

**From:** Heather Cook <hezzycook@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2009 9:38 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Stop Mansanto's Monopoly

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Hello, I am writing to protest the amount of control that one company is allowed to hold. **I am currently a full time student at a Land Grant University in New Mexico majoring in horticulture. I also manage the local Farmers' Market and work for the local Cooperative Food Market where we sell organic produce.** Many of our customers that shop at these places are concerned with being able to buy, grow and sell food that is not contaminated with genetically modified organisms. I am disturbed to think that if I own a small organic farm, a company like Monsanto can sue me for the possible "theft" of their patented GMO. Or if on the other hand, I bought seed from the chemical giant, that I would not be allowed to harvest and keep the seed. This is completely unacceptable. Seeds are life. They should not be patented, monopolized or be forbidden to be kept. **Monsanto, or any company for that matter should NOT be allowed to have so much power** over food and agriculture that farmers have to defend themselves against them. Food and agriculture need to be protected by third party affiliates and farmers need to be protected from this amount of control. Please consider severely limiting the amount of corporate power that Monsanto has in the food and agriculture sector. **It is frightening to think that they could become more powerful.** Please stop that from happening. We all need to eat; food is necessary for life. If only a few companies have control of it, we are setting ourselves up for a very dangerous situation in the future. I want to own land and farm it in the near future, providing clean, uncontaminated, environmentally sustainable food for you and your family and friends. **Please** help me to do this without fear of fighting tooth and nail for the **basic human right to grow and provide food for others.**

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion,  
Heather Cook