

# SAMPLE COLLECTION AND SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

## Collection of Blood Samples on FTA Cards:

1. Label the front of the FTA card with the herd prefix, tattoo number and year code of the animal to be tested.
2. Remove the needle from the plastic cover. Be sure to use a **new needle** for each animal.
3. Hold the top of the animal's ear. Use the needle to pierce the ear near the top where you are holding it.
4. Wait 5-10 seconds for the blood to form a drop. Discard the needle and ready the FTA card.
5. Holding the FTA card, press the pre-printed circle or the absorbent paper portion of the card to the blood on the top side of the ear. If more sample is needed, press to the underside of the ear. For a sufficient sample, the blood should be at least the size of a quarter.
6. Keep the cards separated from each other until the blood stains are dry, then fold up with ID showing. Insert into an envelope.
7. Fill out the DNA Test Request Form. Match the tattoo number on the FTA card with the corresponding tattoo on the paperwork. More forms are available on our website [www.nalf.org](http://www.nalf.org) if needed.
8. Repeat steps 1-7 for each animal.
9. Send the FTA card and form to the North American Limousin Foundation office.

## Collection of Hair Samples:

1. **Pull** (do not cut) hair from **tail switch**, not tail head. Make sure hair is free of fecal material and dirt. Roots must be clearly visible.
2. Approximately **20-30 hair roots** are needed for animals 90 days or older. Collect 40-60 hair roots for calves under 90 days because of their very small follicles.
3. Write the **animal's ID number** on the collector in the space provided.
4. Open the collector and **peel back the plastic cover**.
5. Insert the **root end** of the hair in the middle of the collector. Close the collector by sealing the plastic cover over the hair and then insert the tab into the slot.
6. **Trim the excess hair** extending from the collector. Put all collectors in an envelope with DNA Test Request Form. Send form and sample to North American Limousin Foundation office.

## Sending Semen Samples:

1. Send a minimum of TWO straws of semen per animal for testing. Sending only one straw significantly reduces the chances of DNA extraction for testing and may result in a failure to determine a genotype.
2. Remove the straws of semen from the tank and make sure they are properly marked with the animal's registration number or herd prefix and tattoo.
3. Package the semen in a box with protective wrapping to prevent breakage. Semen does not need to be shipped in liquid nitrogen, but a refrigerant ice pack should be included. Mark the package: Fragile, Rush, Perishable and send directly to GeneSeek, Inc. and Zoetis. Samples must be sent overnight to arrive on a business day. Please send the DNA Test Request Form to the lab with semen sample.
4. Send a copy of the DNA Test Request Form to the NALF office.