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Sent: Sunday, December 27, 2009 9:30 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Carol Olicker <iggysdaughter@yahoo.com>
Subject: Comments about the food system

Thank you for your interest in comments about the food system.

Here are my thoughts:

1. Confined animal feeding operations: I have some serious problems with confined animal feeding operations. First of all this is cruelty to animals. In many cases they are raised in such a way that they cannot even turn around. This is not right. Secondly, these operations are detrimental to the ecology. It leads to poor air quality and poor water quality.
2. The revolving door between government regulating agencies and the corporations they are designed to regulate: This is obvious conflict of interest and should be abolished.
3. Monsanto: That a company can patent something as basic to humanity as seed and then use their marketing muscle to move toward a monopoly on seed in unconscionable. Also, when something has taken millions of years to evolve such as seed, and then in a few short years is scientifically "improved" makes me very wary. There have been so many instances where scientists have supposedly created a miracle food only to find out that it has negative consequences that far outweigh the positive consequences. What will it take in order for us to develop a bit of humility in this are?

Thanks for listening.

-David Matt