

Stark County Fair/Stark County Agricultural Society
February 12, 2020

Ban on Ractopamine Use in Swine at the Stark County Fair

What is it? Ractopamine is a synthetically-created feed additive that enhances lean muscle gain and growth rate in swine. It is also known as Paylean, Engain and other trade names. It is banned by many countries and now by the four (4) major packing companies in the U.S.A.

Why is it Banned? Some international markets have restricted the use of this product. In response, much of the U.S. pork packing industry has made Ractopamine-free swine production another market specification. Our goal is to put the pigs into the standard market at a value that represents the same type of pork and the quality of pork and the safety of pork that we expect from every producer in the country.

What does this mean? Swine are not to be exposed to at any time throughout the project cycle to any type of Ractopamine. All swine exhibited at the Stark County Fair must be free of Ractopamine (see the education provided by OSU Extension office for guidance)

How will this be enforced? Exhibitors and/or their Parent or Guardian will have to sign an affidavit upon entering the project. It is recommended that Exhibitors ask their producers to sign an affidavit as well. Swine exhibitors found to have fed Ractopamine at any stage of the project will not be eligible to participate in the Stark County Fair. In addition, any animal that is found to have been fed Ractopamine will be disqualified from the fair and the exhibitor will forfeit any and all prize monies, sale proceeds, banners, trophies and other awards and may be disqualified from future exhibition at the fair. Please note that if such discovery is made at any time, including by any packing house or processor where the animal is shipped, the above noted penalties will be enforced.