

**From:** Benjamin Gorman <iwentbacktoohio@wowway.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2009 11:21 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

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Dear DOJ:

I'm writing to express my extreme concern about the present, highly monopolized state of agribusiness in America. Recent years have seen the continuing consolidation of agribusiness interests and the aggressively anti-competitive practices of enormous corporate interests, such as Monsanto, against small farms and farmers. This consolidation and legal aggression can only end in tragedy for all Americans as we move toward profit-driven, megacorporate control of food growing, production, and distribution; the results will (and in some cases already do) include:

- reduced competition
- higher prices and/or price fixing
- loss of businesses and employment for small-holder farms
- increased use of monoculture farming practices, resulting in increased vulnerability of the food supply to pest and disease vectors
- loss of agricultural diversity, as giant corporations build profit by reducing variables (including grown varieties)
- increased use of GMOs, with unforeseeable biological consequences
- loss of topsoil to increasingly mechanized farming methods
- decrease of soil quality and fertility to chemical fertilizer dependency
- increased pollution of groundwater and surface water from chemical fertilizer runoff

One could go on, but these problems, which are already occurring, should be warning enough that the ongoing agribusiness consolidation trend must be stopped before we all pay a higher price than we can bear, in more ways than at the market.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Gorman

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