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Sent: Monday, December 28, 2009 1:33 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject:

My name is Christine Cosser and I am very concerned what is happening with the corporate control of our food and agriculture sector. I am concerned not only because I feel factory farming is cruel to animals but because I think that they are not safe for the American consumer because of all the drugs they use on the animals.

I used to live in Kansas and I saw how small family farmers are struggling to just be able to keep their farm and one by one large corporations would buy up farm after farm. Families who had been farming the land for generations were forced out while more and more large corporations buying up the land. It was very sad to see. Families loved what they were doing. The animals were well treated and the food that was grown was good healthy food unlike the food that Americans are forced to eat today.

It is nearly impossible to find food that doesn't have high fructose corn syrup in it. All soda has high fructose corn syrup. I have found Paul Newman's lemonade doesn't have it so I drink that. It is in candy bars. It is in most everything.

I think it is terrible that these large food companies are making more money in profits and the American small family farmer is suffering and the American public is suffering because the prices keep going up. The only winner in the large corporate farming is the large corporations who make more and more profits year after year.

E coli is another problem. People die because of lack of food safety. No one should die from eating peanut butter. No one should die from eating a tomato. No one should die because in America we allow large corporations to make huge profits because they are not forced to make sure their food that they produce is safe for the American people to eat. How many federal inspections are being done in a year? How many times is our food being checked to make sure that it is being produced in such a way as is safe for the American consumer to eat?

We need to make sure that the small family farmer can keep his farm and bring good quality food to the American consumer. We need to make sure that our government helps the small family farmers and not allow this unequal playing field continue. Organic farming is good for America. Large corporate farming is bad for America.

I think of Smithfield foods and the way they operate and the damage they did to the small family hog farmers in North Carolina. The environmental destruction cause by Smithfield foods slaughter houses and factory hog farms. They promise to modernize and to bring good quality jobs but that is a lie. The truth is that they have only destroyed the environment, the economy , and put small family hog farmers out of business. They have poisoned rivers and the fish are now not healthy to eat.

Allowing large corporations to gain a monopoly over farming and food production in America is not a good thing. We need small family farmers to be able to continue to make an good and honest living. We can't allow this trend to continue of pushing small family farmers off their land that they have farmed for generations and large factory corporate farms continue to be allowed to farm in such a way as it destroys the environment, is cruel to the animals, or farmers have to use Gm seeds.

Thank you for reading my letter. Happy New years!!

Christine Cosser

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