

From: Wendy Mathias <bluereef1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2009 10:24 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

Because our food is produced by a few mega-corporations that have close ties to government positions, we are creating a myriad of problems for the public:

- lack of honest labelling food
 - lack of full disclosure
 - most of our produce is irradiated without our knowledge
 - the majority of corn and soybeans are genetically modified Frankenfoods
 - most of the pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides used on foods are not disclosed to the public
 - diminished biodiversity is creating pest problems and causing agribusiness to use more chemical pesticides
 - corporate farming breeds monocrops that deplete the soil, pollute the groundwater with chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- consolidating our food sources in the hands of a few companies puts the entire country at risk

We need more competition in the food industry if we are to survive! Support small local farmers, who help build local communities, protect the environment, and are the backbone of this nation.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Wendy Mathias

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