

**From:** Sarah Sargent <sarah.caryl@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 1:10 AM  
**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 a young teenager, I worry about the lasting effect of the chemical-based farming techniques that are being pushed with seemingly abusive marketing tactics on today's farmers. By the time I have a family of my own, I am afraid that the environment will be severely degraded by the current agricultural practices if they are allowed to continue. Monsanto advertises that it's cruel technologies may someday feed a growing world population. However, grocery store prices are rising, and no one will be able to get food if they can't afford it. As someone with food sensitivities, I am concerned about hidden risks associated with the current lack of labeling on produce. In a free market, consumers

should have a right to make an informed decision about the products they purchase.

Farmers should have the right to save their own seeds for reuse, after all, this is the basis of sustainability in our food supply. Monsanto should not be allowed to continue harassing farmers. Those who grow food have ultimate power over our way of life. We need to respect them and make sure they are protected from controlling monopolies like Monsanto. Without them, we cease to be a civilization.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Sargent, age 16

Sarah Sargent

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