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BVD Skin Biopsy Sampling Instructions

Materials and Equipment Needed:

1. Ear Notching tool that yields a 1cm/side notch. Recommend purchasing two or more tools for cleaning and disinfection process.
2. Red Top blood tube: the preferred tube is a 7ml draw, 16mm x 75mm.
3. Shipping container rack that holds individual tubes in slots.
4. Sample log sheet (separate one for each owner).
5. Disinfectant for rinsing notching tool: 100% bleach (e.g., 100ml bleach in 900ml water).
6. Clean rinse water: 3–5-gallon bucket. Change bucket water every 20-30 notches.
7. Use disposable gloves and wear clean coveralls.

Collection Procedure:

1. Label Red Top collection tube with the sequence number (#1 though number in submission). Record animal ID on log sheet. **Submit a separate Bovine Submission Form and BVD Biopsy Sample Log Sheet (or Excel list) for each owner. Test charges apply per owner.**
2. Dip notching tool in disinfectant. Then **ALWAYS** rinse away disinfectant with copious quantities of clean water. *Caution: Residual disinfectant on the notching tool will yield false negative results, therefore thorough rinsing with clean water is required!!*
3. Take a proper size ear notch from a clean portion of the ear (see Figure 1). For comparison, a triangle notch size is superimposed on a nickel (see Figure 2). Place notch into a labeled, dry, Red Top collection tube (no formalin, other liquid, or separator gel; do not use snap-cap milk tubes or Whirl-Pak® bags).
4. **Caution:** Do not vaccinate or tattoo at the same time samples are taken. Collected ear notch **MUST** be free from contaminating dirt, feces, tattoo ink or BVD vaccine.
5. Store collected ear notches for a maximum of 72 hours at refrigerator temperatures and ship over night to PDS. If shipment has to be delayed, samples can be frozen.



Figure 1: best location for taking ear notch.



Figure 2: size of ear notch.

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BVD Biopsy Sample Log Sheet

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