

**From:** Svein Newman <svein@northernplains.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2009 4:55 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Address market concentration

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To whom it may concern:

Thank you for recognizing the anti-competitive environment of agricultural markets in the United States.

I'm concerned that three meat packers control over 90% of the beef slaughter market. This sort of market domination is bad for competition and awful for consumers. We desperately need diversification.

We also must address the problem of patenting seeds. All patenting of life is morally abhorrent, and these patents in particular place an undue burden on small producers.

America was a country founded by agriculture. Family ag. is one of America's strongest traditions and most powerful assets. Please protect it. I look forward to both USDA and DOJ gaining a better understanding of these problems and using their regulatory authority to address these issues that impact every farmer, rancher and consumer of our country.

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