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Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 1:55 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments on monopolies in the Food System

For our future thrivability and food security, it is important that seeds and food NOT be under the control of large corporate monopolies. The fact that Monsanto, for instance, controls 85% of the soybean crop and 90+% of the corn grown in the USA is definite cause for concern!! For all the subsidies to commodity crop growers, this mainly serves to enrich the corporate conglomerates (Monsanto, Cargill, ADM, Smithfield etc...) as they can get away with paying the farmers even less as the taxpayers (US!!) make up the difference.

This leads to further monocropping and pushing out of small farms with significant damage to our land and water and small town life.

I would encourage the DOJ to investigate the huge monopolies and vertical integration in the food system to ensure food security and environmental justice in our country.

thank you
-Garth Shaneyfelt
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