

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

IN RE BROILER CHICKEN ANTITRUST
LITIGATION,

Case No.: 1:16-cv-08637

The Honorable Thomas M. Durkin

This Document Relates To:

THE DIRECT PURCHASER PLAINTIFF
ACTION

**ORDER GRANTING DIRECT PURCHASER PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
FINAL APPROVAL OF THE SETTLEMENTS WITH
DEFENDANTS FOSTER FARMS, PERDUE, CASE, CLAXTON, WAYNE FARMS, AND
SANDERSON FARMS**

On July 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time, this Court held a hearing on Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' Motion for Final Approval of the Settlement with Defendants Foster Farms, LLC; Foster Poultry Farms LLC; Perdue Farms, Inc.; Perdue Foods LLC; Case Foods, Inc.; Case Farms Processing, Inc.; Case Farms, LLC; Norman W. Fries, Inc. d/b/a Claxton Poultry Farms; Wayne Farms, LLC; Sanderson Farms, LLC (f/k/a Sanderson Farms, Inc.); Sanderson Farms Foods, LLC (f/k/a Sanderson Farms, Inc. (Foods Division)); Sanderson Farms Production, LLC (f/k/a Sanderson Farms, Inc. (Production Division)); and Sanderson Farms Processing, LLC (f/k/a Sanderson Farms, Inc. (Processing Division)) (collectively, "Settling Defendants") ("Motion"). Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs ("Plaintiffs") have entered into the Settlement Agreements with the Settling Defendants. The Court, having reviewed the Motion, its accompanying memorandum and the exhibits thereto, the Settlement Agreements, and all papers filed, hereby finds that the Motion should be **GRANTED** as to the settlements with the Settling Defendants.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this litigation, including the actions within this litigation, and over the parties to the Settlement Agreements, including all members of the Certified Class (also referred to herein as the "Class") and the Settling Defendants.
2. For purposes of this Order, except as otherwise set forth herein, the Court adopts and incorporates the definitions contained in the Settlement Agreements.
3. The Court previously appointed the law firms of Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P., and Pearson Warshaw, LLP (then known as Pearson, Simon & Warshaw, LLP) as Co-Lead Class Counsel for the Certified Class.
4. The Settlements were entered into on behalf of the Class certified by this Court in its order dated May 27, 2022, ECF No. 5644 (the "Certified Class"):

All persons who purchased raw Broilers directly from any of the Defendants or their respective subsidiaries or affiliates either fresh or frozen, in the form of: whole birds (with or without giblets), whole cut-up birds, or parts (boneless or bone in) derived from the front half of the whole bird, for use or delivery in the United States from December 1, 2008 until July 31, 2019.

5. In its order of March 15, 2024, ECF No. 7179, the Court preliminarily determined the proposed Settlements to be fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Certified Class. (*See* ECF No. 7179.) The Court further held that the proposed Settlement Agreements, which was arrived at by arm's length negotiations by highly experienced counsel, were within the range of possible approval and raised a reasonable basis for presuming that the Settlements and its terms satisfy the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(c)(2) and 23(e), and thus the Court directed that notice of the Settlements be given to the Certified Class. (*Id.*) The Court determined that the proposed notice plan complied with Rule 23(c)(2)(B) and due process as it constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances, including individual notice via mail and email to all Certified Class members who could be identified through reasonable effort. The direct mail and email notice was supported by reasonable publication notice to reach Certified Class members who could not be individually identified. (*Id.*) That notice also informed Class members of their right to object to the Settlements, should they so choose, instructed them on how to file an objection, and informed them that any such objection was due no later than June 1, 2024.

6. Following the Court's preliminary approval of the Settlements, the Court-appointed claims administrator implemented the notice plan described above.

7. The notice given to the Class, including individual notice to all members of the Class who could be identified through reasonable efforts, was the most effective and practicable under the circumstances. This notice provided due and sufficient notice of the proceedings and of the matters set forth therein, including the proposed settlements, to all persons entitled to such

notice, and this notice fully satisfied the requirements of Rules 23(c)(2) and 23(e)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the requirements of due process.

8. There were no valid objections to the proposed Settlements.

9. Furthermore, the Settling Defendants have served upon the appropriate state officials and the appropriate federal official notice under the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1715 (“CAFA”).

10. The Court hereby finally approves the Settlement Agreements and their terms and finds that the Settlements are, in all respects, fair, reasonable and adequate to the Class pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and directs consummation of the Settlement Agreements according to their terms and conditions.

11. Any member of the Class who failed to timely and validly request to be excluded from the Certified Class shall be subject to and bound by the provisions of the Settlement Agreements.

12. Without affecting the finality of this Final Judgment in any way, this Court hereby retains continuing exclusive jurisdiction over: (a) consummation, administration and implementation of the Settlement Agreements; (b) the actions in this litigation until the Final Judgment has become effective and each and every act agreed to be performed by the parties all have been performed pursuant to the Settlement Agreements; (c) the parties to the Settlement Agreements for the purpose of enforcing and administering the Settlement Agreements; (d) the enforcement of this Final Judgment; and (e) over any suit, action, proceeding, or dispute arising out of or relating to the Settlement Agreements or the applicability of the Settlement Agreements, that cannot be resolved by negotiation and agreement.

13. The Court finds, pursuant to Rules 54(a) and (b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that judgment should be entered and further finds that there is no just reason for delay in the entry of final judgment as to the parties to the Settlement Agreements. Accordingly, the Clerk is hereby directed to enter this Final Judgment forthwith.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: July 9, 2024

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Thomas M. Durkin".

HON. THOMAS M. DURKIN