

**From:** Kent Whealy <kentwhealy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 20, 2009 9:32 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 markets. I am especially concerned with the amount of control Monsanto exerts over the policies of the USDA and FDA. Former officials of Monsanto wrote the policy that allows Bovine Growth Hormone in our nation's milk supply. As a result, the most wholesome of foods is now tainted with pus and bacteria. Prilosec has been outlawed throughout the European Union, but here in the U.S. the FDA, at Monsanto's bidding, has prosecuted any dairies that labeled their milk as "rBGH-free."

Also the USDA and FDA have kept Monsanto's GMOs from being labeled in grocery stores across the U.S., even though an estimated 70% of the processed foods in our grocery stores contain GMOs. If foods containing GMOs were labeled as such, no one would buy them. But because there is no labeling, the entire U.S. population is being used as lab rats in a dangerous experiment that only benefits Monsanto's bottom line.

And now the Obama Administration, which won election campaigning for change, has selected Tom Vilsak as Secretary of Agriculture. In 2002 Vilsak was named Governor of the Year by BIO (Biotechnology Industry Organization) because of his wholehearted approval of open air testing of pharma crops in Iowa (pharmaceuticals grown in our food crops). Vilsak came back from his first G8 summit vowing to do even more than the Bush Administration to force Monsanto's GMOs down the world's throat.

And trying to unload Monsanto's GM food crops that no one wants is also the reason that U.S. food aid is GMO. GMO corn was even sent to Mexico, knowing full well that desperate Mexican farmers would plant it, thus contaminating thousands of irreplaceable landraces of corn in its center of origin. Similar GMO food aid to Africa has presented the Africans with a vile choice - either eat these foods that the rest of the world has refused as unsafe or starve.

Monsanto has sued at least 470 American farmers for illegally growing its GMOs, when those farmers only crime was having their crops contaminated by Monsanto's GMOs.

And now you want the public to comment about the lack of competition in agricultural markets. Hell, Monsanto writes the policies for both the USDA and FDA.

Sincerely,

Kent Whealy

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