

**From:** pvingo@juno.com <"pvingo@juno.com">  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2009 1:12 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:**

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I am the first to admit I do not understand all the complexities of the food industry. However, I do know that vast amounts of energy are spent on transporting food and produce long distances. This increases the cost and quality of the food I buy and it undermines the ability for locally grown food to compete. Additionally, there is a dearth of affordable organic foods available which undermines the health of consumers who must rely on chemically fertilized and pesticide laden products as their main food source. This can not be good for our population and the healthy growth of our nations children.

I live in Connecticut which has historically always been until the mid twentieth century an agricultural state. The diminished use of the land for local farming is a detriment to the quality of food and life in this part of New England. This I believe is the predicament nationwide. US policies must take this national dilemma into consideration when formulating regulation and laws that will help the small farmer survive and thrive and corporate owned farms to be more responsible to addressing these realities.

Thank you,  
Patrick Vingo  
Norwalk, CT