

From: Bruce Becker <bbecker@viawest.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 12:17 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Food

Dear DOJ representative,

I am a human being biologically required to ingest nourishment in order to survive. I eat food. I have to eat food. I want to eat food. I want to eat wholesome food that is nutritious by itself without adding chemicals, or vitamins, minerals, antibiotics, and pesticides to it because the food is produced in "abnormal manners". I want food that is not genetically altered. I want food that is natural, unaltered, unadulterated, grown as close to home as possible. Where does my food come from? I am concerned about illness outbreaks caused by large centralized manufacturing processes. The current system is dangerous and I only know about outbreaks when they reach some predetermined threshold. Who determines that threshold? I am concerned about the development of "super bugs" caused by antibiotics being fed to feed lot animals. I want food that is wholesome and when purchased goes to a local farmer not a multinational company interested only in making record profits while my food cost burden increases. It is difficult to find food that fits the above characteristics because of the strangle hold of the few large companies on the marketplace. The choices for good food are rare in today's grocery stores. The choices are homogenous caused by corporate consolidation of the food industry. If "real" food was an option we can stop the rampant obesity and diabetes related healthcare burden. Growing food closer to the communities that consume the food would mitigate the transportation and associated pollution, drilling, oil importation costs.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to submit my comments

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