

From: Melanie Allardale <melanieallardale@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, January 1, 2010 2:07 AM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: protect our food supply: curb corporate control

Esteemed Department of Justice

I am a Massage Therapist and Yoga teacher living in a small rural community in eastern Oregon. Most people here grow as much of our own food as we can, with gardens, chickens, and animals for meat. I am shocked when I see the poor quality, plastic appearance and high prices of food in the supermarkets.

We need our small farmers and local food sources, for community economic health as well as individual and family health. Please legislate to encourage diversity, local sources and small farmers. I personally know farmers who struggle because they cannot successfully compete with the "big boys", including the dilemma of consolidation limiting options of who will buy produce from small operators.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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