

From: Emily Mandelbaum <mandelbaum@olympus.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 24, 2009 8:25 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comment: Agri-Business and our food system

I am a grandmother who grows some of our own vegetables and fruits. We eat seasonally and avoid both highly processed foods and those shipped great distances. I greatly value food grown and processed locally and organically.

I am bothered by regulations and systems that make it difficult for small farms to survive---lack of small and convenient USDA slaughtering and packaging facilities, barriers to raw milk marketing, the excessive expense of organic certification for small farms.

I want to know who produces my food, and how it is done so I can hold that producer accountable. This is not possible when the producer is a large corporation, the farming and processing industrial.

Thank you for accepting my comments.

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