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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**California State Fair Announces 2008 DNA Reservation and Collection Deadlines for Market Livestock**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** (March 24, 2008) – Fifteen years ago the California State Fair became the first Fair and Livestock event in the world to implement a DNA identification program to catalogue livestock. Since its inception, the program has achieved overwhelming success and DNA testing continues to be the most accurate animal identification system available. The California State Fair today announced it will continue its online DNA Registration and Collection process for market species in 2008.

Californians that would like to enter market livestock in to the Livestock Show at the 2008 California State Fair must first register for the DNA Reservation and Collection online at [www.bigfun.org](http://www.bigfun.org). Upon registration, the exhibitor will receive a sample collection kit to be used for the hair sample collection process. No market animal will be eligible for official entry unless this sample is obtained and an official Market Registration form has been completed by the deadline.

The deadlines for requesting kits and returning completed samples are as follows:

**Market Steers**

**April 7, 2008** - Deadline for Requesting a Kit for Delivery via Standard US Postal Service

**April 15, 2008** - Deadline for Completed Sample Hair Collection to be Returned to Cal Expo

**Market Lambs, Hogs, and Goats**

**June 6, 2008** - Deadline for Requesting a Kit for Delivery Via Standard US Postal Service

**June 17, 2008** - Deadline for Completed Sample Hair Collection to be Returned to Cal Expo

All livestock exhibitors should note that the DNA registration process does not officially enter an animal into the 2008 California State Fair; it is only one of the requirements for the market division. All animals are required to be officially entered by the owner, who must pay the entry fee, and do so by the official entry deadline of July 11, 2008.

The California State Fair requires DNA registration of market animals to verify ownership and prevent unlawful switching of animals before or during the competition.

For additional information, rules and specific guidelines, please visit the California State Fair website at [www.bigfun.org](http://www.bigfun.org) or contact the California State Fair Livestock Program Coordinator at 916-263-3109 or [entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)

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*The 2008 California State Fair will be held from August 15 to September 1, 2008  
at Cal Expo in Sacramento, CA.*