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(Neb.)-Crawford and Bridgeport To Receive Settlement From Lawsuit

By: Chris Fankhauser Posted at: 01/25/2013 09:00 AM

(Crawford)-KNEB in Scottsbluff is reporting that the cities of Crawford and Bridgeport will receive money from a \$105 million settlement of a class-action lawsuit over a weed killer in the city's water.

A spokesperson with the lawsuit says both towns were awarded just over the minimum payment of \$5 - thousand dollars. The settlement is tied to a city's population as well the amount of atrazine cities had to remove from their drinking water.

Nearly \$2 million is going to 106 Nebraska communities to help them pay to remove atrazine from their drinking water. Lincoln is expected to receive the state's largest share in receiving \$800,000.

Crawford and Bridgeport were among the 1,085 plaintiffs that sued Switzerland-based Syngenta Crop Protection. Syngenta's atrazine herbicide is used to kill weeds in fields of corn and other crops and can run off farmland into waterways or seep into groundwater. Experts have cited possible health risks from long exposure.

Syngenta has denied the allegations in the lawsuit and says atrazine has been used safely for more than 50 years.

(Story courtesy of KNEB)