# Glyphosate

Terrible Toxin or Terrific Tool?



Jeff Miller





# Our discussion today

- 1. What is glyphosate?
- 2. Is it a terrible toxin? Does it cause cancer?
- 3. Is it in my food?
- 4. Is it a terrific tool?

## Glyphosate

- Most commonly used herbicide in the world.
  - First used in the 1970s
  - Kills broadleaf and grasses
  - Interferes with shikimic acid pathway (plants and microorganisms)
  - Used as a growth regulator and ripening agent.
  - NOAEL = 175 mg/kg/day for maternal toxicity
- Over 750 products in the US.
  - Since 1996, use has increased 15X
  - 2/3 of total use in last 10 years (40 year history)

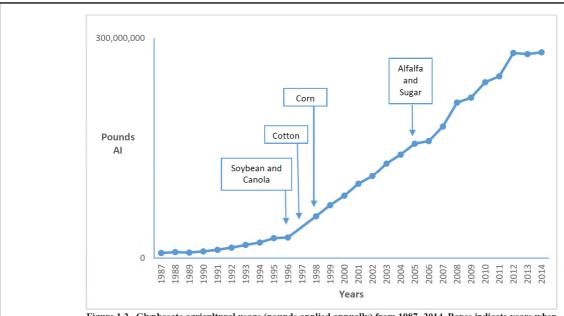


Figure 1.2. Glyphosate agricultural usage (pounds applied annually) from 1987-2014. Boxes indicate years when glyphosate-resistant crops were introduced. Source: Proprietary Market Research Data (1987 – 2014).

Adapted from Glyphosate Issue Paper: Evaluation of Carcinogenic Potential (EPA)

# **Toxicity Values of Common Products**

Pesticide	LD50 (ppm)		Product	LD50 (ppm)
Aldicarb	0.8		Capsaicin	47
Diazinon	300		Caffeine	200
Copper sulfate	300		Ethylene glycol	460
Ridomil Gold SL	550		Benadryl	500
2,4-D	660		Flonase	1000
Malathion	1000		Acetylsalicylic acid	1000
Atrazine	1780	,	Vitamin A	2000
			Amoxycillin	2870
		:	Sodium chloride	3320
Glyphosate	4320		Accutane	4000
Phosphorous acid	>5000			

# Monsanto ordered to pay \$289m as jury rules weedkiller caused man's cancer

Court finds in favor of Dewayne Johnson, first person to take Roundup maker to trial



▲ DeWayne Johnson listens during the Monsanto trial in San Francisco last month. Photograph: Reuters

\$39 million – compensatory damages \$250 million – punitive damages

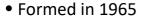
Screenshot from The Guardian https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/aug/10/monsanto-trial-cancer-dewayne-johnson-ruling

Is glyphosate a "terrible toxin"?

Will glyphosate cause cancer?

#### IARC – International Agency for Research on Cancer

International Agency for Research on Cancer







- Classification of substances evidence for carcinogenicity
  - Not the relative risk due to exposure
- March 2015 Glyphosate classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans"
  - Evidence in experimental animals was sufficient
  - Evidence in humans was limited
  - No evidence for harm from exposure through food

#### IARC Cancer Classifications

Group	Description	# of Agents
1	Carcinogenic to humans	120
2A	Probably carcinogenic to humans	82
2B	Possibly carcinogenic to humans	311
3	Not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans	499
4	Probably not carcinogenic to humans	1

https://monographs.iarc.fr/agents-classified-by-the-iarc/

### Group 1 Substances Examples – Carcinogenic

- Alcoholic beverages (acetaldehyde, ethanol)
- Asbestos
- Diesel engine exhaust
- Estrogen therapy
- Hepatitis virus (B and C)
- Leather dust
- Mineral oils
- Outdoor air pollution

- Painter (occupational exposure)
- Processed meat
- Salted fish (Chinese style)
- Solar radiation
- Tamoxifen (can also reduce breast cancer)
- Tobacco smoking
- UV radiation
- Wood dust

#### Group 2A Substances Examples – Probably Carcinogenic

- Acrylamide
- Diazinon
- Glyphosate
- Lead compounds
- Malaria

- Emissions from high temp frying
- Indoor wood burning
- Red meat
- Very hot beverages (over 150°F)
- Being a hairdresser or barber
- Shift work (circadian disruption)

