

**From:** shawnb1976@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 30, 2009 6:17 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Thoughts on Food

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I am a concerned citizen who is against the consolidation of corporate power in the food and agriculture sector.

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I would love to see less of a focus on big food companies and more focus on local, sustainable, organic foods.

Food that can be bought locally should be bought locally - such as fruits and vegetables that grow in the climate a person lives in, and chickens, beef, etc. from local farmers. I don't see a problem with shipping other fruits/vegetables that can't be gotten locally... Vermonters need bananas too. When an economy (especially a food economy) is local it gives the producer more of an incentive to produce the best product possible because he is a part of a community. The buyers of the food have an incentive to purchase the food because they know where it comes from and they get to know the **character** of the farmers and the **quality** of the food.

Food should be grown organically. Pesticides do not have to be used on plants when farmers plant a variety of fruits/vegetables. Additionally, there are other creatures that naturally eat the pests that eat the plants, eliminating the need for pesticides. Pesticides are poison plain and simple. I do not want them in my food and knowing that they are not necessary makes me not want them even more. When I shop, it is at farmer's markets or local stores that buy local, organic food.

Food should be grown sustainably. Farming has no business being a business. Farming should allow growers to make a living while delivering the best food to the public without damaging the land or animals involved. Farms should not be large corporations. This only causes profits to be the biggest concern, when the final product should actually be the ultimate concern. Large industrial farms that raise and store animals as if they were simply merchandise do a huge disservice to the animals and the people who eat them. The healthier the animal, the more nutritious its meat will be to the purchaser of the meat. Cows raised in industrial conditions - **full of unnecessary antibiotics** to stave off infection/disease due to those living conditions, and **hormones** that allow animals to produce more than is natural for that animal to produce - are not healthy for people to eat.

I do not want to see food corporations dictate what goes in my food. I do not want additives in my food. The fewer ingredients a food has, typically the better it is. I do not want high fructose corn syrup in my food. I do not want colors or dyes. I do not want fully or partially-hydrogenated oils in my food. I want food in its simplest, most basic form. I want animals to be raised on the foods they would naturally eat - NOT on corn and slop. Cows should eat grass, chickens should eat grass, bugs, and genetically modified organism-free (GMO-Free) local grain.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey my concerns. I look forward to keeping up with this investigation and I will continue to put my money into foods that are good, safe, sustainable, organic, and healthy.

Shawn Boucher  
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