



News Release

For Immediate Release

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**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FAIR IMPLEMENTS
LIVESTOCK DNA FINGERPRINTING**

SANTA MARIA – The Santa Barbara County Fair Board of Directors unanimously approved the implementation of Livestock DNA Fingerprinting for the 2008 Fair at their October 25th Board Meeting. “DNA Fingerprinting” will replace “Livestock Tagging” the Fairs current method of identifying livestock.

“DNA Fingerprinting” also called “DNA Matching Analysis” involves matching the DNA from different samples of blood, semen, bone, hair or tissue (the Fair will be using hair). The DNA within each individual (be it human or animal), is specific and different to the individual, even in members of the same family. DNA typing is the most accurate method of livestock identification. The Santa Barbara County Fair is always looking for new ways to improve its livestock program, and DNA Fingerprinting is just one of them.

Exhibitors that would like to enter market livestock and/or heifers at the 2008 Santa Barbara County Fair must first obtain a DNA Collection Kit from the Fair, complete the collection and return to the Fair office by the deadline in order to be eligible to enter in the 2008 Santa Barbara County Fair.

Deadlines for requesting kits and returning completed samples are as follows:

HEIFERS & MARKET STEERS

- Deadline to Receive DNA Kit – March 7, 2008
- Completed DNA Kits must be received in the Fair’s Entry Office by 5:00 P.M. March 10, 2008

MARKET SHEEP, SWINE AND MEAT GOATS

- Deadline to receive DNA Kit – May 8, 2008
- Completed DNA Kits must be received in the Fair’s Entry Office by 5:00 P.M. May 9, 2008

DNA Collection Kits will be available at the Fair office as of February 1, 2008 for heifers and market steers, and April 1, 2008 for sheep, swine and meat goats.

Plan to “Rock Around the Clock” at the 2008 Santa Barbra County Fair July 9 – 13.

For further information and requirements for DNA Fingerprinting visit our website at www.santamariafairpark.com or call the Fair Administration Office at (805) 925-8824.

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