

From: Christina Mast <moonvine27@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2009 12:12 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets and the implications that has for consumers. We have the right to know what is in and on our food besides the food itself. I want to know where my food was grown, what chemicals are on it, and whether it has been genetically modified. Without that information, it is much harder to vote with my dollar for the types of foods I would like to consume.

For years, I've read of Monsanto's thuggish ways in terms of the way they try to force farmers to buy their seeds and their programs of Round-Up Ready seeds and sterile food crops. The Round-Up Ready seeds are responsible for huge inputs of herbicide into the environment and waterways. The sterile crops force farmers to buy seed every year instead of saving fertile seed for future use. I've read that many farmers cannot afford that. Let Monsanto make an honest living instead of manufacturing needs that do not exist in the name of massive corporate profit.

I think we are being way too cavalier about genetically modified foods, as well. It's too easy for altered genes to escape out into the wild via drifting pollen and we have no good way of knowing what that may mean to ecosystems and human health in the future. It also can threaten organic farms that do not grow genetically modified crops. Why do conventional farmers growing genetically modified crops have the rights to do this?

Corporations must be held to stricter standards, and their lobbyists should not have so much influence with government regulators.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Christina Mast

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