



Paylean® for Youth Livestock Projects



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There are numerous products available for youth swine projects to improve muscle development of their pigs. One of the most controversial is the product, Paylean® from Elanco Animal Health (www.elanco.com). Paylean® contains *ractopamine hydrochloride* which is a compound classified as a beta-agonist. This compound shifts how your animal uses its nutrients. Paylean® functions to increase the creation of muscle, creating pork carcasses that are more muscular and leaner. Exhibitors need to understand the benefits and disadvantages to using this product, as well as the proper (legal) use of this product.

Proper Paylean® use:

- Only in swine
- Only fed at the FDA APPROVED rate of 4.5-18 grams per ton of feed for finishing swine (check with your feed supplier)
- Only fed in swine from 150 pounds to 240 pounds of body weight
- Complete ration containing Paylean® MUST CONTAIN 16% crude protein (minimum)
- Increase total dietary lysine by 0.30% from present feeding levels (check with your feed supplier)
- There are NO EXTRA-LABEL uses approved by the FDA – any extra-label use is ILLEGAL
- NEVER RESTRICT WATER when feeding Paylean®

Paylean® advantages (www.elanco.com):

- Increased leanness in carcasses of pigs of varying genotypes
- Increased yield (dressing percent) – increased muscling and decreased backfat contribute to this increased yield
- Increase carcass weights
- No effect on carcass quality

Paylean® disadvantages (www.elanco.com):

- Pigs must be handled and transported to minimize stress. Pigs may be more susceptible to stress
- Essential to make sure that a minimum of 16% crude protein is fed, increasing the cost of the ration
- Youth must decide if Paylean® is cost-effective for their program. Factors such as the number of days that the product is fed, genotype of the pig, etc. must be considered

References:

Elanco Animal Health. www.elanco.com

“Using Paylean® in Show Pig Diets” Larry McMullen. Iowa State University Extension. Available online at www.elanco.com