

October 6, 2009 513-561-7400

My name is Natalie Campbell Walden and I am here today on behalf of Turner Farm, a certified organic farm in suburban Cincinnati., as well as the longest continuously operating CSA in our region. As stated in the Turner Farm mission Statement, Turner Farm operations promote the connection between people of all ages and the land that feeds them in body, mind and spirit, through education and example. Our goal is to produce fresh, healthy, food in a safe and sustainable way. Through education and example, we nurture understanding of the rhythms of nature and our place in the natural world, fostering recognition of personal responsibility for stewardship of the land, feeding both ourselves and the community at large.

We do not support LGMA. The metrics set forth do not fit the dynamics of the small farm. And thriving small farms are essential to reestablishing vital eating habits in this country. We see LGMA as a solution to a marketing problem not a solution to the stated problem of food safety. The Local food movement is part of the solution to the problem of getting clean safe fresh nourishing food to the general public and if the tenets of a NLGMA are recommended many small farmers would be unable to comply. Why?

Because these proposals do not take into account the ethos of organic farming or the science of biodiversity farming. Not to mention that if compliance was in farms could simply not afford it.

In approaching the issue of "food safety" we need a multi layered solution that takes into account not only science but farm size, climate considerations and cultivation methods, environmental issues and population pressures.

We at Turner Farm are confident that the USDA has the best interest of the American people at heart: vibrant local farm markets can only strengthen the health of our population and our economy.

Ex.71