Are you interested in an efficient alternative for collecting DNA samples when genotyping your animals? Look no further – Holstein Association USA now offers a Tissue Sampling Unit (TSU), produced by Allflex, which allows producers to take a punch of tissue from an animal’s ear quickly and easily. The sample may then be submitted with genotyping forms in place of a traditional hair sample.

The TSU is ideal for dairy producers testing a large volume of animals. The units are sold in boxes of 10, at a cost of $30/box, plus shipping. A special Tissue Sampling Applicator must be used with the TSUs; customers purchasing at least 10 boxes in one order receive a free applicator, or they can be purchased for $50. We don’t recommend purchasing more TSUs than you think you will use in a year, and once tissue is punched into a tube, it should be submitted to the lab within a month.

The process for ordering a test you plan to submit with a TSU is the same as if you were testing with hair.

1. Order a supply of Tissue Sampling Units (and an applicator, if necessary) so you have them in stock when you’re ready to collect samples from your animals. Sample collection can be done before or after you order genomic testing forms, whenever it is most convenient for you.

2. When you know which animals you plan to test, call or email Holstein Association USA with their information, and customized forms will be mailed or emailed to you.

3. When you have tissue samples and genomic testing forms for each animal, simply write the corresponding TSU tube number on the animal’s genomic testing form (shown above). Just as with hair, when taking samples from several animals at once, it is important to carefully record which TSU tube belongs to which animal; space is provided on the outside of the TSU box where these notes can be made.

4. When all genomic testing forms are properly labeled, enclose the forms and TSUs in a padded envelope or box and mail them to the lab at the address provided.

Watch a detailed video about using the TSUs at www.youtube.com/HolsteinUSA and look for the video “Collecting Genetic Material with the Tissue Sampling Unit”, or scan the QR Code below with your mobile device. See the inside back cover of this issue for Allflex’s TSU ad. With additional questions, or to place an order, contact Customer Service at 800.952.5200.