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Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 1:44 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Corporate control of food

Hi,

I'm writing to let you know that I think corporate control of our food supply is out of control. There is too much bullying of farmers by the large corporations and it needs to stop (e.g., Monsanto and their genetically engineered soy bean.) Increasingly, I hear stories of factory farms that treat animals inhumanely. Other problems include genetically engineered food, overuse of pesticides and antibiotics. The increasing difficulty of getting food locally is another huge problem. Finally, it seems there may be problems with the use of terminology such as "organic" and "cage free." There appear to be loopholes that allow growers to continue to apply inhumane and non-organic farming practices, yet still apply these labels thus duping the unsuspecting consumer.

I would like to see a system where regional farmers can grow their food in an organic and sustainable manner and have that food show up at local food markets. Farmers deserve a fair price for their food and we deserve to pay a reasonable price. I'm fortunate to live in an area (Madison, WI) where we have local food options available to us, but we still need to work at it. Locally grown food should be much easier to procure.

Thanks for listening.

Vicki Teal Lovely
Madison, WI