

POSTE GEORGE  
Form 3  
February 20, 2003

**FORM 3**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF  
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of  
the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment  
Company Act of 1940

Filed By  
Romeo and Dye's  
Section 16 Filer  
www.section16.net

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>Poste George</b>		2. Date of Event Requiring Statement Month/Day/Year <b>02/19/03</b>		4. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>Monsanto Company (MON)</b>	
(Last) (First) (Middle) <b>P.O. Box 647</b>		3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below)      (specify below)	
(Street) <b>Gilbertsville, PA 19525</b>					
(City) (State) (Zip)		<b>Table I Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned</b>			
1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)		2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)		3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
None				4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

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**FORM 3 (continued) Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/ Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

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None							
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Explanation of Responses:

(1) Michael L. DeCamp, attorney-in-fact for George Poste, pursuant to a Power of Attorney filed herewith.

By: /s/ Michael L. DeCamp<sup>(1)</sup>

02/19/03

Date

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

\*\*Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.  
See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed.  
If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure.

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POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Charles W. Burson, Michael D. Bryan and Michael L. DeCamp, signing singly, the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

(1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as a director of Monsanto Company (the "Company"), Forms 3, 4 and 5 in accordance with Section 16 (a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder;

(2) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4 or 5 and timely file such form with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority; and

(3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The undersigned acknowledges that the

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foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Form 3, 4 and 5 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 19th day of February, 2003.

/s/ George Poste

George Poste