

**From:** Barry Oaks <barrysoaks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 18, 2009 10:56 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comments

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I am writing because I am concerned about the lack of competition in agricultural markets.

Monsanto is not even a good neighbor. The company has sued many family owned farms for patent violations on their GM seeds even though it was Monsanto that dispersed those very seeds. They make their seeds to withstand glyphomate so the use of chemicals on their seeds is rampant. The problem is that weeds are developing tolerance to glyphomate.

Monsanto is like Citi bank or Goldman Sachs in that it is too big. We should not let one company control the majority of the seeds in the US. It is another "to big to fail" corporation. We, as a country, need to nurture family farms and local food supplies in this era of global warming. People have a right to know where there food came from and what is in it. I, for one, find it hard to believe that Monsanto, who is in business for a profit, to not take advantage of the fact that they own most of the seed and screw us just like any other large unregulated corporation.

The seeds the Monsanto controls are hybrid seeds. They are not viable for replanting so a farmer has to buy seed every year instead of saving some seed stock for replanting. We need to make sure that the open pollinated seeds and heirloom seeds are not destroyed so that Monsanto controls the seed business.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Barry Oaks

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