#### Group 2B Substances Examples – Possibly Carcinogenic

- Chlorothalonil
- Coconut oil diethanolamine
- DDT
- Diesel fuel
- Gasoline engine exhaust
- Fusarium moniliforme toxins
- Parathion

- Bracken ferns
- Ginkgo biloba extract
- Aloe vera
- Carpentry and firefighting
- Printing processes
- Magnetic and radio fields
- Welding fumes
- Talc-based body powders

#### IARC – International Agency for Research on Cancer

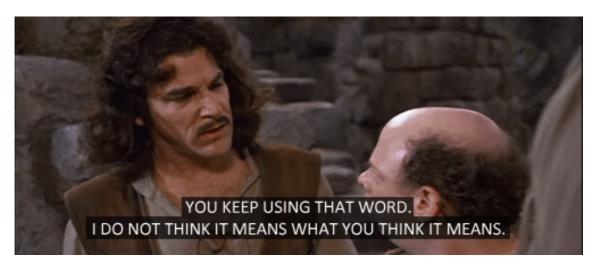
"The IARC Monographs evaluation is a hazard classification. It indicates the strength of evidence that glyphosate can cause cancer. The probability of developing cancer will depend on factors such as the type and extent of exposure and the strength of the effect of the agent."

(https://www.iarc.fr/featured-news/media-centre-iarc-news-glyphosate/)

### Problems with the IARC Glyphosate classification

- 1. Does not take exposure into account
- 2. Did not use all available data
  - Some data were withheld (Aaron Blair)
- 3. Potential conflict of interest
- 4. Data from original research not always interpreted properly?
  - 10 significant changes
  - Negative conclusions about glyphosate and tumors deleted or changed
- 5. Secretive lack of transparency

