

**From:** Ian.Levitt@faa.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, December 28, 2009 9:48 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment submission: Consolidation in the food industry

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To Whom it may Concern:

My name is Ian Levitt, father of two and local resident of Southern New Jersey for most of my 33 years. When I was growing up, there was a rich culture of food and food cultivation in my area. This culture is diminishing, seemingly at an increasing rate. In part this is due to the speeding up of our society, and specifically the way we get our food is at fault.

I am concerned about the consolidation of the food market, and the effect that it has had on local food production. Where once going to the farm stand was the mainstream way to get one's produce, it is now more of a novelty meant for the well-off. The variety has decreased, fields lay untilled, and it seems that everyone I know eats processed food as a rule.

I am concerned about the loss of local farming, to the local economy as well as the health of myself and my neighbors. When a contamination breakout occurs, I am reminded that this contaminated food is in a massive and complicated supply network. It is frustrating, given that I know the production of food to be simpler than that.

Please accept these comments as strong support for the DOJ investigation into consolidation in the food production industry.

Best,  
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