

From: Theresa Gottl <skwerrell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2010 4:32 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

I am writing because it's disturbing to me that so few companies control such a large percentage of our food production.

I'm bothered that a company like Monsanto controls a majority of the seeds in the US, and threatens farmers unjustly who refuse to use Monsanto seeds.

I'm also concerned that there are no labels on our food to indicate that potentially harmful chemicals were used or that genetically modified foods are included.

Too many Americans don't realize that processed foods, and foods that are grown on factory farms, pale in comparison to real foods, grown organically, in the way that animals and plants were MEANT to be raised. Unfortunately, the government subsidies of products like corn, makes it easier and cheaper to eat engineered, food-like substances, and factory-farmed beef, chicken, and pork fed on such corn, rather than to eat healthy vegetables and to eat the meat of animals that had the chance to grow and develop and eat as animals are meant to be treated. Foods produced organically, OUTSIDE of a factory farm setting, are healthier for the consumer, the environment, and for the plants and animals involved.

We would be able to solve so many problems, reverse so many health epidemics in our country--obesity, diabetes, even reduce the rate of cancers--if only we would move the money that subsidizes factory farms into subsidizing the growth and harvesting of REAL foods. Those at the poverty level would still be able to eat healthily, reversing the trends that diet-related health problems plague those in low-income levels more. Cheap, fat, sugar, and salt-filled, processed foods are too frequently where low-income families must turn, because they cannot afford to feed their children healthy, nutritious meals with vegetables.

It frightens me that these corporations, who control so much of our food supply, do not care about the people who are consuming these foods. Major corporations need to be regulated in the way that they are caring for their plants and animals, and in how they prepare the food that ends up in the mouths of Americans.

Farmers don't even control their own crops anymore--corporations like Monsanto dictate what seed they should be planting, and bully those farmers with legal action if they don't comply.

Please do something to change our food supply in America.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Theresa M. Gottl

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