

**From:** Peter Jenkins <pjenkins@coa.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2009 4:07 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned that the current food system in the U.S. is unjust.

Our basic human rights are being violated by Monsanto and other agribusiness giants. Farmers who grow Monsanto patented crops are arrested and put out of business if they save any seeds. Monsanto can likewise sue farmers who do not plant its seeds if these farmers' crops are contaminated with pollen from farms that do (1). No corporation or individual should have the right to patent a life form that perpetuates itself.

Consumers should also have the right to know when they are buying food that is genetically modified or has genetically modified ingredients. The long-term health implications of eating genetically modified organisms are unknown and therefore labeling these products is only just.

The environmental impacts of growing genetically modified crops are likewise overlooked. Monsanto's Roundup Ready crops allow farmers to apply more herbicides, which decreases farm labor but also contaminates land and drinking water, threatens the health of farm workers, and creates superweeds resistant to herbicides (2).

Even if genetically modified crops improve yields and feed more people, which is not found to be true (3), Monsanto's power over farmers and consumers and its monopoly in agribusiness should be limited by the Department of Justice.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Peter Jenkins  
student

Sources:

1. Kenner, Robert. 2008. Food Inc.
2. [http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Monsanto\\_and\\_the\\_Roundup\\_Ready\\_Controversy](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Monsanto_and_the_Roundup_Ready_Controversy)
3. Gurian-Sherman, Doug. 2009. Failure to Yield. Union of Concerned Scientists, Cambridge: MA

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