

From: Mary Nagy <dynadobe@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 2:18 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our

My name is Ann Mary Nagy. I live in North Ridgeville, Ohio. I am a Project Manager that became unemployed and am now pursuing getting our small business going.

I am truly concerned about corporate agriculture's crowding out the local farmers. I live on the edge of farming communities that continue to shrink. When we moved to North Ridgeville in 1976, there was farm behind our home, and all around us. Now it takes a longer drive to get out to the farming community. Those lands continue to be built out by developers with new residential neighborhoods.

This is disturbing because it means that farmers are selling out due to not being able to survive in our economy. They produce the best products, fresh, and wonderful-tasting fruits, vegetables, meats, and dairy products. We have always preferred shopping at 'farm markets'. The food is just hugely superior to that found in the grocery stores.

I also feel that locally grown food is safer. Fruits and vegetables are picked and sold while ripe, not prior to ripening. And the meats I buy are frozen immediately after processing and do not sit in the cooler for a week at a grocery store.

As more small farmers are driven out of business, the source for these wonderfully nutritious foods is drying up. I feel terrible about this, and I especially feel terrible that the farmers, who for generations worked so hard to provide us their best, are not supported so that they can make a living and support their families.

I support our local agricultural businesses by buying from them, except for the fruits and vegetables that I cannot get from them off-season. I would like to see our government support them as well!

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express my opinions.

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