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Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 6:50 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Farmers deserve fair markets

Forty years ago when I lived in England, a school crossing guard gave me a handful of Runner bean seeds to plant in my garden. People were happy to share seeds and gardening tips. It grew community spirit and was a great way to learn and to meet new people. Our food supply now seems so disconnected from real people and the communities in which they live. Putting our food supply in the hands of a few mega-companies is like putting all of your eggs in one basket; a catastrophe is bound to occur sooner or later. Diversity, good farming practices, and healthy competition will keep our food supply safe and economical. I don't want to be forced to eat something I deem unsafe because there is no other choice. I now raise my own organic fruit, vegetables, and chickens so that I have a choice. I will do my best to avoid the troubling business practices of those huge companies now in charge of most of our food.

Sincerely,