

Current and Former Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers in the Southeast and Their Family Members or Representatives

Could Get Money From a \$24 Million Settlement

A \$24 million Settlement has been reached with U.S. Tobacco Cooperative, Inc. (“U.S. Tobacco”), formerly known as Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, to resolve claims made by current and former U.S. Tobacco members over reserve funds. Tobacco growers across North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama who were or are members of U.S. Tobacco, as well as their heirs or representatives, are eligible for a payment from the Settlement.

The Settlement stems from a lawsuit that claims U.S. Tobacco: (1) accumulated funds over the years through members who may now claim portions of those funds and (2) no longer served its purpose once the Tobacco Price Support Program ended. Although U.S. Tobacco denies these claims and that it is required to distribute any money, it has agreed to do so in this Settlement.

You may have seen information about the Lewis/Fisher Lawsuit in the North Carolina Superior Court that was certified as a class action. You can submit a claim even if you are a class member in the Lewis/Fisher Lawsuit. This Settlement will not become effective, and claims will not be paid, until the class claims in the Lewis/Fisher Lawsuit are discontinued or dismissed.

Am I Included?

You may be included in this Settlement if you are an individual or business that is or was a shareholder or member of U.S.

Tobacco from June 1, 1946, through the date the Settlement goes into effect, or an heir or legal representative. An heir in this case is a person who received (or inherited) a share of a former shareholder’s stake or member’s membership in U.S. Tobacco. A legal representative is a person who legally acts for or on behalf of the shareholder or member.

How Can I Get a Payment?

You must submit a Claim Form online or by mail by **May 26, 2018**. The payment amount will be based on the total pounds of flue-cured tobacco you marketed and sold and/or the total number of crop years you marketed and sold flue-cured tobacco, relative to all members who submit a claim.

Your Other Options

If you do not want to be legally bound by the Settlement, you can exclude yourself from the Settlement by **December 20, 2017**. If you do not exclude yourself, you may object to the Settlement by **December 20, 2017**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **January 19, 2018**, to consider whether to approve the Settlement. Attorneys representing the Class will request up to \$2 million to be paid out of the \$24 million Settlement Fund to pay attorneys’ fees and expenses and incentive payments to the individuals (i.e. class representatives) who brought the case and helped negotiate the Settlement. You and your own lawyer can appear and speak at the hearing, but you do not have to.

For More Information and a Claim Form:

1-866-458-3207 www.FlueCuredTobaccoSettlement.com