

From: Louise Amyot <lamyot@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2010 8:12 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

Here in Western Massachusetts, our dairy farmers have been struggling for years. Many have had to sell their farms and animals off to pay their huge debts. How can any business sustain itself when it is being forced, year after year, to sell its products at below the cost of production?

Yet, for New Englanders to have access to local milk is to have access to milk that has not used thousands of gallons of fuel to get here. It is also insurance that food will always be available to us.

However, an even greater concern of mine is the control that a very few companies have over the seed that is produced and sold around the world. The potential for a global disaster is terrifying to me. For all of us to be dependent on just a few varieties of any given crop is to court disaster in the event of a crop failure, pest overrun or climactic disaster, such as a sustained drought.

There is also the awful possibility that such a company could take over control of the world politically since it would control all the food resources.

Please take these concerns seriously and place strong limits on these, and related, issues preventing placing the control of the nation's, and the world's, food supply in the hands of a few individuals or companies.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Louise G. Amyot.

Louise Amyot

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