



The Do's and Don'ts of TSU Sampling

The Do's

- Sample calves as soon as possible for the earliest results
- Wipe off any excess dirt with water and towel
- Position cutter approximately 1 inch from the edge of the ear, avoiding veins
- Squeeze handles together in one swift, fluid, motion with enough force to pierce the ear
- Check to ensure sample is present and submerged in buffer and that excess hair isn't protruding from the top
- Remove cutter by pulling handles apart
- Store samples in dark, temperature controlled room for up to 12 months
- For long term storage (over 12 months), place samples in deep freezer without auto-defrost capability

The Don'ts

- Sample "wet" calves – the placenta and fluid could cause a failed sample
- Use chemicals to clean off the ear – bleach degrades DNA
- Position cutter over any tattoo ink
- Squeeze handles together with excess force (shouldn't take as much as ear tagging) that would damage the TSU
- Place TSU in box without ensuring sample is present
- Use pliers to remove cutter
- Place samples in direct sunlight or heat
- Store samples in auto-defrost freezers – such as the one in your kitchen