Cattle Hair Sampling

How to sample

- Take the sample from the bottom of the tail switch or, if this does not work, try the mane
- Ensure the sample area is clean
- Pull the hairs out firmly in a smooth upward motion (against the direction of growth)
    - the hair follicle must be present, live and intact
    - **do not cut** the hair from the tail
    - dead or broken hairs (flattened) are not suitable
    - avoid sampling a moulting animal
- Remove excess faecal matter
    - trim sample to remove faecal material if necessary but make sure you leave the follicles attached
- Place the hair in the *Genomnz* paper envelope provided (see below).
- The follicle at the end of the hair shaft contains the DNA used for analysis in the laboratory

Cattle hair follicles; hooks and bulbs

> *Avoid contamination*
> - *Remove any loose hair from the sample area prior to sampling*
> - *Wipe any stray hairs from your hands before you sample each animal*
> - *Trim sample to remove faecal matter*

How much to sample

The sample collected **needs to contain 20-30** hair follicle bulbs or hooks.

What information is required?

- Correctly record the animal information on the sample envelope (9.2 x 16.5cm). Genomnz can supply pre printed envelopes including owner details.
- Ensure **essential** animal information is provided, including:
    - Birth Stud
    - Tag Identifier (BirthID/Herdbook ID/Registration No.)
    - Year of birth
    - Sex
- Complete a sample submission form with clear instructions so we can process the samples without delay

Storage

- Store the samples dry at room temperature
- **Do not** store in plastic bags because condensation can occur
- Correctly stored samples are stable for several years and can be sent for analysis as required