

From: David Schuster <ecdponycars@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 9:02 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: competition in agribusiness

I am a parent and teacher, and since purchasing 'organic' green beans from a local big box store, was horrified to find out that the beans were grown in China- even though there was a USDA stamp of approval on the bag. This is wrong on so many fronts- small farmers are going out of business; what is the carbon footprint of those beans; what is the likelihood that they were really farmed 'organically'; given record food company profits- why is there a need to purchase from China a food that we are perfectly capable of growing in the US? Another pressing issue is the control that Monsanto has over the production of seeds, given their unethical, though now legal, patents on seed corn and soybeans. Why shouldn't farmers be able to save seed? What is the impact of genetically modified seeds- (EU countries have banned them)? And also, living near the Great Lakes, what is the impact of all the pesticide use fostered by agribusiness on the water supply? One pesticide used on corn (but banned in Europe) turns male frogs into females. And agribusiness convinced the Bush administration that this pesticide was safe? There is so much that is bad in the production of food- that it is imperative that you look into the "agricultural/business complex", much as Eisenhower warned us of the evils of the "military/industrial complex"

Sincerely,
Carol Schuster