



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
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To: Ohio State University ANR and Youth Educators

From: Lizz Share, Steve Moeller, Dale Ricker, Lucinda Miller

Re: Paylean (ractopamine) ban by Pork Packers

Recent announcements by Indiana Packing Company and Routh Packing Company have indicated that these packing entities will no longer purchase pigs fed Paylean (Ractopamine) beginning in early 2020. These announcements reflect the position of JBS and Tyson Packing which announced in October of 2019 their intent to stop purchasing pigs fed Paylean. This change will affect the marketability of exhibition swine for many county fairs across Ohio as the end destination is commonly one of the four mentioned pork packers.

The packer decisions to remove Paylean fed pigs from their supply chain reflects primarily the restrictions placed on pork destined for export markets. Export markets currently reflect greater than 25% of the value of the US pork, a market that is necessary for US swine producers to compete internationally and to maintain profitability across the pork chain.

As these new requirements are implemented, now is the time to begin working with your local fair board to determine options for marketing exhibition swine from your local and county fairs. In most instances, the four major packers and Routh Packing have stopped purchasing exhibition swine, even with some assurances, due to the known, widespread use of Paylean, among other concerns. The packer challenges are real, in that a single positive test in an export container can result in an entire container/shipment being lost, with no payment for product and all of the associated costs of shipment bore by the packer. Not a situation anyone wishes to encounter.

Our recommendation is that you begin to work with your fair to decide what and or where to market exhibition swine for 2020 and beyond. Several fairs are considering or have banned feeding Paylean (ractopamine) from their show pigs with exhibitors having to sign an affidavit stating they did not feed Paylean. This approach may or may not suffice for the packers, thus direct communication with the packer will be necessary. Unfortunately, rapid, live animal tests to confirm the presence of Paylean in the live animal are not available at this time, and while the withdrawal from the blood stream is known to be very rapid, detection in meat or organs is longer, thus simple elimination of the product prior to marketing is not the answer.

We are actively pursuing more information on the subject and will convey information as we gain added insight. Please contact any of us if you have questions, we will be happy to assist where we can.