

From: Dozier Bell <dozierbell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 19, 2009 1:29 PM
To: ATR-Agricultural Workshops <agriculturalworkshops@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Comments

It's simply wrong, and bad business, for a company like Monsanto to control the majority of seeds produced in the US, and pressure farmers in various ways to use their products. In Maine, Monsanto threatened Oakhurst Dairy, a large and venerable family business, with a lawsuit for refusing to stop labeling its milk "BGH Free." This didn't endear it to those of us from farming families, or those who feel we have a right to know where our food was produced, who grew it, and especially whether or not it's been genetically modified. This is an issue of great concern to our family.

Another concern are the strong and ongoing links between corporate lobbyists and government regulators. This relationship does not foster confidence in our food supply. It is clear that in most cases, profit is the first motive, with food safety being somewhere else down the list.

Monsanto has demonstrated a clear lack of concern for the environmental damage it has caused through the manufacture and sale of its products, as well as disregard for the potential harmful effects of genetically modified crops. All their statements to the contrary have been lip service that is contradicted by the facts. Again, as beekeepers and honey and wax producers, genetically modified crops are a very great concern.

Organic farmers and methods receive little to no support from our agricultural policies, despite the fact that they have clear, demonstrated usefulness as a way to increase food and environmental quality. I would very much like to see some thoughtful support go to that sector of the agricultural community.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Dozier J. Bell
Kenneth Greenleaf

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