**From:** Nicola Drew <npdrew59@yahoo.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2009 8:07 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. There is a "revolving door" of personnel between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. As a result, corporations aren't currently held to the strict standards that they should be. Prices are rising at the supermarket, but farmers are struggling -- and big food companies have made record profits this year. Food is grown and raised in ways that are terrible for the environment, with methods that pollute the water, poison the soil and air, and threaten biodiversity and long-term food security. The general public believes that life forms should not be patented. Patenting genes discourages valuable scientific research that could be used to cure diseases. Patenting seeds drives up the price of non-genetically-engineered seeds. Monsanto threatens farmers, health, biodiversity, and survival. All foods should have labels explaining where the food was grown or raised, what chemicals were used to grow or raise it, and if it's genetically modified and/or has been fed genetically engineered foods or given genetically engineered vaccines. As a consumer, I am hugely opposed to Monsanto's business practices, and, in general, the patenting of organisms. Anything that you can do to restore the control of food to small farmers who sell direct to consumers would hugely beneficial to human, animal and environmental health.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Nicola Drew

, 04097