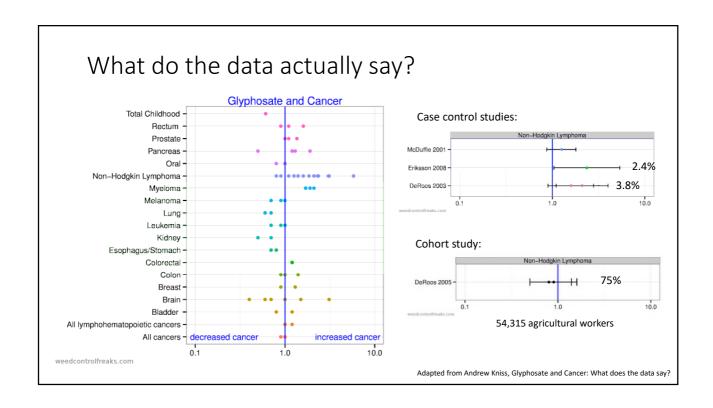


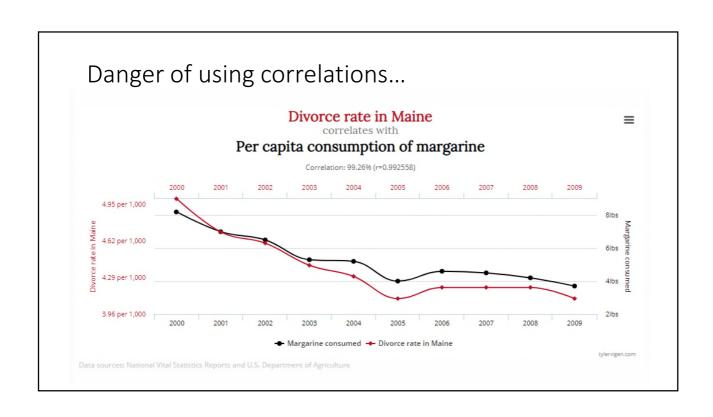


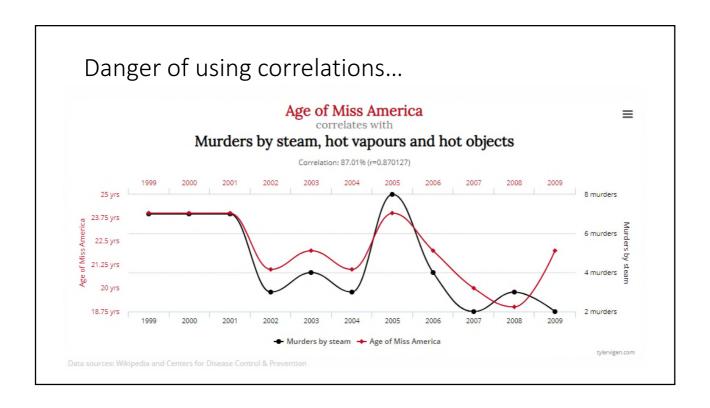


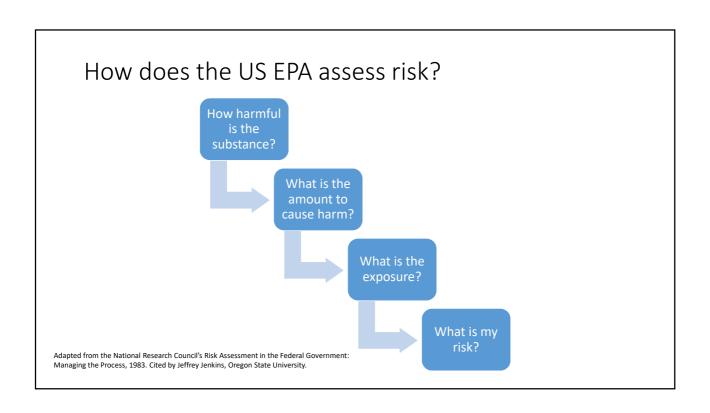


From the Campaign for Accuracy in Public Health Research



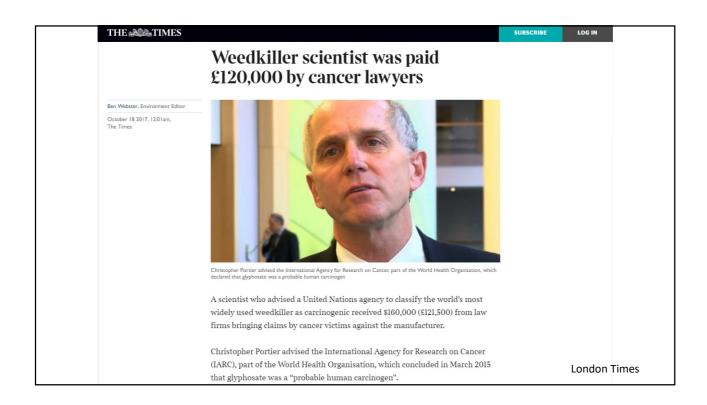






#### Agricultural Health Study – Glyphosate and Cancer

- Andreotti et al., 2018, J Natl Cancer Inst. 110(5):509-519
- Extended previous cohort study by 12 years, 4x the cancer cases
- Iowa and North Carolina
- Controlled for exposure to other pesticides
- 54,251 participants, 44,932 reported exposure to glyphosate
- Pesticide applicators: no evidence of positive association
  - Some evidence of acute myeloid leukemia in highest exposure quartile (not statistically significant)
- Some limitations



### Conflict of Interest? – Dr. Christopher J. Portier

- Activist for the Environmental Defense Fund (www.edf.org)
- Elected Chair of IARC Glyphosate Monograph Advisory Group
- Signed a contract with two law firms suing Monsanto
  - 10 days after attending the IARC glyphosate monograph panel
  - \$160,000
  - Contract did not allow for transparency
- Claimed that "no one had paid him a cent" and that he "had no conflict of interest whatsoever."

