

**From:** Patrick Cambre <pec48@cornell.edu>  
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**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Thoughts on America's Food System

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Second to water, food is an absolute human necessity. As a college student, I know this well. Finding sources of wholesome, affordable food is a constant worry. In today's food market it is nearly impossible to eat healthy on a budget, and I believe this is a principal failure of our government today.

While claiming to uphold liberal political traditions, our government heavily subsidizes huge agricultural corporations, leading only to profligacy and an increasingly obese nation. Corn subsidies create gigantic surpluses, which either enter into the food supply (as high fructose corn syrup, for example) or rot. This agricultural waste cannot afford to go on any longer.

Consolidation of agricultural companies hurts the American people, and lines the pockets of gigantic corporations that seek to profit from the monopoly they have gained over our food system. Case in point, my experiences in today's supermarkets. Knowing that High Fructose Corn Syrup is bad for me, I try to avoid it. However, it pervades almost every single product imaginable. From bread to salad dressing, soup to juice, it is everywhere. Removing the policies that facilitate giant agricultural companies should alleviate this problem. Corn should be in one place only: on the cob.

By leveling the playing field for local farmers, I believe our nation would benefit greatly. The money saved by lowering obesity and diabetes rates would dwarf the potential costs of such a policy.

Thank you for your time.