From: Charlotte Jewell <jewellgardens@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2010 1:25 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. Just one company, Monsanto, controls the majority of seeds in the US, and regularly threatens farmers who don't buy its seeds. It is now illegal for small farmers to collect many of the seeds they grow for their own use the next season. This threatens farmers, and our health in many ways. Genetically modified crop seeds are being blown onto our fields, threatening biodiversity. This is not sustainable, we are becoming more & more vulnerable as our food becomes limited, fewer & fewer crops as big industry controls our seed sources. Fewer crops mean that our food supply is much more vulnerable to wide spread plant disease. If only one type of corn is grown in this country, one epidemic could wipe out all of our corn, a major crop for the world. We need many types to have a sustainable healthy ecosystem. Pesticides & herbicides are polluting our water. Small producers are less destructive but our government shows preferential treatment to large farms & manufactures, putting family farms out of business. We need government support, family farmers don't have the means to hire expensive lobbyists.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Jewell

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