

**From:** Bradley Eardley <nephewbradley@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 29, 2009 12:30 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brad, and I am a Master's-level Counselor in Massachusetts. I have worked on farms, as a landscaper, and as a builder, and I now live on a farm. I do the best that I can to eat the food that's best for me, best for the soil and larger environment, and best for the middle class in my community.

I have major concerns about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector. I understand the power of the almighty dollar, and I am not against large corporations in and of themselves. However, I have seen the struggles for family farmers in the global economic environment. It's wonderful that organic (not just "natural" foods) are becoming more readily available due to larger markets and larger farms/consortiums stepping in to supply the demand. However, there is a massive contradiction between the spiritual/communal underpinnings of organic agriculture and the mega-farm approach. Sustainability is at the foundation of true organic gardening. The increase in fossil fuels and the decrease in biodiversity inherent in the mega-farm philosophy run counter to a truly sustainable economic process starting with seed saving/production and ending at the dinner table/waste treatment/compost heap.

Not all small farmers are good, smart, honest farmers, but many are, and all deserve the opportunity to compete in the marketplace.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

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