

**From:** phaedrus@access.mountain.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2009 5:28 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

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Myrna Fox  
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December 19, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

As a person responsible for the feeding of a growing child, I am especially upset about the growing reach and power of Monsanto, Con-Agra, and Archer Daniels Midland. These three have corrupted the food supply, so that the majority of foods in our supermarket contain one or more of their unhealthy products, whether genetically modified foods, pesticide laced foods, or food artifacts. It is very difficult to find safe foods to purchase, since there is no labeling required for the buyer to know what ingredients are there. Since children have rapidly dividing cells, they are especially susceptible to disruption by foreign and perhaps-cancer causing ingredients in their food.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life processes, Monsanto, as an example, has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will. We have seen the prices of groceries raise at a steady pace over the past eight or ten years, making it very difficult to provide balanced and healthy meals regularly.

Farmers have cultivated and improved upon countless food crops, specific to their geographical regions, over at least the last 10,000 or so years. These subsistence crops should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on reducing food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops. Luckily, through the efforts of groups such as Seed Savers, I can still purchase and help propagate heirloom crops. But my crops cannot be safe if in ill wind blows onto them from a Monsanto gmo crop.

Monsanto's gmo plants can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding. I feel that we are in a losing battle to find or produce safe foods for ourselves, and worry

about other people who have no place to garden or otherwise provide for themselves, even with reduced numbers of seed choices.

Many varieties of seeds are the basis of all agriculture, as I am sure you are aware. Unpolluted soils are the next requirement. As we have watched the actions of the big three AG companies, we have seen both of these becoming less available. Produce comes from unidentified countries of origins, making it unknowable as to how they were grown, or what they may contain.

Please consider the increasing difficulty of finding safe healthy foods for supermarket purchase, the decreasing numbers of seed varieties for our gardens, and the gross monopoly that the big three AG companies have over our food and our lives.

Sincerely,

Myrna Fox