

**From:** Hobbsfarmfriends@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2009 9:11 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Cc:** Lyonheifer@aol.com; Hobbsfarmfriends@aol.com  
**Subject:** Comments on Corporate Agriculture

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United States Department of Justice

December 30, 2009

I am a retired teacher, and co-director of the last working community farm in our entire suburban area on Long Island, NY. Hobbs Community Farm, Inc. ([www.hobbsfarm.info](http://www.hobbsfarm.info))

A group of concerned citizens in our area "rescued" a 12 acre abandoned farm and have sought to bring some local food production back to our area.

We welcome the hearings you are holding during 2010, and are confident that the information you gather will be used to help restore an important sense of "food justice" to our marketplace and our society.

We are concerned about the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector, and the tremendous expense in terms of the environment and the health of our children caused by the "centralization" of our food system.

Right now, I can now go to local supermarkets and buy frozen vegetables from China (among other nations) for less money than we can produce local, fresh, healthy food for our neighbors.

But the costs (excluding the money) of this corporate imported food are way too high.

- Shipping long distances, and refrigeration burns fossil fuels and adds to global warming. .
- Health and quality safeguards on these products are virtually non existent.
- We are losing our ability as a nation to produce our own local food and becoming dependent on imports.
- We are raising a generation of Americans who are totally separated from our historical agricultural and agrarian landscape, unfamiliar with where their food comes from, and unable to make healthy eating choices.
- Medical costs from diseases caused by unhealthy eating are skyrocketing.

Federal legislation over the past years has tilted the "growing field" so far towards corporate agriculture that millions of small family farms have gone out of business, taking entire communities with them.

**For far too long, we have failed to take into account the full and true costs of corporate agriculture to our society.**

We urge you to delve deeply into these issues, and help the millions of concerned citizens at the grassroots level who are looking for support in the struggle for a more just, more sustainable food system for all Americans.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on this most significant issue.

Tom Lyon  
Co-Director

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***"A farm for all people, A farm for all time."***