

**SWINE HAIR SAMPLE COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS**

**1** Check the ear tag number of the animal, and record it on the hair sample envelope.

We recommend coarse hair from the loin or rump. If the animal has been shaved, hair can usually be found between the toes, on the jaw/face, inside the ear, or around the tail head. Clean the sample area to remove dirt or other contaminants.

Use bent nose, long nose or needle nose pliers to pull the hair. You will need at least five pulls to get enough hair.



**2** Pull a tuft of hair from the animal. Pull the hair directly away from the skin, NOT at an angle. This will allow the hair root to come out with the hair.

Note: Do NOT cut the hair from the animal. The hair MUST CONTAIN ROOTS for DNA testing. Avoid touching the roots and make sure the hair is dry.

**3** Visually inspect the hairs for intact roots. Roots or follicles are easy to see (like human hairs with a bulb at the end). You may notice a color variation which indicates that the root is intact. A minimum of 40 hair roots is needed.

Place the sample in the hair sample envelope, and then seal the envelope in the presence of exhibitor and parent/supervisor.

Do not put hairs in a plastic bag.

**4** Fill out the remaining information lines on the envelope, and have the witnesses sign.

**5** REMEMBER: Cleanse hands and pliers between animal samples to ensure that hairs from different animals are not mixed.

**SWINE HAIR SAMPLE CHECKLIST**

- ✓ Select collection area—we suggest loin or rump
- ✓ Record ear tag number on the envelope
- ✓ Obtain at least 40 hairs with follicles
- ✓ Take at least 5 pulls
- ✓ Inspect for follicles—do NOT touch follicles
- ✓ Obtain exhibitor signature & seal envelope
- ✓ Clean pliers and hands between animals

# Stop Bias

## Overcoming Bias

By: Ryan Harrell

Unfortunately the livestock industry is not always bias free. This article breaks down the two main teaching points within the livestock industry and then defines solutions to overcome bias. You can consider bias to pertain to two defined audiences. The parent trying to teach their child the livestock show may have bias components and you may not always win. The second component can be related to the judge to understand the factors presented to them can be bias or the judge themselves may show favoritism. Finally, parents can teach their kids from the many facets of the livestock industry. It is the parent's role to influence their kids; however they want them to grow up to be.

A parent can utilize the livestock industry as a teaching tool for their children. Not every kid can be a winner or a winner all the time. Parents can utilize the concept that life may not always be fair or be bias-free. Some judges pick other judges kids to win shows in order to have them return the favor later. Some judges pick high status breeders or showmen to maintain a higher status as a judge. There are multiple factors one could consider when trying to teach youth about overcoming bias situations.

The second component can focus on the judge. Some humans can be defined as status seeking individuals. Status seeking individuals like to see their name, photos, or money amount linked to their name, posted as much as possible. In the mind of status seeking individuals, they tend to think people are attracted to high status professionals. Yet, in all honesty people's opinions of status vary.

For example... A parent could brag to another parent by stating they bought a pig from breeder X. The assumption the parents wants to perceive to the other parent is: the pig must be amazing because they always sell animals for high dollar values. The status of the breeder, buyer or the animal may not reflect the quality. But the status has been created to achieve a higher standing in the mind of others.

The key is to remain unbiased until you have had the opportunity to confirm initial thoughts and reactions; this requires the correct interpretation of what is being perceived in order to create meaning. Be aware that you may get this wrong from time to time.

In conclusion, bias is all around us. A judge needs to realize bias components can come from the crowd, show staff, parents, kids, the breeder or be influenced from another judge. Keep an open mind and filter out those factors until you can confirm your own thoughts yourself. You are being hired for your experience and unbiased opinion.

If the judge is a status seeker, the public will quickly realize the kind of person who is judging the show.

Finally, parents can teach their kids from the many facets of the livestock industry. It is the parent's role to influence their kids; however they want them to grow up to be.

## Utilizing DNA Hair Samples to Reduce the Spread of PEDv.

By: Ryan Harrell

This year exhibitors will not be pre-identifying their pigs at the annual weigh-in's for several shows. Due to concerns with the spread of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) Virus, several State Veterinarians have banned all spring fair weigh-ins for pigs in an effort to slow the spread of the virus in the state. Since the county is prohibited from having a pig weigh-in this spring and having individuals from farm to farm to identify pigs could potentially spread the virus, a new self-identification system that includes DNA testing. Exhibitors will be required to tag their own pigs and pull hair samples for DNA testing from each fair pig. The cost of the DNA Kits is \$5 per pig. Some shows will still require the exhibitors to place in RFID ear tags for each animal at no additional cost.

The exhibitor will need to pull hair samples from the pig and place those in the matching envelope labeled with the matching ear tag number. The hair should be dry before samples are pulled. Do not drop the sample envelopes in manure or other wet areas as that can contaminate the DNA test! Approximately 5 "pulls" will be needed to get the 40 hairs required for sampling. Place the hair samples in the correct envelope, seal it and then both the exhibitor and a parent must sign each envelope. Make sure to thoroughly clean hands and pliers between pigs as one hair from a previous pig can contaminate the next DNA sample!!



**Featured Livestock Judging Team**

Blinn College



**Featured Livestock Judging Individual**

Taylor Walker  
(Blinn College)



**Introducing Our New March Judge**

Williford BoDavid: Lufkin, Texas

## Special Thanks To Our New Newsletter Subscribers

11 New Subscribers for the Month of March



**Featured March 2014 Market Lamb Class**

Official Placing: 4-3-2-1  
Cuts: 2-3-2

For more information on the March 2014 Market Lamb class of the month, visit our home page. Each month The Judging Connection.com features a class of the month and a judge from our directory. The public is allowed to vote on the class of the month. The official results of the class is determined from the featured judge of the month.



**Featured March Judge**

**Andy Barth**  
Stillwater, OK.

Andy judges Cattle, Sheep, Club lambs, Swine, Meat goats

Andy was a member of the Oklahoma State University Livestock Judging team.

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