



## States investigate alleged violations of antitrust and trade practice laws in the seed industry

### CHOICE IN THE SEED INDUSTRY

OCM is working to support state attorneys general who are participating in a multi-state investigation relating to alleged violations of U.S. antitrust and trade practice laws in the seed industry, as well as encourage other attorneys general to join the investigation.

### Q&A

#### How do antitrust investigations work?

Attorneys general who engage in antitrust investigations have the power to subpoena documents and other information from companies that allegedly use monopoly power to harm competition. A lawsuit may follow the investigation if they identify a violation of state or federal antitrust laws.

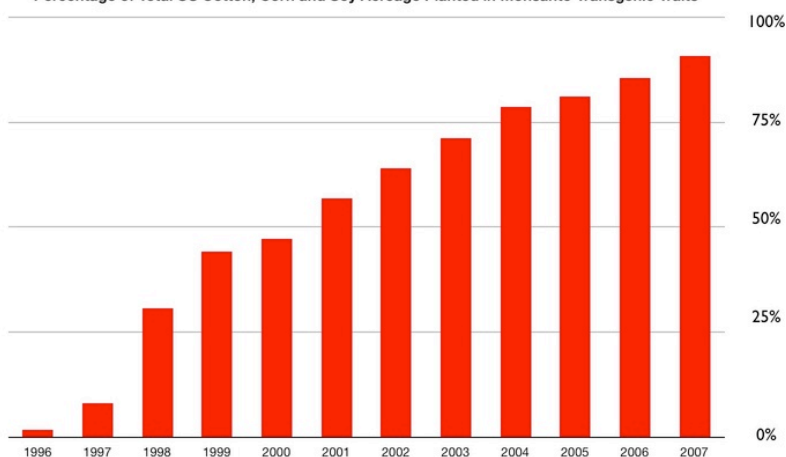
#### Which state attorneys general are involved?

We have knowledge that the following attorneys general are involved in the investigation: Texas, Iowa, Ohio, Tennessee, Missouri, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Dakota, Arkansas, Virginia, and Maryland.

#### What are the specific allegations?

We believe Monsanto uses an exclusive licensing agreement strategy to harm competition. These licensing agreements likely restrain independent seed companies from offering competing traits from other companies. The practice solidifies and extends Monsanto's market power, quashes innovation by other companies, and increases seed prices for crop farmers.

Percentage of Total US Cotton, Corn and Soy Acreage Planted in Monsanto Transgenic Traits



#### How can I get involved?

- ◆ Visit [www.competitivemarkets.com](http://www.competitivemarkets.com) to download sample letters to the editor and useful fact sheets.
- ◆ Organize a meeting with a local or state leader. Ask them to apply pressure on your state attorney general regarding this ongoing investigation.
- ◆ Be a spokesperson on the issue. Tell OCM if you're willing to be interviewed.
- ◆ Educate yourself, your friends and your community about the problem of concentration in the seed industry. Visit the "Download Center" on our website for timely reports and other resources. Read the OCM blog to stay up-to-date on the seed concentration issue.

*OCM's Seed Concentration Project pursues aggressive and appropriate pro-market regulation to bring fairness, innovation, and competition back to the U.S. crop seed industry.*