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Frequently Asked Questions

How to best prepare for eliminating Ractopamine from my swine project diets

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What is Ractopamine?

Ractopamine is a beta-agonist agent that is commonly used in production swine diets to promote lean muscle growth. It mimics the effects of adrenalin. This feed additive has been approved for use in swine diets in the United States for several years, with domestic markets setting tolerance levels for Ractopamine.

How do I know if Ractopamine is in the feed I am purchasing for my animal?

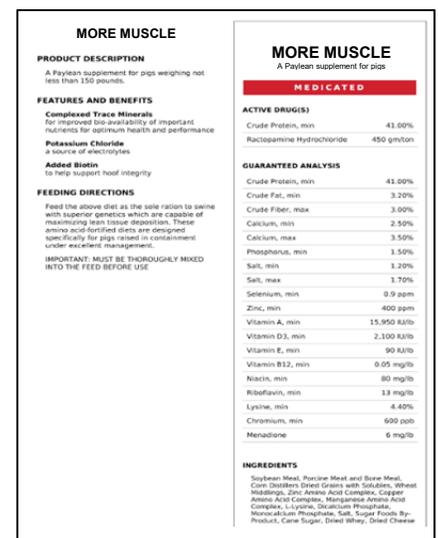
If the feed that you are purchasing for your animal contains Ractopamine it will be listed on the feed label as Ractopamine hydrochloride and typically found listed as an active ingredient.

How can Ractopamine be fed?

Ractopamine can be mixed into a complete feed by the manufacturer, this includes both ground feed and pelleted products. It can also be purchased as a feed supplement and top-dressed or mixed into the feed you are giving your animal.

What are some common names for Ractopamine products?

There are several common names for Ractopamine, some examples are Paylean, Lean Maximizer, Explode, XXL, Overdrive, and Power-Max. You must always check the feed or supplement label to know what you are feeding your pigs.



(Photo 1) Example feed tag

When purchasing my pig is it important to talk to my breeder about what the pig has been fed?

It is always important to communicate with your breeder about what diet your pig has been fed. Special emphasis should be made to inform your breeder that you will be exhibiting at a county fair, show or exhibition that has eliminated the use of Ractopamine in their swine diets. Although feeding Ractopamine is not labeled for young pigs, it is best to double-check and make sure your breeder has not inadvertently fed this product.

Is there anything I should do before I bring my animals home?

It is a good biosecurity practice to completely clean the area that you house your animals before bringing them home each year. Special considerations should be taken to completely clean and wash your feeder, penning area, show equipment, trailer, and feed storage area and containers. This will help reduce any risk that your pigs will be exposed to Ractopamine products from the previous year.

To contact an expert in your area, visit msue.anr.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

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Are all county fairs, shows, and exhibitions eliminating the use of Ractopamine?

No, all county fairs, shows or exhibitions are not eliminating the use of Ractopamine, these decisions are made on a show-by-show basis. It is important to communicate directly with the specific county fair, show or exhibition that you are planning on attending to understand their rules and requirements.

What if I plan to show pigs at an event that allows the use of Ractopamine, in addition to events that have eliminated the use of Ractopamine?

You will need to decide which events you will be participating in and follow the guidelines and rules set forth for that event. This may require you to alter your feeding plan because of the requirements for other events. Another option is to have different sets of pigs that are fed separate diets. If this is the case, care should be taken to separate the pigs, feeding areas, equipment and, feed storage areas to avoid cross-contamination.

The county fair, show or exhibition is requiring Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) certification if I plan to exhibit there. How do I get this done?

YQCA certification can be completed by attending a classroom training session with a certified instructor or by completing the training course online. More information about this program, including a list of training sessions, can be found on the [YQCA website](#). Specific trainings planned for Michigan can also be found on the [Michigan State University Extension Event Calendar](#).

What should the county fairs, shows or exhibitions be doing to help reduce the risk of exposure to Ractopamine from the prior year events?

Although the risk of exposure from prior years events should be minimal because the Ractopamine compound will degrade in the environment, steps should be taken to reduce the risk of exposure. It would be considered a good practice to clean the animal housing area and pens that were used for the event in the past before the arrival of the pigs.

For more information

Looking for more information on this topic or want to discuss some potential options for your fair or exhibition? Questions may be directed to:



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