

# Crawfish farmers and landowners could get payments from a \$45 million class action settlement.

A settlement has been reached in the class action lawsuit about whether rice seed treated with the pesticide ICON damaged crawfish crops and contaminated property in Louisiana. The \$45 million settlement fund will pay valid claims as well as lawyers' fees and costs.

The 27th Judicial District Court of Louisiana, St. Landry Parish, will have a hearing to decide whether to give final approval to the settlement so that a claims process can begin, and payments can be made. Those included in the class action, together called a "Class," may object to the settlement, or ask to speak at the hearing. There is a detailed notice available by calling toll free or going to the website below.

## Who's INCLUDED?

Generally, the Class includes people and legal entities in Louisiana who, since January 1999, claim their crawfish crops were damaged by exposure to ICON, and who either: 1) bought ICON-treated seed for rice farming; 2) farmed crawfish, including those who did not buy rice seed themselves; or 3) participated in a crawfish farming sharecropping arrangement. Note that you are included if you claim that water from a rice field—"tailwater"—caused you crawfish losses downstream. Also, you're included if you leased your land to a crawfish farmer who had a loss. The detailed notice says exactly who is included.

## WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

A \$45 million fund will be established by the successors to ICON's maker Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co., Inc., and their insurer, to be overseen by an independent "Special Master." A Settlement Agreement, available at the website or by calling toll free, describes all of the details about the proposed settlement. The Court did not decide that the defendants did anything wrong, but they agreed to resolve the case and give benefits to the Class. The settlement does not mean they admit any wrongdoing.

## HOW MUCH COULD YOU GET?

If the settlement receives final Court approval, the Special Master will review claims from Class members and decide how to allocate the money to each valid claimant. The amount of each payment will be based in part on the total number of claims received, and possibly on the amount of land you owned or farmed crawfish on.

## HOW DO YOU ASK FOR A PAYMENT?

Details about how to ask for a payment will be decided once the settlement receives final approval. If you would like to be notified about how to ask for a payment, fill out and send in the form below. If the settlement receives

final approval, a location will be set up where Class members can file their claims. The Special Master will decide exactly what you will need to provide to prove your claim and receive a payment.

## WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER OPTIONS?

You may object to the settlement by **May 14, 2004**. The detailed notice explains how to object. The Court will hold a hearing on **May 17, 2004**, to consider whether to approve the settlement and a request by the lawyers representing the Class for attorneys' fees of up to 40% of the fund, plus costs of up to 8% of the fund, which would be deducted from the settlement fund. You may ask to appear at the hearing, but you don't have to. If the settlement is approved, all defendants, and other entities named in the detailed notice, will be released from all liability for the claims in the case—including claims for contaminated land—and you won't be able to sue them, or continue to sue them, for those claims. The Settlement Agreement and detailed notice explain this fully.

For more information on the case (*West, et al v. G&H Seed Co. and Rhone-Poulenc Ag Co., Inc., et al*, No. 99-C-4984-A), call toll free, visit the website, or write to Patrick C. Morrow, Attn: Crawfish Case, Morrow & Morrow, P.O. Drawer 1787, Opelousas, LA 70571.

**1-866-942-3634**

**www.lacrawfishcase.com**

### CLAIMS PROCESS INFORMATION REQUEST

Please send me information on how to ask for a payment when it becomes available.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Morrow & Morrow  
Attn: Crawfish Case  
P.O. Drawer 1787  
Opelousas, LA 70571