

**From:** mary scott <scottmaryl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 29, 2009 8:42 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** small farmer vs. big company

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I am a wife, a stay-at-home mother of two young children, a board member of a local food non-profit group working to connect people with the farmers in our community, and I grow a good bit of the food that my family eats.

I am very concerned about the consolidation of power in agriculture. I worry about the small farmers in our area, as well as nationwide, who are struggling to stay afloat. There are so many good people out there that have been forced to give up what their families have done for generations because they cannot compete with large scale agribusiness. It is so sad to me that I can only get good quality, fresh local food once a week during the summer at our farmer's market (grocery stores won't buy from local farmers). During the rest of the year I have to buy questionable produce from the grocery stores, along with products on the shelf that all contain corn and soy from 1-2 companies nationwide. I want my children to grow up knowing where their food comes from and knowing the farmers that produce it. I don't want small scale farmers to be a dying breed. I don't want all of our choices at the grocery store to come from 1 or 2 companies. It's not a fair way to compete. With the current structure, there is no way that small farmers can compete. I urge you to please do what you can to help our national farming community be able to fairly compete with one another.

Thanks so much for your time,

Mary Scott

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Mary Scott  
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