

Affidavit for non-Ractopamine Usage in Swine

Announcements have been made from several commercial pork processing plants indicating that they will be eliminating the purchase of pigs that have been fed ractopamine from their markets. This decision is driven by the restrictions placed on pork products destined for export markets. Due to these new stipulations the Tuscola Large Livestock committee has decided to make some changes to their rules for exhibition to the Tuscola County Fair. For the 2022 exhibition year, pigs that have been fed a ractopamine product at any time will not be allowed to exhibit at the fair. These changes will continue to allow buyers of the pork projects at the fair access to resale markets for this year and hopefully beyond.

Rules Governing Entries, Exhibits, Awards and Business of the Association:

As stated in the fair book (year 2024) located on page 9, Section 1:

3. Disregard of any rule by an exhibitor or concessionaire forfeits all rights and privileges without recourse.

As stated in the fair book (year 2024) located on page 9, Section 3:

6. Any person using deception in entering any animal or article shall not be awarded a prize and shall be disbarred from exhibiting for a period of three years.

As stated in the fair book (year 2024) located on page 20 Youth Swine Department, Youth Swine Regulations:

2. The use of Ractopamine under any label will be prohibited in any exhibitor's animal feed for the Tuscola County Fair beginning in 2020.

Ractopamine is a beta-agonist commonly used in production that mimics the effects of adrenalin and promotes lean muscle growth, and even though it can be fed any time, is typically fed a few weeks prior to slaughter. This feed additive has been approved for use in swine diets for several years, with domestic markets setting tolerance guidelines. **Common names include Paylean, Explode, XXL and Lean Maximer, among others**, C Beth Ferry, MSU Extension swine specialist states, "with our export pork sales reflecting over 25% of our markets commercial processors need to reduce the risk of distributing a product that does not meet the export market guideline. By eliminating the use of ractopamine products in swine diets, they have done just that."

Ractopamine may be mixed in feed, or top-dressed, so be sure to talk to your feed dealer to see exactly what is in your feed program. It is important that youth exhibitors are aware of what is in the feed that they are purchasing for their projects. Reading the feed ingredient label and having conversations with your feed supplier will help identify any feed additives that may not be allowed.

I have read the above information on ractopamine and by checking the box in ShoWorks™ when signing up for the Tuscola County Fair, understanding and agree therefore, that I cannot use Ractopamine in any circumstance when feeding my pig.