



# Beef Tech-Line



November 2010

## Zilmax

Zilmax is a medicated feed additive for feedlot cattle. It is manufactured and distributed by Intervet/Schering Plough Animal Health (ISPAH).

Zilmax differs from most medicated feed additives in that it 1) Is fed the last 20 to 40 days of the feeding period with a 3 day slaughter withdrawal, 2) Has a profound effect on carcass performance with measurable effects on live performance, 3) Is regulated to ensure proper training, use, and safety and 4) Provides a substantial return on investment in 20 days.

Zilmax is approved to be fed at 7.56 g/ton (100% dry matter basis) to provide 60 to 90 mg/hd/day of Zilpaterol Hydrochloride.

The indications for use based on label instructions are:

For increased rate of weight gain, improved feed efficiency and increased carcass leanness in cattle fed in confinement for slaughter during the last 20-40 days on feed.

Zilmax is classified as a beta-2 adrenergic agonist which differentiates it from Optaflexx which is classified as a beta-1 agonist. Zilmax helps the animal's natural metabolism more efficiently convert feed energy into beef.

Feedlot cattle fed Zilmax for 20 days showed the following responses:

	Beef Steers	Beef Heifers	Holstein Steers
Dressing Percentage (% units)	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	+ 1.6
Hot Carcass Weight (lb)	+ 30	+ 23	+ 26
Choice and Prime (% units)	- 8	- 8	- 8
Yield Grade 1 (% units)	+ 7	+ 6	+ 6
Yield Grade 2 (% units)	+ 7	+ 7	+ 11
Yield Grade 4 and 5 (% units)	- 7	- 7	- 2
Rib Eye Area (sq. in.)	+ 1.2	+1.0	+ 0.8

Zilmax increases hot carcass weight more than it increases live weight. In most markets increases in live weight alone will not generate enough extra income to make the Zilmax program profitable. Zilmax cattle need to be marketed on a grid or, at a minimum, in the meat so that producers are paid for the improvements in carcass value.

Cattle sold on a grid gain value through increased dressing percentage, increased hot carcass weight, improved yield grade and larger rib eye areas. Quality grade, as measured by percent choice and prime, is reduced in Zilmax fed cattle. Producers need to be informed of both the positive and negative carcass effects of Zilmax so they can make an informed decision regarding its use.

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Zimax containing feeds can only be manufactured by companies approved by ISPAH and Zimax containing feeds can only be sold to producers approved by ISPAH. Feedlots are approved by ISPAH field representatives. Each approved feedlot must complete safety training as well as a mixer study to demonstrate their ability to accurately distribute Zimax in their feed mix. ISPAH covers the cost of the feedlot approval process including the mixer study.

Zimax is cleared to be used in combination with Rumensin as well as with approved combinations of Rumensin, Tylan and MGA. Zimax has a 3 day slaughter withdrawal while the medicated feed additives that it can be combined with do not. Most medium and smaller feedlots will likely utilize Zimax crumbles (short cut pellets) that will be fed along with the normal supplement. This provides the convenience of being able to withdraw the Zimax 3 days before slaughter without the need for two separate finishing supplements. Zimax can be fed as a meal, pellet, or liquid.

The label allows Zimax to be fed the last 20 to 40 days on feed. Research indicates 20 days is optimal. The benefits of feeding Zimax are maintained for approximately 10 days after discontinuing feeding. The recommended marketing window is between 3 and 10 days after discontinuing Zimax.

Feed intake may decrease marginally the first day or two after Zimax is offered, however, if an intake reduction is observed, recovery is almost immediate. Cattle may also exhibit an increased respiratory rate initially when on Zimax.

The Zimax program should be carefully positioned to select producers. Prospects should be made aware of all the impacts of Zimax. Do not position Zimax to producers who market their cattle on a live basis. Producers interested in a Zimax feeding program should be put in touch with their local ISPAH representative so that they can complete the feedlot approval process.

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