

**From:** Lance D Ferwerda <ferwe644@erau.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 23, 2009 5:50 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** US Food Crisis

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I am writing you to express my concern for our food supply. Big corporations control everything including Congress and everything they make costs more and is worth less than things that are not made by them. Congress has passed laws to favor the big corporations. They have used their power to squeeze out the competition. We as Americans should have the right to go to a local farmer or rancher and buy Meat that was raised locally and butchered locally on a small scale. Not trucked halfway around the world from a place I have never seen or been to. Because the small guy has to meet the same standards as the large corporations the cost goes way up. I have a family of 11 and I cannot afford to buy the really good food when it is available.

The cheap food I buy from large chain stores tastes like cardboard and has very little nutrition. And we wonder why everyone is sick.

It really ticks me off to know that my tax dollars are spent subsidizing corn. This is responsible for a lot of the problems in our food supply. READ Michael Pollan's bestselling exposé, *The Omnivore's Dilemma* to see what I mean.

I could go on and on about this subject. Like Monsanto using its power to squeeze out the small soybean farmer so they could have control over the whole market. No one should have that much control over our food.

The answer to the problem has always been to put the power in the hands of the people. More regulation will never work. Let us be free to choose.

Thank you for your time and consideration      Lance Ferwerda