

From: Jessica Grano <jessie4joy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 29, 2009 10:40 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Cc: etgryphon@cox.net; Jessica Grano <jessie4joy@gmail.com>; sfrye555@aol.com; efrye2733@aol.com; ffrye626@aol.com; gravityfal@aol.com
Subject: corporate control of the food supply

I would like to register my opinion as an "average American". I am a mother of 3 young children. We live in a townhouse in the suburbs. I became interested in what was in my food and where it was coming from during my first pregnancy over 6 years ago. I wanted to grow the healthiest baby possible so I started to research the ingredients listed on whatever I bought. Since then I have read several books and watched a few documentaries on the subject of food and where it comes from, how it is handled and processed and how the farmers are treated. My response at first was disbelief. Could this really happen in America? The evidence that this was really happening piled up and I eventually, reluctantly began to see it as truth. The reason I say reluctantly is because once this truth is realized I cannot live with ignoring it. What a lot of work it has been trying to protect my young children from a contaminated (not to mention corrupted) food supply.

There are many issues that I see as so unacceptable it simply boggles my mind the way food happens in this country.

1) Under no circumstances would I ever want MY hard earned tax dollars to subsidize the shipment of food from California or anywhere else to my state or to any other state, especially when the very same produce is being grown right down the road from where I live and the local farmers who are not government subsidized cannot compete with the non local farmers who are government subsidized. The cost of these federal subsidizes would be better used to help preserve our environment rather than increasing this nations carbon footprint and dependence on oil by driving a truck full of tomatoes from California to Virginia. We can grow our own tomatoes thank you very much.

As for the areas in the country that cannot grown their own produce as easily, that is part of what those citizens need to factor in when deciding where to live. Also, if the government was not subsidizing the prices, they might be really motivated to figure out how to grow it locally. Have you ever heard of permaculture or swales? There is a man by the name of Geoff Lawton who is an expert in this field. He took a patch of land next to the Dead Sea and within months had it flourishing only on local rainfall. He has helped many governments around the world, why not ours? <http://permaculture.org.au> Simple solutions like this would solve so many problems on so very many levels, from not having to ship produce all over the country to the Colorado river.....

Also, what goes along with this is the fact that we must once again learn to eat seasonally. There are a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts that are nutritious enough to help us all make it (very healthy) though the winter without raspberries shipped to us on the American taxpayers tab. Learn to freeze and save your local raspberries if you must have them in winter. If you really must have the California grown fresh raspberries in January then you must pay what it costs to have them shipped to where you live but why on earth does the US government pay for your extravagance?

2)I am so confused about why Monsanto has been allowed to dominate the production of crops in our country and the rest of the world. I simply do not want a genetically modified crop that has been sprayed with chemicals causing contamination of soil and water supply, loss of

variety, and the death of the small family farm. I will not serve that to my family in any way shape or form. Americans should be protected by our government from such monster corporations. Why should they be allowed to contaminate the farms of people who don't want to grow their seeds and then sue these poor farmers (and win) when their only crime was to have a neighbor somewhere who did buy from Monsanto? Instead our government seems to be composed of lots of folks who would have a bias towards Monsanto NOT the towards average American people.

3) Meat packing/processing factories. I will not even go into the treatment of the employees there, I will just simply ask "why?" Why are there such high levels of contamination? Why are they not inspected more frequently? Why is ammonia allowed to be used on our food? Why can't we track one cow so the spread of disease can be quickly stopped? I am a busy mom who would love to be able to stop for fast food burgers for my kids when we are out and they are hungry. The truth is I am afraid to let my kids near a burger. Even if it does not contain deadly ecoli, I know that it has still been fed antibiotic (most likely not vegetarian) feed, lived a life standing in diseased mixed feces, then processed in a plant that probably has not been inspected recently, soaked in ammonia and shipped to a fast food joint near me using an extravagant amount of fossil fuels. I can not support any part of that process and I can't understand why the American government can.

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this. Please fight hard to make the changes our great country needs before it is too late.

Sincerely,
Jessica Grano