

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION**

LISA JONES, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
v.)	No. 19-0102-CV-W-BP
)	
MONSANTO COMPANY,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
APPROVAL OF UPDATED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT AND APPROVAL OF
UPDATED FORM AND MANNER OF NOTICE**

On May 14, 2020, the Court granted preliminary approval to the parties' settlement of a class action pursuant to Rule 23. (Doc. 53.) The parties have amended their settlement in light of the response rate, and now pending is Plaintiffs' unopposed Motion for Preliminary Approval of Updated Class Settlement and Approval of Updated Form and Manner of Notice (Doc. 57.) The Court has reviewed the Motion and the supporting papers, including the Parties' Updated Settlement Agreement. (Doc. 58-1.)¹ Plaintiffs' Motion is hereby **GRANTED** and the Court **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Updated Settlement Agreement and terms and conditions set forth therein, subject to further consideration at the Final Settlement Hearing described below.
2. The Court has conducted a preliminary assessment of the fairness, reasonableness, and adequacy of the Updated Settlement Agreement, and hereby finds that the settlement falls within the range of reasonableness meriting possible final approval.

¹ All defined terms contained herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in the Updated Settlement Agreement.

3. Pursuant to Rule 23(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court will hold a Final Settlement Hearing on **March 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 7A, United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, 400 East 9th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106** for the following purposes:
- a. Final determination as to whether the Class meets all applicable requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and, thus, the Class claims should be certified for purposes of effectuating the settlement;
 - b. Determination of whether the proposed settlement of the Civil Action on the terms and conditions provided for in the Updated Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate and should be approved by the Court;
 - c. Consideration of the application of Class Counsel for an award of attorney fees and reimbursement of expenses, as provided for under the Updated Settlement Agreement;
 - d. Consideration of the application of the named Plaintiffs for incentive awards, as referenced in the Updated Settlement Agreement;
 - e. Consideration of whether the Court should enter the Judgment, Final Order, and Decree;
 - f. Consideration of whether the release by the Settlement Class Members of the Released Claims as set forth in the Updated Settlement Agreement should be provided;
 - g. Ruling upon such other matters as the Court may deem just and appropriate.

4. The Parties may further modify the Updated Settlement Agreement prior to the Final Settlement Hearing, so long as such modifications do not materially change the terms of the settlement provided thereunder. The Court may approve the Updated Settlement Agreement with such modifications as may be agreed to by the Parties, if appropriate, without further notice to Class Members.
5. Class Members must file and serve any objections to the proposed settlement no later than the first business day on or after ten (10) calendar days from the filing of the Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement and Application for Fees, including any memorandum and/or submissions in support of said objection, which deadline will be set forth in the Class Notice.
6. All papers in support of the settlement and any application for an award of attorney fees, actual out-of-pocket expenses, and/or class representative incentive awards must be filed with the Court and served at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Final Settlement Hearing.
7. The Court approves, as to form and content, the Parties' proposed Updated Notice Plan, (Doc. 58-2).
8. Within fourteen (14) days of this Order, Class Counsel shall provide to each Class member the Class Notice and Claim Form.
9. The Court approves the designation of Class Counsel to administer the settlement through a third-party administrator. Class Counsel shall cause the dissemination of the Class Notice and Claim Form and supervise and carry out the notice procedure, the processing of claims, and other administrative functions, and shall respond to

Class Member inquiries, as set forth in the Updated Settlement Agreement and this Order under the direction and supervision of the Court.

10. All costs of administering the settlement shall be paid from the Common Fund, as set forth in the Updated Settlement Agreement.
11. As provided in the Class Notice, each Class member shall have the right to exclude him or herself from the settlement class by mailing a request for exclusion to Claims Administrator postmarked no later than one-hundred and twenty (120) days after the date of this Order.
12. The Court retains exclusive jurisdiction over this action to consider all further matters arising out of or connected with the Updated Settlement Agreement.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: October 19, 2020

/s/ Beth Phillips
BETH PHILLIPS, CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT