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To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Current Agricultural Practices

Hi and Merry Christmas!

I am an environmentalist and a gardener who cares a lot about the food people eat and where it comes from. I have always had the idea that the food I see in the grocery stores just isn't right. There's too much variety for too many people, but everything has the same ingredients - high fructose corn syrup, bicarbonates, blah blah blah... it just never seemed right to me so I have always strived to buy my food locally and read ingredients on everything. When I found out that very few massive corporations control so much of the food we see, buy, and eat it didn't really surprise me. What's going on is absolutely horrible and something needs to be done to change it. Animals are plumped up on corn and pumped with hormones and antibiotics so they'll grow fast, get fat, and then they're thrown around in machines by machines and for machines to be catered to our growing need of cheap, fast food. They have to clean the meat several times with chlorines and other crap and no one cares that the cows and chickens live on their butts or knees because they've been too close to each other to ever learn how to walk. Most veggies come from the same few places so small farmers don't have a chance, especially if they want to do things independently and have a different idea about what's right in making food. All this crap is fed to kids who have no choice but to eat because schools are giving it to them and parents feed it to them without a clue. We need to slow it down, realize what's going on, and have the opportunity to eat things besides genetically modified corn. Ridiculous!

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