From: Lilli Ross <dancerforpeace@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 9:09 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds. This corporation, like many others, is not held to strict standards, and this winds up affecting the consumer directly.

We don't know where are food is grown, or what chemicals are in it, or if it's genetically modified. Therefore, we aren't able to make informed choices about what we are putting into our bodies. Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible not only for the environment, but for our health. Many of these methods pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security, but they also threaten our well-being.

Meanwhile, big food companies are making record profits, while farmers are struggling, and the obesity epidemic is on the rise. I make this last point in connection with the subsidies given to corn production, which is then made into high fructose corn syrup, which goes into almost every processed "food" on the market, and contributes to diabetes and obesity.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Lilli Ross

Lilli Ross

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