

**From:** Rachel Mitchell <rtkmitch@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2009 11:12 AM  
**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.

Companies like Monsanto do not promote sustainable food and farming systems and their virtual monopoly on seeds, and genetically modified foods leaves farmers, consumers, and the environment extremely vulnerable.

The lack of labeling for genetically engineered food items means that consumers cannot and do not have the option of making informed choices. Moreover, without longitudinal studies demonstrating the safety of these GMO foods, we, the consumers are acting as unwitting guinea pigs in a highly dangerous public experiment. Food allergies, and infertility and cancer rates have all been on the rise. More studies about the effects these modified foods have on our health and environment need to be conducted to protect the safety of our food supply.

Monsanto has demonstrated time and time again that their only interest is in promoting their products and retaining strict control over some of the most important crops grown both here in the U.S. and abroad. This control imperils small scale and organic farmers everywhere. Monsanto representatives have a vested interest and should not be allowed to influence food policy decisions at the federal level.

To me, one of the first priorities of any government should be protecting the national food supply since everyone has to eat. Monsanto's practices and influence imperil our current and long-term food security. Please hold them to a higher standard in order to protect us and the environment. Our livelihoods and those of so many others depend on it!

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Rachel K. Mitchell

Rachel Mitchell

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