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**Sent:** Tuesday, December 29, 2009 7:31 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Address the most important issues

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Our American farmers are (and have been) in crisis! Our food production system is (and has been) in crisis! Your actions and foresight is needed NOW to guide our nation, our future generations of potentially healthy citizens...*before it is too late! The future of our lives and our children's lives and our grandchildren's lives are in your hands...*

I am a teacher and parent. My grandparents were farmers and I lived in the Midwest where I watched the farms disappear to high interest rates and inability to compete with the large corporations buying the small farms. And now I watch children becoming fast food junkies and poor eating habits and ***their weight has increased to crisis levels of our obese America!***

*Our cafeterias don't provide healthy foods and don't require students to eat balanced meals. Students can choose a hamburger and french fries every school day. I am sure that the inspectors don't deal with those issues. But the mother of a 14 year old who has high cholestrol has to deal with his medication and doctor appointments, not to mention his unhealthy future. She can't go to school with him to control his diet. The school is supposed to be a safe harbor for our children. ARE WE PROVIDING A SAFE and healthy HARBOR for our children where they are eating one and sometimes two meals a day.*

*Are our schools creating the obesity crisis? Are our schools allowing children to skip their meal and go and buy ice cream treats daily? The answers are "yes" and "yes".*

***We need an overhaul of our food system production and monitoring of our food output to our poor and needy children, adults of our country.***

***We do not need another e-coli outbreak. another Mad Cow disease outbreak...***

***And last but not least.....we have to leave our future generations a legacy of a healthy environment!! We have to stop polluting the water and soil!!!***