

From: Emmett Hopkins <emmett.hopkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2009 9:40 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: comment regarding agriculture concentration

To whom it may concern,

I am a small-scale farmer, growing vegetables and raising livestock in Northern California. I have recently learned that the Justice Department and USDA are soliciting comments regarding action to address concentration in the agricultural industry. I would approve of such actions on the part of the Justice Department and USDA to break up consolidation of the agriculture/food industry.

As a farmer running a small farm business that sells exclusively to local customers, it can be difficult to compete with supermarket eggs and vegetables that often come from far-off agribusinesses. It seems that the scale and concentration of some of the massive "farm" corporations allow for them to drop prices to levels that are not economical for the local or regional farmer to compete with. While I think it is important to offer produce at prices that are affordable to all citizens, it is also important that we pay prices that allow regional farmers to survive. Small-scale, regional farmers play a vital role in food-security for the nation and it is more important than ever that we do what we can to support them.

I am not very familiar with the legal aspects of agricultural consolidation, but I do know that huge corporate farms make it almost impossible for small farmers to survive these days. If we believe that talented, hard-working, community-oriented farmers should be able to make a living in this country, something has to ensure that all food doesn't come from a handful of massive corporations concerned only with their profits.

Thank you for your attention,
Emmett Hopkins
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"Healthy, Delicious, Local!"
Sign up to get your weekly box of heirloom vegetables in Healdsburg or Windsor. (Eggs and seasonal fruit available too...)

Visit: <http://farming101.wordpress.com/CSA>

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