

**From:** patricia fuller <hemphillfuller@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 20, 2009 5:39 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural market.

Right now a handful of companies control most the food we eat. Decades of bad farm policy, unchecked market consolidation and undue corporate influence over science have left agribusiness giants with unprecedented power over our farms.

? Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds.

? What's in our food, anyway? And why aren't there decent labels telling you where it grew, what chemicals are on it, and if it's genetically modified?

? There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. No wonder corporations aren't held to strict standards.

? Prices are rising at the supermarket, but you've heard that farmers are struggling -- and big food companies have made record profits this year.

? Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil, and threaten our long-term food security.

I live in a state that has had 2, - 500 year floods in 10 years, problems that can be traced to over tiling and putting every available inch of land into farm production. A state where 60% of our streams are polluted from CAFOs over application of hog manure and nitrates and phosphates from agriculture. We have 20 Million hogs at any given time with a population of 3 million. The stench in our farming communities is beyond belief. Rates of asthma are increasing in rural communities. Because of weak state regulations little is being done to address these issues.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment. Sincerely,

Department of Justice  
agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov

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- \* Intern or Volunteer
- \* Have your organization become an Affiliate

Email us at: [panna@panna.org](mailto:panna@panna.org). Phone us at: (415) 981-1771. Also see Contact and visit information.

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Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

patricia fuller

, 51501