

From: Ryan Hogan <hoga0077@umn.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2010 1:12 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. There is so much wrong with our food system and it all starts in the fields, but farmers are not the ones to blame.

Monsanto basically controls the majority of agriculture in our country, some estimate up to 90% of the control of seed genetics. They also have complete price control over seeds, confirmed by recent price spikes. Farmers that don't have Monsanto contracts are frequently investigated, intimidated, and brought to trial for patent infringement. Many are forced to settle whether guilty or not, before going to trial because they can't afford the legal fees. How is this Justice?

It is alarming that some of the same people that have worked for Monsanto are now the ones affecting food policy in our government. This company has way too much influence and power, not enough fairness and transparency.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ryan Hogan

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