Adapted from the Risk Monger, "Greed, Lies, and Glyphosate: The Portier Papers

### What do other agencies say?

- No evidence of carcinogenic activity
  - US National Institute of Health, National Toxicology Program (NTP)



- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- No evidence of carcinogenicity
  - European Union, Canada, Australia, Japan
- Glyphosate unlikely to pose a significant risk to humans from exposure through diet
  - Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR)

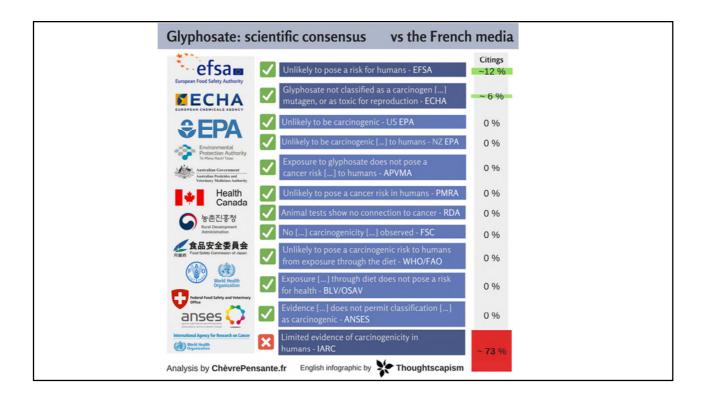








Adapted Jeffrey Jenkins, Oregon State University.



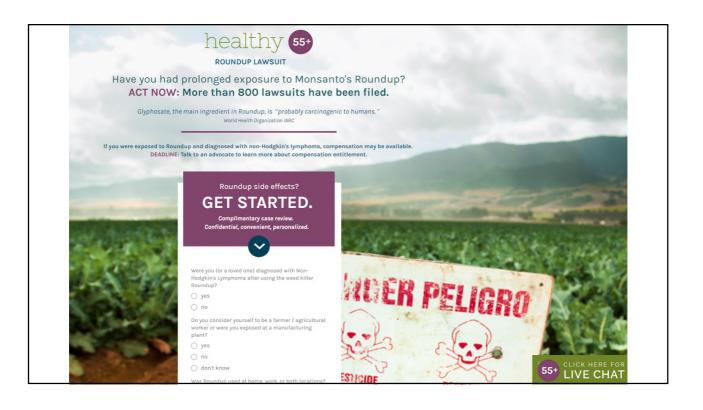
# IARC did not interpret all data properly

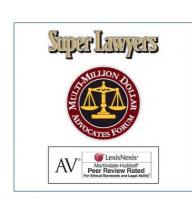
- Examples of original statements:
  - "The authors concluded that glyphosate was not carcinogenic on Sprague Dawley rats"
  - "The authors concluded that glyphosate technical acid was not carcinogenic in Wistar rats"
  - "The authors concluded that glyphosate was not carcinogenic in CD-1 mice in this study."

#### • IARC revision:

 "The Working Group was unable to evaluate this study because of the limited experimental data provided in the review article and supplemental information."

