

**From:** Pamela Cloud <pamcloud@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 9:06 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned about the control that big business has on our food supply. I grew up in the country, often buying our vegetables from local growers at roadside stands. Where I live today, one has to pay record high prices at upscale "fresh" markets to get the same, or worse, fresh produce. Why should wholesome food be only available to the wealthy and the educated?

It's impossible for the small farmer to compete with large scale production, therefore making it not feasible for everyday people to seek out and pay for healthy food.

What's more, with the exception of vegetables, there it is almost impossible to find pure, whole foods in a regular supermarket. I was saddened to learn that even though I buy mostly vegetables, they have also been tampered with! It seems like an impossibility to create a lifestyle of health unless you grow your own food. Even fruit juice, perfectly sweet, is laced with artificial sweeteners, preservatives and chemicals. This is done to provide "cheap food" to more people? It gets kids hooked on sugar so they can't eat anything that doesn't have the syrup in it. It certainly is not cheap when you consider that we are in the midst of the biggest healthcare crisis in history. Many of today's illnesses are the direct result of our diets--even for well-intentioned people who just don't know any better or don't have the time to do research or the money to pay for organic food.

Our food suppliers (not all of them) are not concerned with nourishing their customers, as they are force feeding them in the same way they do the animals. We just don't notice because of all the pretty packaging and advertising. Then we need medication for our diabetes, heart disease etc. Huh? Does anybody see a correlation?

It's a sad day when you have to fight for clean, healthy food. Genetic modification and mass production has gone too far and I'd like to see something done about it for me, my child, workers across the globe, animals, our environment and our world.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Pamela Cloud

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