

From: Angeline Johnson <joanel@umich.edu>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 5:13 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.

I grew up given the understanding that 'generic' labels were often from the same farm/plant as 'brand' labels on food. Meanwhile, I've seen the prices of food inflate over time, and pretty outrageously, lately. This points to several issues.

Why is one company allowed to control the majority of seed in this country (and work so hard on doing so world-wide?) Why is there such a circular path between corporate lobbying and government regulators?

Why has the food quality of children's subsidized school lunches eroded onto a nutritionally poor and actually **unsafe** to eat level?

Why is food grown, raised, and transported in such increasingly untenable ways? Idaho potato farmers don't eat their own products, we learn in published books: too toxic. Meanwhile, potatoes can be grown virtually anywhere. Local community to giant dairy farms in WI have tainted water, for miles around, due to the untenable practice of disposing of manure.

How can the Department of Justice, much less the Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency support this?

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Angeline Johnson

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