

Assembly and use of the blood collection kit for tail bleeding of cattle

1. label tube with animal ID

2. get a clean tube/needle holder and an unopened (sterile) double-sided needle

3. Twist off dark grey protector of the short end of the needle and screw needle into the holder hub.



4. insert labeled tube halfway into sleeve but do not pierce the rubber stopper of the tube. Remove pink protector to expose needle and insert into cow's tail vein (see video for placement). Push tube all the way into needle holder, piercing the stopper. The tube vacuum will draw the blood in the tube.



cow in chute,
tail up,
needle inserted

Immediately after blood collection, gently reverse tube several times to mix.

Helpful hints:

If blood does not flow right away, i.e. the needle did not hit the vein on the first try, withdraw the needle a little but do NOT withdraw completely (the vacuum will escape the tube which renders it useless). Gently move the needle forward again, at a slightly different angle, always aiming for the center of the tail, where the tail vein lies. Repeat until the vein is hit. Scraping and crunching indicates hitting bone or cartilage. Withdraw the needle slightly and move forward again at a slightly different angle (up, down, left or right), again aiming for the center line of the tail, until blood starts flowing.

Remember to recap both ends of the needle to safely discard!

for a video on 'how to' see <http://www.biotracking.com/resources/videos>