

From: Page Aldrich Atcheson <patcheso@uvm.edu>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 11:52 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Food System Reform

I am a student at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT, majoring in Global Studies and probably minoring in Food Systems.

From the information presented in my classes, articles and books, speaking with many different people, and working on different farms, I'm deeply concerned about the consolidation of power in our agricultural system. The industrial process we are practicing, largely as a result of this consolidation of power, is incredibly harmful. It is clear that the health of our planet and the health of our own bodies is suffering greatly, and the food system plays an enormous role in this. The large-scale, fuel-intensive farms that we are so reliant on are contributing greatly to climate change, environmental degradation, and inhumane treatment of animals, and the consequences of the mass quantities of commodity crops are clear. What becomes clearer and clearer to me, the more I learn, is the need for many small, diversified farms ? our food grown by farmers, not corporations. The implications of not moving in this direction are, I think, incredibly big. Please consider these, and imagine what the future of our planet and our health could be if we take food production back into the hands of real people.

Thank you very much for allowing us to submit comments.

Sincerely,
Page Atcheson

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