Further clarification of the Wayne County Market Swine Project Ractopamine prohibition.

PLEASE READ IN ITS ENTIRETY!

August 29, 2022

Dear Market Swine Exhibitor and Parents,

Recently you should have seen a reminder in the LINK newsletter to submit your second ractopamine affidavit prior to bringing your project to the fairgrounds for weigh in. In this same email newsletter, it is mentioned that the Wayne County Fair Board voted to send the four champions and a random selection of barrows for ractopamine testing. The purpose of this letter is to further explain why this is being done as well as the ramifications for not following the rules governing the Jr. Fair and the Market Swine project. While testing is new, the requirement to be ractopamine free should come as no surprise to any exhibitor as this rule is now in its third year, along with being informed via the review and signature of the ractopamine affidavit. It should be noted that the testing method selected will allow for the detection of ractopamine use during the time the exhibitor was in possession of their project.

The Fair Board understands that ractopamine is a legal feed additive; however, the Fair Board has found that this feed additive is detrimental to the “turn” price for all buyers and eventually the exhibitors. Since a market hog could enter a marketplace where the end user does not want ractopamine fed pork, this is a market driven requirement. Without a market, this project wouldn’t exist. Likewise, a higher turn price generally means a higher sale price for all exhibitors. As such, the Fair Board desires to benefit all buyers and exhibitors by continuing to prohibit the use of ractopamine in market swine projects shown at the Wayne County Fair.

The Fair Board hopes that all samples return with a negative (i.e. no ractopamine) result as this indicates that exhibitors understand and are following the rules put forth for the Wayne County Jr. Fair. However, should a positive sample be returned, and the results shows the animal was fed ractopamine during the exhibitor’s possession, this will result in a Code of Conduct violation of the Ohio 4-H Code of Conduct, as well as Wayne County Jr. Fair rules. By signing the affidavit before the project begins and again prior to the show you as an exhibitor have agreed not to feed, and have certified that your animal was not fed, ractopamine. If your animal tests positive beyond a background value you have misrepresented yourself and/or your child to the Jr. Fair, the Fair Board and our buyers. Under the code of conduct, incorporated below for reference, this is a violation of rule #1.
OHIO 4-H CODE OF CONDUCT

4-H members, parents, and other adults participating in 4-H activities will:

1. **Adhere to program rules**, curfews, dress codes, policies, and rules of the facility being used.
2. Conduct themselves in a courteous, respectful manner, use appropriate language, exhibit good sportsmanship, and provide positive role models.
3. Abstain from illegal behaviors, use of alcohol, illegal or illicit drugs, and tobacco during 4-H events and activities.
4. Fully participate in scheduled activities.
5. Respect other’s property and privacy rights.
6. Abstain from child abuse (physical and/or verbal) and harassment.
7. Accept personal responsibility for behavior including any financial damage.
8. Be responsible for any financial damage caused by inappropriate behavior.
9. Adhere to rules of safety.
10. I will uphold and support the responsible and lawful use of social media. In so doing, I will not create or post social media content that is abusive, threatening, defamatory, obscene, harassing, or creates a hostile environment.

Consequences for violating any part of this code of conduct may include, but are not limited to: removal from participation in the event in which the code of conduct has been violated (at the individual’s expense); sanctions on participating in future 4-H events; forfeiture of financial support for the event; removal from offices held, etc. Behavior outside of 4-H activities can affect “member in good standing” or “volunteer in good standing” status. It is the responsibility of all program participants to reinforce the code of conduct and intervene when necessary to enforce the rules.

As mentioned, signing the ractopamine form and then having a positive test result is a violation of rule #1 and will become subject to rules 7 and 8. Additionally, a positive result is a violation of Junior Fair Rules under the MISCONDUCT section, rules 38-40. Wayne County Junior Fair rules can be found here: [https://wayne.osu.edu/sites/wayne/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/JrFair/2022/2022%20Jr%20Fair%20Book%20FINAL.pdf](https://wayne.osu.edu/sites/wayne/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/JrFair/2022/2022%20Jr%20Fair%20Book%20FINAL.pdf)

By feeding ractopamine an exhibitor has violated the rules for this project and of the Wayne County Junior Fair/Wayne County Fair (the facility). This in turn will result in forfeiture of premium, auction proceeds as well as being responsible for reimbursing the buyer (via returned auction proceeds). Additionally, by violating the code of conduct and Wayne County Junior Fair Rules, the exhibitor, parents and even siblings can be removed and barred from present and future 4-H/Jr. Fair events, be removed from offices (committees) and even removed and/or barred as an advisor. Final year Jr. Fair members, in addition to premium and auction proceeds forfeiture, can also be removed from consideration for any 4-H awards and scholarships.

In short, **if you know you have fed ractopamine, you should not bring your market swine to the fair**. While missing the show can be disappointing, missing several years of showing after this year due to a positive result would be much more disappointing, not to mention the potential financial ramifications.

We hope that everyone bringing their market swine project to the fair has been following the rules and are looking forward to a great fair!

Sincerely,

Wayne County Fair Board Jr. Fair Liaison Committee
EXHIBITING A RACTOPAMINE-FREE SWINE PROJECT

RACTOPAMINE-FREE SWINE PRODUCTION IS NOW A MARKET SPECIFICATION/REQUIREMENT THROUGHOUT MUCH OF THE U.S. PORK PACKING INDUSTRY. BECAUSE SHOW PIGS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO ENTER INTERNATIONAL PORK MARKETS, THEY MUST BE RACTOPAMINE-FREE.

EXPECT YOUR FAIR TO SECURE A SIGNED AFFIDAVIT FROM A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN STATING THAT THE PIGS EXHIBITED BY THEIR SHOWMAN HAVE NEVER BEEN OFFERED RACTOPAMINE.

WHAT IS RACTOPAMINE?
A beta-adrenergic agonist that when fed according to label directions can improve pig growth rate, carcass composition, and feed conversion efficiency. Product trade names include: Paylean®, Optaflexx®, Engain®, Actogain®, and other generic derivatives.

WHAT DOES RACTOPAMINE-FREE MEAN?
The pig has never been fed or exposed to ractopamine sources from the time of birth to the time of harvest.

AREAS OF FOCUS TO ENSURE YOUR PROJECT IS RACTOPAMINE-FREE

1. YOUR PIG
   Understand the status of any pig(s) you purchase or raise on your own farm and comply by not feeding or exposing your pigs to ractopamine.

2. YOUR FEED SUPPLY
   Work directly with your feed supplier to assure that the feed you use is free of ractopamine.

3. YOUR FEEDERS
   Feeders and containers should be thoroughly disinfected and dried prior to adding new feed. This will prevent cross-contamination.

4. YOUR BARN
   Pens, bedding, fans, etc. should be thoroughly disinfected as they have a risk of containing ractopamine if you have fed it in the past.

5. YOUR TRAILER
   Do a complete disinfection and drying of trailers and vehicles between loads of pigs.

6. EXHIBITION
   Don't offer ractopamine if the rules indicate it is not acceptable for the fair or exhibition.

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