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**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Our Food System

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Hello -

As someone who's interested in eating more delicious and nutritious food and staying healthy, I think about food issues a lot. I'm very concerned about the consolidation of power in the agricultural and food processing sectors, for a number of important reasons:

Processed food is so full of artificial ingredients, and the cattle, chickens, and pigs raised in giant feedlots are so pumped with antibiotics and hormones, that I fear that we are consuming a lot of chemicals that are dangerous to humans.

Our food supply is not safe. I feel completely powerless here. I can choose to grow my own (which I did some this year) and choose to shop at the local farmers' markets, and try to frequent restaurants that use local produce. But that's not enough to keep me safe from a widespread epidemic. I can do some of those things some of the time, but I can't do all of them all the time, so I feel like a sitting duck.

Also, "fresh" produce from the large grocery stores is pretty much tasteless. The food I get at local farmers' markets is always tastier and fresher, but I don't always have time to go to them, and they're more expensive. I'd like to be able to get fresh, local food at my supermarket, but there doesn't seem to be a way for the small farmers to get their products into these big chains.

Stacy Baker