

**From:** jlovejoy33@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 19, 2009 1:23 AM  
**To:** ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>  
**Subject:** Comment

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December 19, 2009

US Department of Justice

Dear US Department of Justice:

My father who is 90 is renting his inherited farmland to a conscientious, reputable farmer who has always done his best to keep the land healthy and fertile. He now realizes he's in a catch 22, due to US farm policy (written by Monsanto interests) that no longer makes it possible to earn a profit off of a good crop of grain. He says the selling price is never enough to pay the costs and make a living. The only way to make it work, is to qualify for the subsidies. And the only way to qualify is by having bought the GMO seeds from Monsanto (& Co) in the first place. ie. IT'S NO LONGER POSSIBLE TO BE A NON-ORGANIC FARMER AND HAVE A CHOICE IN HOW TO FARM; THERE IS NO PROFIT TO BE HAD WITHOUT BUYING IN TO THE UNHEALTHY MONSANTO/GMO GAME. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE'S NO WAY TO FEEL ETHICAL ABOUT BEING A FARMER ANYMORE ONCE YOU KNOW WHAT HAVOC, DISEASE, DEVASTATION AND BANKRUPTCY (FINANCIAL AND MORAL) ONE IS NOW FORCED TO BE PART OF BY VIRTUE OF BEING A FARMER. I URGE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO CHANGE THIS DEGRADED FARM POLICY/SYSTEM WE HAVE ALLOWED TO BE CREATED, BOTH HERE IN THE US AND IN THE WORLD. IT'S TRULY A BLIGHT ON US ALL. Below is a further elaboration of my concerns. And I deeply thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in advance of the Department of Justice's workshops on "Agriculture and Antitrust Enforcement Issues in Our 21st Century Economy."

Also being an organic consumer, I am particularly concerned about Monsanto's control over the seed supply.

By buying seed companies and aggressively patenting life, Monsanto has gained control over as much as 90 percent of seed genetics. This is anti-competitive behavior that skews markets and subjects farmers and consumers to the unchecked power of a company that can raise prices at will.

But, my main concern is that, while Monsanto has acquired a diverse store of seed genetics, they are only making available a few seeds that are genetically modified to be dependent on their chemicals.

The vast bounty of food crops that farmers have cultivated and improved upon over the last 10,000 or so years should not be allowed to be bought up and put out of commission by a company bent on whittling down food varieties to a few pesticide-dependent genetically modified crops.

The most devious part of Monsanto's business model is that their Frankenseeds can cross-pollinate with organic and traditional varieties, destroying their unique characteristics and infecting them with genetically engineered chemical dependence or even "Terminator" or "Traitor" technology that renders seeds sterile, a literal death sentence for seeds maintained through conventional breeding.

The same way we protect animal species from extinction, we should protect plant species, especially the tens of thousands of food varieties, from companies like Monsanto that are consciously eliminating them.

I urge you to please include in your investigation a consideration of the importance keeping seeds, the foundation of human life, at least in the marketplace, if not in the public domain where they truly belong.

Sincerely,

June Lovejoy  
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