

From: Chris Fuller <chris@sunnysidemeats.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 9:47 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: comments about the USA's food system

Hello,

My name is Chris and I am the manager at a small meat processing plant in southwest Colorado. I have decided to dedicate my professional and personal life to creating a food system which is secure. The best way to create a stronger food system is to follow a simple principle of ecology - a diverse population is more stable than one of limited population. This is applicable to our food system in that as there are more food processors in one area the amount each must process is reduced. This way if a processor must recall their product, a smaller amount of product has been adulterated and must be recalled. This reduces the likelihood of a major outbreak of any type of food born illness. In turn a smaller amount of people have the ability to get sick.

The conglomeration of our meat processing industry has created a situation where too much meat is being processed too quickly in one plant. If that plant recalls it has the potential to effect a large number of people. I urge our nation's leaders to create an environment in which small food processors can operate with the ability to make a profit. Create incentives for small processors, help get them the tools to create a thriving business, and educate our consumers on why they should support such efforts. Stop making laws which will hinder this growth, such as NY Senetor Gillibrand's legislation to test all "bench trim" for E. coli O157:H7 before and after grinding. These laws will minimally effect the large processors and make it prohibitively expensive for small processors to operate.

Thanks,
Chris

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