



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: RACTOPAMINE BAN AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR PURINA® FEEDING PLAN

*There are new rules about swine exhibited at some county and state fair shows and the need to be ractopamine-free. Learn about what that means for you as well as options for your feeding program.*

### **1. What is ractopamine HCl?**

Ractopamine HCl, also known by the brand names Paylean® and Engain™, is a drug regulated by the FDA that supports increase in lean growth rate. Ractopamine HCl is a beta-adrenergic agonist that is legally approved to be fed to hogs intended for slaughter. This feed additive has not been approved in many other countries, specifically China and the E.U.

### **2. Why are some shows banning ractopamine?**

Some pork processors that export pork internationally are now ractopamine-free pork supply, meaning they require all hogs going to slaughter to never be fed or exposed to ractopamine. Swine shows (National, State, and County levels) that sell pigs to these ractopamine-free packers are beginning to ban ractopamine to comply with processor requirements.

### **3. What is Purina® High Octane® Showpig Paylean® 900 Medicated Supplement?**

Purina® High Octane® Showpig Paylean® 900 is a type B medicated supplement for use in finishing show pig diets. It is highly palatable and formulated with very high-quality animal protein sources for muscle synthesis and maximum definition. It makes market hogs look great by building muscle and trimming fat. The active ingredient in Paylean® is ractopamine HCl, which is a beta-adrenergic agonist that is legally approved to be fed to market hogs intended for slaughter in the U.S. Other companies also use ractopamine in some of their show feeds and supplements.

Purina has made changes in plants to remove ractopamine products to eliminate risk for commercial swine producers buying our commercial swine feeds/products.

High Octane® Paylean® 900 is the only Purina® Show Feed and/or Supplement that includes ractopamine and is manufactured at a separate facility from any other Purina® show swine feeds. There is no reason for concern about cross-contamination.

Learn more about Purina® High Octane® Showpig Paylean® 900 Medicated Supplement here:  
<https://www.purinamills.com/2.purinamills.com/media/Images/Products/High-Octane-Showpig-Paylean-900-sell-sheet-2-28-17.pdf?ext=.pdf>

### **4. What happens if I feed Purina® High Octane® Paylean® 900 to my hogs and participate in a show that has banned Paylean?**

Each show will decide consequences on an individual show basis. You are responsible for your feeding program and if a show has banned ractopamine, do not include Purina® High Octane® Paylean® 900 Medicated Supplement to your feeding program. The recommendation is to use Purina® Fitter 52 instead.

**5. If ractopamine HCl is approved and legal by the FDA, why do I need to comply with individual livestock shows?**

Livestock shows are autonomous, meaning they can make rules for their individual show and enforce them at their discretion. In plain language; the consequences may include prohibiting you from showing in future events, suspend, or ban you from their show.

**6. How will livestock shows know if I fed ractopamine HCl or not?**

Urine and tissue tests exist that accurately detect the presence of ractopamine HCl in hogs that have been fed products containing Paylean® or other commercially available ractopamine products.

**7. Is there a substitute can I use instead of Purina® High Octane® Showpig Paylean® 900 Medicated Supplement, and have similar effects?**

Yes. Ractopamine HCl does 3 things very well in the pig; increase muscle, increase growth rate, and decrease body fat (if a fat supplement such as High Octane® Heavy Weight® is not fed simultaneously with Paylean®). High Octane® Fitter 52® has similar results to Paylean®. Fitter 52 helps improve muscling and leanness, however it does not increase growth rate. Fitter 52 is an acceptable alternative because it is formulated to promote lean gain without the use of ractopamine HCl.

**8. How do I feed High Octane Fitter 52?**

Below are daily feeding rates based on need:

Improving muscle and reducing body fat:

1 lb/day High Octane Fitter 52 along with regular show pig feed for the final 14 - 21 days prior to show,

Improving muscle without reducing body fat:

1 lb/day High Octane Fitter 52 + 8 oz/day High Octane Heavy Weight for the final 14 - 21 days prior to show.

**9. If I have used this product in the past, how do I ensure my show projects are ractopamine free in the future?**

The Ohio Pork Council, Ohio State University Extension, Ohio Department of Agriculture, and Ohio State Fair have collaborated and recommend the following:

1. Pens, fans, feeders, waterers, equipment etc. should be thoroughly-cleaned as they have a risk of containing ractopamine residue if it has been fed in the past.
2. Do a complete cleaning, disinfection, and drying of trailers and vehicles between loads of pigs. Remove all bedding, debris and organic matter from trailers and vehicles (flooring, gates, ceilings, all surfaces).

**10. Should I be worried about cross contamination?**

Cleanliness of pens, removing manure, restricting pigs' access to other animals (cattle) fed ractopamine— pigs can ingest ractopamine residue & test positive if they eat feces/urine from other animals fed ractopamine.

**11. Is ractopamine used in other animals**

Yes, cattle products can contain Optaflexx®, which is ractopamine HCl.

**12. Is this an important issue?**

Yes. This is an important economic issue for pork producers and the U.S. pork industry. It is also a very important issue for livestock shows. It's simple; if livestock shows do not have a place to sell hogs, many will fail to exist. If processors ship pork that is not ractopamine free into countries that ban ractopamine, they will not be able to export pork into international markets, therefore negatively affecting the US pork industry economically

Our suggestion: Read, pay attention and comply with the rules of any hog show you attend.  
PLEASE take this issue seriously.

**Learn more about one state fair; their stance and recommendations:**

<https://www.ocj.com/2020/02/ohio-state-fair-announces-ractopamine-free-swine-show-for-2020/>

All of these informational resources can be accessed online at <https://ohiopork.org/ractopamine-free/>.

A Fact Sheet is available at <https://ohiopork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Ractopamine-Free-Swine->