www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/who-iarc-glyphosate







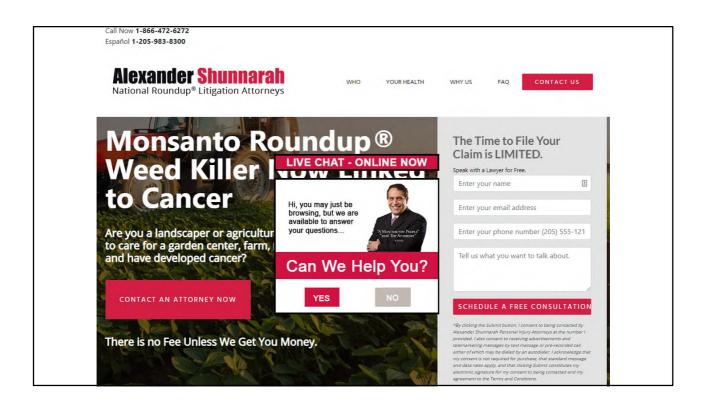


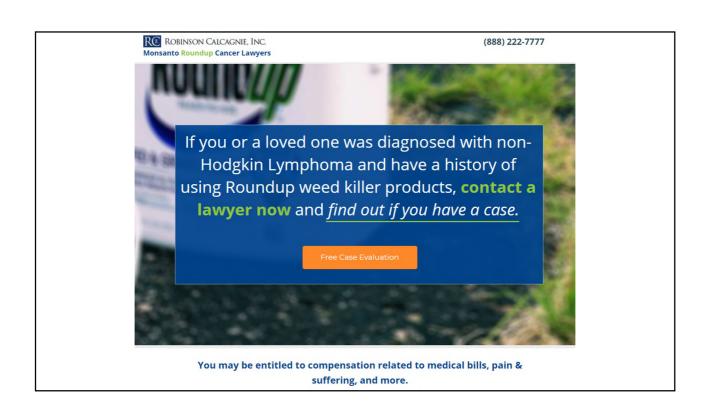
Onder Law | Roundup Cancer Lawsuits

Disclaimer: The choice of an attorney is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements. Past results afford no guarantee of future results. Every case is different and must be judged on its own merits. The accident, injury, personal injury, and/or other legal information offered herein by The Onder Law firm, is not formal legal advice, nor is it the formation of an attorney client relationship. In order for our firm to be considered your attorney there must be a signed agreement between the client and the firm.



The Onder Law Firm is a National Law Firm based in St. Louis, Missouri representing clients throughout the United States in national federal MDL products liability litigation.





#### Mutation Research (Zhang et al., 2019)

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mrrev.2019.02.001

- Meta-analysis
- Claim: Glyphosate exposure = 41% higher likelihood of NHL
  - ~20 cases /100,000 people
  - 41% increase = 8 new cases
- 5 case studies
  - Recall bias
- 1 cohort study
  - More robust
- "... the numerical risk estimates should be interpreted with caution."
- Three authors served in EPA board which evaluated glyphosate (2016).



#### Book of Mormon – Alma 11:20

Now, it was for the sole purpose to get gain, because they received their wages according to their employ, therefore, they did stir up the people to riotings, and all manner of disturbances and wickedness, that they might have more employ, that they might get money according to the suits which were brought before them;

To answer question 2:

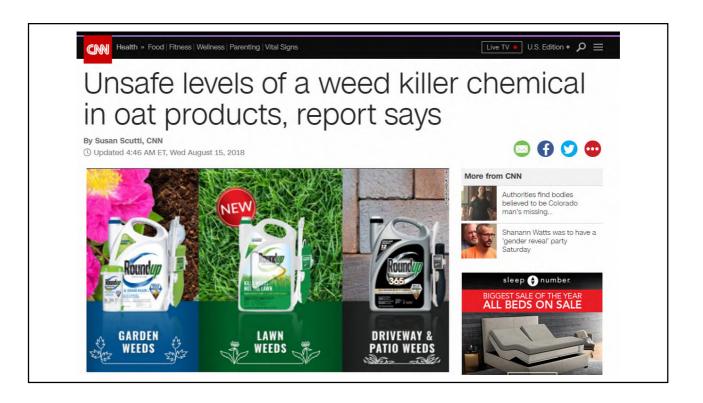
Glyphosate most likely does not cause cancer. It is not a terrible toxin.

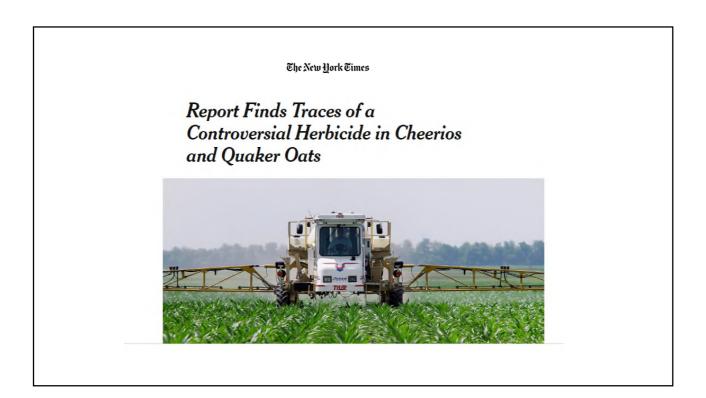
## Judge Suzanne R. Bolanos

- Tentative ruling: "Given the state of medical and scientific knowledge there is no clear and convincing evidence that Monsanto acted with malice or oppression in manufacturing and selling its GBH (Roundup) products."
- October 22, 2018 Jury verdict upheld.
  - Punitive damages reduced to \$39 million (matching compensatory damages)

Is glyphosate in my food?

If it is, should I be worried?





By Mihir Zaveri

New York Times Aug. 15, 2018 Aug. 15, 2018

An environmental research and advocacy group has found traces of a controversial herbicide in Cheerios, Quaker Oats and other breakfast foods that it says could increase cancer risk for children.

