

**From:** Joseph Quirk <jq66@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 27, 2009 11:39 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

I do not believe our nation's food supply should be held hostage to a handful of agri-giants whose priority is profits over food safety. A case in point is the Monsanto Corporation. Monsanto rushes to market genetically modified foods without proper study of the effects on agriculture as a whole. Consumers are used as guinea pigs to find out the effects of these foods on the human body. Agriculture, as practiced by human beings, has thrived for thousands of years based on a diversity of foods. Limiting our crops to genetically modified seeds of the agri-giants works in direct opposition to the diversity nature provides us. Please curtail these industry practices and subject them to much more stringent testing. Competition is healthy for markets and small scale farming should be encouraged in opposition to large scale monopolies that prioritize their profits over our well being.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Quirk

Joseph Quirk

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