

From: Julia Urbanski <jurbanski3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 2:46 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts on what big agribusiness is doing to farmers in Montana. I work part time on a cow/calf ranch in McLeod and am continually amazed at the small amount of money they bring in every year, barely breaking even if at all. While there is a market for beef to go to CAFO's from this ranch, they pay very little to the rancher and there are no other viable options. We would love to be able to directly sell beef to local customers, but since it's a small operation, it's difficult to work on the economies of scale that big CAFO's get regarding slaughterhouses. Furthermore, why would we want to send our wonderful grass fed beef to a USDA inspected slaughterhouse where it is likely to be contaminated with E. coli at some point because of the lax safety practices of that part of the industry? Working on such a small scale, it's also almost impossible to trace our meat through the plant. They're just not set up to do it - they're set up to cater to slaughter for CAFO's! Thanks for taking the time to hear my views.

Sincerely,
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