



2020 Miami County Fair- Junior Fair. Barrow Show

Feb. 4, 2020

During the February Senior Fairboard meeting, the Board unanimously made the decision to not offer a market for market barrows at the 2020 fair in light of the current ractopamine controversy in the pork industry. The following options were considered:

- 1) Banning the use of ractopamine in hogs that are exhibited at the Miami County Fair
- 2) Not banning the use of ractopamine and taking a significantly lower price
- 3) Not banning the use of ractopamine and not offering a market outlet

This was discussed and researched at length. Part of our decision to not ban ractopamine is that if the rule is made we need to be able to enforce it. While testing options are growing there is concern that labs will be over loaded and production of results would be delayed too long to be proof for enforcement. While some fairs are banning ractopamine and requiring exhibitors to sign an affidavit stating that the animal has never been fed ractopamine in the entirety of its life. We felt that it was not possible for most exhibitors to truthfully state this with 100% accuracy as they have not had the animal in their possession during its entire life. This is a 1 year decision. It will be re-evaluated in the future.

As a result of our decision exhibitors will be responsible for removal of the hog following the fair. Exhibitors are encouraged to make arrangements for slaughter of, or sale to a slaughter channel of their project. Barrows will not be released from the swine barn until after 11:00 p.m. on Thursday August 20, 2020 and must be removed by 12:00 noon Friday August 21, 2020. Exhibitors will still be eligible to participate in the Jr. Fair livestock sale for premium bid and add-ons. All hogs will remain the property of the exhibitor except for the Grand and Reserve Champions which are still terminal by state mandate.

It should be noted that the pork industry is moving to a ractopamine free industry. Exhibitors are encouraged to start adapting to ractopamine free feed diets. There may be no option in the future.

Please contact the fair office if you have questions. I will be happy to assist where I can.

Nick Shellenberger

MCAS President/Manager

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