From: sena <hkassim@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 4:51 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: The Farmer and the People

Hi,
I am a gardener that's very interested in eating. Like everyone I want to eat good food at a reasonable price. My concerns revolve around produce contamination (pesticides, fertilizers and e-coli), and making fresh food affordable to everyone. The most economical food available at the grocery store is the unhealthiest. Creating obesity, diabetes from corn syrup and sugars and tons of garbage from all the packaging. The healthier society is the more productive we can become, calling in from work less often and making less insurance claims.

Fresh produce needs no packaging. The rinds and peels can be composted creating a healthier soil that is capable of growing more nutritious produce. This keeps compostable out of our landfills. With large scale corporate farms replenishing the soil is not always a feasible option. Some of this nutrition is lost during transport. By supporting local farmers with organic sustainable practices we are saying yes to our long term health and to the planet's. Not everyone can make it to a farmer's market, so making local healthy food readily available is a necessity.

Thanks for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to following this investigation.