

Comments Regarding Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economy

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To Whom It May Concern:

My brother and I farm some land in Buffalo County, Nebraska. We grow corn, soybeans, and wheat for feed to livestock and for sale. On our land we also grow and process alfalfa and grass hay to feed and also to sell. In the past we fattened cattle for sale but we now background calves and sell them.

This letter then contains thoughts about the agriculture market system in the United States economy as seen by a 68 year old producer who has been involved in production agriculture for 50 plus years.

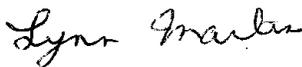
In our farming experience we found that it was hard to sell fat market ready cattle when only one or maybe two buyers would be involved and then only in the market for a short time during one day of the week. Then the fat cattle would become too fat and could become subject to a discount. That is why we only background calves now. This is what the producer of fat cattle is subjected to when only 3 companies procure and process 85% of the fat cattle in the United States.

On the grain side of agriculture we have 6 companies that provide GMO seed worldwide. Four of these have allegiances together. This, I think, anyone could see as concentration of market power. I find it hard to believe that plants genetics can be "protected" by law and also that people in power would or could let such concentration of power occur.

The grain trade and others say that we, the American producer, are in a global market yet most grain sold in the United States is sold first time to companies in the United States. We need a fair market system and not one, which seems to reward only the middleman and or the end sellers.

Due to all of the negative impacts outside the influence of the individual farmer or rancher, it is no wonder that there are a small number of young people wanting to enter production agriculture. The enforcement of the packers and stockyards act of the 1920s could change some of this by creating a more competitive marketplace resulting in greater farm income.

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