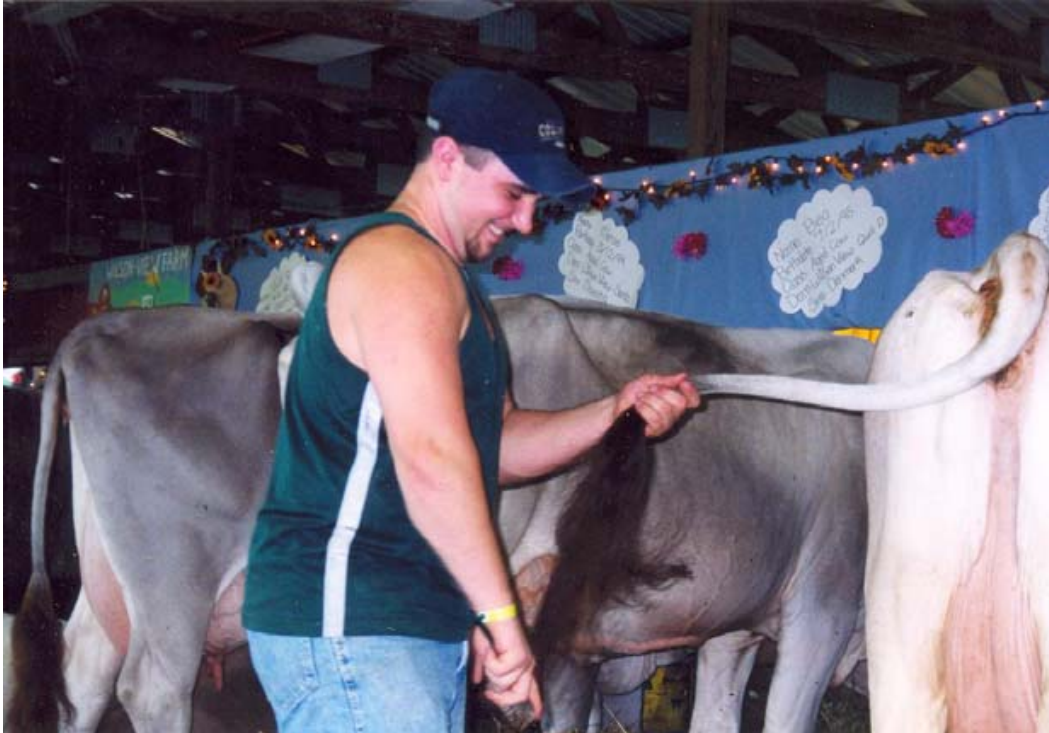


Photo courtesy of Randy Taber, <http://wilsonviewfarm.homestead.com>

2. Clean the tail area using a comb or brush (see picture above) so as to remove any extraneous matter such as manure or straw. Sometimes it may be necessary to wash the hair prior to collection.
3. Grasp a clump of hair (as thick as a ball point pen) using your hand or a pair of pliers. Pull the hair samples out with a sudden movement so as to get a clean tuft of hair with follicles. The hair follicles are found at the end of the hair that is embedded into the tissue.
4. Examine the hair closely. Make sure the hair follicles are present on 20 to 40 strands. Note that DNA is found only in the hair follicles and not in the hair itself. If sufficient follicles are not available, make a second attempt at pulling hair.
5. Place pulled hair in the GeneSeek hair collection device (see instructions that come with the device).