



Optaflexx[®] for Youth Livestock Projects

Celina Johnson and Brett Kaysen
Colorado State University

There are numerous products available for youth beef projects to enhance their animal's genetic potential. A new product, Optaflexx[®] from Elanco Animal Health (www.elanco.com) has been approved by the FDA. Optaflexx[®] 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 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 Optaflexx[®] use:

- Only in MARKET BEEF
- 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 market beef for the last 28 to 42 days (optimal is 28-35 days)
- There are NO EXTRA-LABEL uses approved by the FDA – any extra-label use is ILLEGAL
- NEVER RESTRICT WATER when feeding Optaflexx[®]

References:

Elanco Animal Health. www.elanco.com. Show Animal Guidelines.