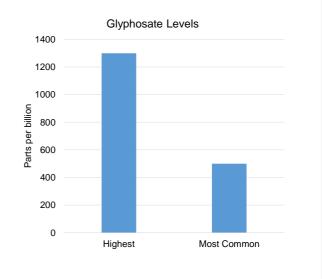
The report comes amid longstanding debate about the safety of the chemical glyphosate, which federal regulators maintain is not likely to cause cancer.

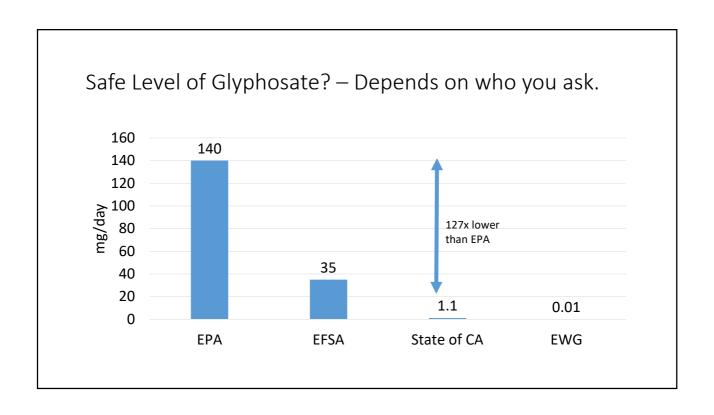
In its report, released Wednesday, the Environmental Working Group said that it tested 45 samples of breakfast foods made from oats grown in fields sprayed with herbicides. Then, using a strict standard the group <a href="developed">developed</a>, it found elevated levels of glyphosate in 31 of them.

"There are levels above what we could consider safe in very popular breakfast foods," said Alexis Temkin, the group's toxicologist who helped with the analysis in the report.

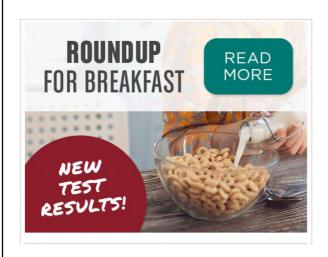
## Environmental Working Group (EWG) Report

- Glyphosate was detected:
  - 43 of 45 conventional cereals
  - 5 of 16 organic cereals
- Levels of detection
  - Highest = 1.3 ppm (1,300 ppb)
  - Most below 0.5 ppm (500 ppb)
  - EPA regulatory limit = 30 ppm











#### Environmental Working Group (EWG)

#### **GET GLYPHOSATE OUT OF OUR FOOD!**

New EWG analysis has found that popular children's foods like cereal, granola bars, and instant oatmeal come with a hefty dose of glyphosate, the cancer-causing ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup.	Email*
That's unacceptable.	Zip Code*
Monsanto was recently ordered to pay \$289 million in damages after a jury found the pesticide giant liable for causing a school groundskeeper's cancer. <b>Glyphosate is dangerous</b> , <b>especially for kids</b> . The EPA calculated that 1-to-2-year-old children are likely to have the highest exposure to glyphosate.	Select Country
Glyphosate is showing up in food made with oats because oats and wheat are sprayed with glyphosate to kill the crop right before harvesting. It is a practice that is not necessary and should be stopped. Companies need to step up and make sure their products are free of glyphosate before they hit store shelves.	Add Your Name
We can't wait for the EPA to take action on glyphosate. Parents shouldn't have to worry about carcinogenic pesticides in their food at the grocery store.	
Use the form below to stand with EWG and tell food companies like General Mills, Quaker and Kellogg's to get glyphosate out of our food!	
Get glyphosate out of our food!	
As a concerned consumer, I urge you to make sure your oat and wheat products are free of glyphosate.	
Glyphosate is the key ingredient in Monsanto's signature herbicide Roundup. The World Health Organization and California state scientists have linked glyphosate to cancer.	
This dangerous chemical shouldn't be anywhere near my food, but recent EWG analysis has found glyphosate in at least one of your products.	
This is unacceptable.	
Consumers expect better of you. I urge you to ensure your products are free of cancer-causing glyphosate!	

