

From: Mandy Davis <mandy@intervale.org>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2009 12:09 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Antitrust agribusiness comment

Hello, my name is Mandy Davis, and I work for a small nonprofit organization in Burlington, Vermont that provides business planning and technical assistance to farmers around the state. I am writing to express my concern about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector. I am particularly concerned about the very limited options for small meat producers to process their animals humanely and sell their products at a cost that recuperates expenses. The consolidation of slaughterhouses – and meat production in general – has created a significant crisis in agriculture, as small farmers cannot compete with corporate monoliths, the costs of animal waste and the environmental havoc it creates are externalized and e-coli and new viruses are causing serious public health problems. We are literally destroying the environment and ourselves so that we can eat cheap, inhumanely produced meat, and it would be great if the federal government would step in and protect me, my family, my neighbors and the small and medium sized producers from the corporate monsters that are getting rich without a care for us.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.
Mandy Davis

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