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**Sent:** Tuesday, December 22, 2009 1:46 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** how big business controls food and farming

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I am concerned that just a few big businesses have so much power over where your food comes from and how it's produced. I read about how the farm workers are often living on the edge of the field. In the middle of the night, when the chemical spraying of the fields happens, the children wake up with nausea, head aches and throwing up, sighting the short term effects. If this is the way big agriculture treats human beings working hard for them for very little, how can we trust them with what chemicals they put on our food as safe or what happens to rivers when water is removed indiscriminately? Often, species are wiped out in rivers where agriculture changes the composition of the water of fresh and salt water. It is a very low level of concern for others when a group wipes out species. Also, in India, the farmers have been committing suicide due to being sold seeds from plants then have been grown in a lab and don't create seeds when growing, thus putting the farmers in India out of business. How can business treat people in such a cruel manner?

I've noticed prices rising at the supermarket and don't feel like you can do anything about it, a lot of big food companies have made record profits this year -- even as consumers are paying more for food.

I'm concerned about my family's safety (outbreak and spread of bacteria like E. coli happens much faster when meat and vegetables are processed in big centralized locations.

Local farms are going out of business, many small farmers can't compete with prices set by industrial farms and consolidated buyers.

We need to over see big business so what has happened to our environment, our health and our economy never happens again.

Thank you for your concern and work to improve our world.