

From: Pete/Karen Martin/Riener <martinandriener@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 31, 2009 11:29 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: agriculturalworkshops

Regarding: Comments on Industrial Agricultural Policy

Dec. 31, 2009

I am glad you are receiving comments from the public on this agricultural issue that has huge environmental and health impacts. I live in a rural area and have a very small farm, which I cannot make enough money from to make ends meet so I work off the farm as well.

I am old enough to have seen the demise of the family farm, the takeover of corporate farming, and the propaganda spewed over the green revolution. None of that worked.

We still have hungry people, growing in number even in the United States. Our food is less nutritious, our soil is depleted because chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides kill the soil organisms that promote tilth, nor is there much organic matter being put back onto the agricultural lands to even break down into the soil.

Recently a young man from Estonia said to me, "Agriculture is the biggest environmental problem in the world today." I hadn't thought of it in that way before but he's right.

Sustainable, organic agriculture can feed the world. Hungry people result from the food system being run as profiteering economics, farming for the investors, not farming for everyone to be able to eat.

Farmers are not making money. Stockholders, futures marketeers, food and agricultural land corporations are the ones making money. And it is this rationale of farming as solely a profit-motivated system that is making agriculture the biggest environmental problem in the world today.

Sincerely,
Pete Martin

Rt. 1 Box 51
Richland, OR 97870