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**Sent:** Thursday, December 31, 2009 1:08 PM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy

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To whom it may concern:

I am a student, an activist, and most importantly a consumer -- not just a consumer like 300 million Americans, but a consumer like 7 billion humans, and a consumer like every member of the kingdom of Animalia. As such, it concerns me immensely to know that:

1. The USDA site also says that 4.1% of U.S. corn goes for high fructose corn syrup. That means that since 29.9% of all U.S. cropland harvested was planted in corn in 2007, 1.2% of all U.S. cropland harvested in 2007 went for high fructose corn syrup. That's only slightly less than the 1.5% of U.S. cropland devoted to vegetables or the 1.6% of U.S. cropland devoted to [fruit] orchards. (Source: <http://www.lavidalocavore.org/showDiary.do?diaryId=952>)
2. The annual per-capita consumption of caloric sweeteners has increased by 40 pounds in the last 40 years, and high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) accounts for 81% of the 83 additional calories the average American consumes each day from sweeteners alone. (Source: <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/PB09-01SweeteningPotFeb09.pdf>)
3. Healthy food is almost always expensive food, and cheap food is almost always unhealthy food -- cheap, that is, in terms of how much it costs at the corner store or restaurant or supermarket; but expensive, in terms of negative externalities, for the consumer's health and for the health of America's land and water. (Source: real life)

These and many other related issues make our fight for a fair food economy a defining issue of our generation. From transparency to distribution to subsidization to pesticide use to excessive corporate profits, our food system is in crisis. I know there's always more to the issue than any one voice can say -- I'm only a student, so I'm still learning about how food works, about how economics works, about how politics works, about how American works -- but I believe that we can make them all work for all of us. I hope you agree.

Thank you and happy holidays. I wish you courage and patience in your efforts to reform our food system.

Jonathan Leibovic