

From: Robin Swennes <rswennes@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2009 6:13 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets and the lack of presence of organic options and support for organic farmers. It is crucial to our health and survival as a people that we support and encourage organic farming practices so that they become the norm, not the exception. I am not familiar enough w/Monsanto to comment solely on them or their practices. But I do believe that it should be the right of farmers to buy their seeds from places other than Monsanto. There should not be a mafia-like hold on the food industry. I think it is our right as consumers to see labels on all food and other products, depicting the contents of what we are about to eat or use. Smaller farmers shouldn't be forced out of business or struggling to survive. If Monsanto is responsible for promoting farmers that do not use organic practices and do use methods that pollute the water, soil, etc, I don't understand why they are allowed to continue operating. What people don't seem to understand is that we are only poisoning ourselves. If you think about that for a minute, you'll understand why I'm writing this letter.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Robin Swennes

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