

**From:** Jim redmond <jim.redmond@briarcliff.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 10:34 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. As an Iowan (though not a farmer) I have been greatly depressed by the control a few corporations have over the farmers in my state. While serving on a church stewardship committee, I worked with livestock producers who brought suit against Iowa Beef Processors (now owned by Tyson). IBP's manipulation of markets had cost many of them their livelihoods. Their case succeeded at several levels, but iBP finally prevailed as the case moved toward courts in the South.

Monsanto not only has bought out or crushed competitors, it sues farmers whose crops have been "infected" by pollination from nearby genetically modified crops.

Just one crisis/bad harvest and Americans will realize there is not enough diversity in agriculture to survive a natural or manmade disaster.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jim redmond

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