## What's in my Cheerios?

- EWG says 497 ppb glyphosate. (0.000497 mg/g)
- 28 g of Cheerios = 1 serving



- 0.000497 mg/g glyphosate x 28 g/serving = 0.013 mg glyphosate/serving
- CA standards, 1.1 mg/day ÷ 0.013 mg glyphosate/serving = 79 servings
- EFSA standards = 2,518 servings
- EPA standards = 10,072 servings
- EWG standards = 1 serving

Credit: Nick Saik, "Roundup for Breakfast?!," Know Ideas Media

#### Who funds the EWG?

- More than 20 companies, including:
  - Stonyfield Farms
  - Earthbound Farms
  - Organic Valley
  - Nature's Path
  - Annie's
  - Applegate
  - Klean Kanteen

#### EWG - Anresco Laboratories

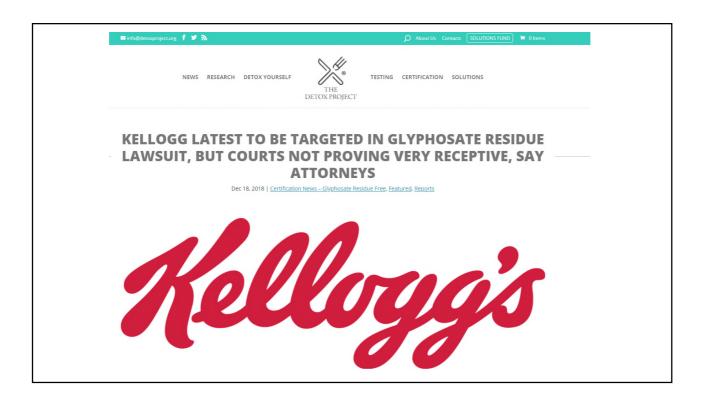
### Suspicions deepen on food labs

By Stephen J. Hedges, Washington Bureau

MAY 27, 2008 | WASHINGTON

In an interview, Eisenberg said that a check of his company's records revealed that it withheld samples from the FDA at a company's request an average of three times a month. He said the labs break no laws by withholding such information.

"We are employed by the imported-food manufacturer," Eisenberg said. "We are not employed by the FDA, and the FDA has no authority over private labs that are generating imported-food test results, so we have to follow the advice of our customer."





# **Labeling Options**

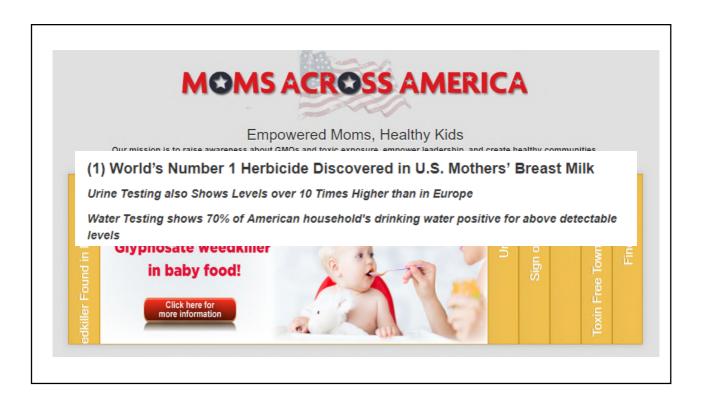


\$1,472/brand \$200 test fee



\$1,200/application \$250/product





## Where is MAA finding glyphosate?

- Breast milk
- Wine
- Honey
- Vaccines
- Drinking water

PUBLIC RELEASE: 23-JUL-2015

# WSU researchers find US breast milk is glyphosate free

Study is first independently verified look for the presence of Roundup ingredient in human milk

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Regul Toxicol Pharmacol. 2015 Dec;73(3):758-64. doi: 10.1016/j.yrtph.2015.10.022. Epub 2015 Oct 28.

Analysis of Moms Across America report suggesting bioaccumulation of glyphosate in U.S. mother's breast milk: Implausibility based on inconsistency with available body of glyphosate animal toxicokinetic, human biomonitoring, and physico-chemical data.

J Agric Food Chem. 2015 Dec 9;63(48):10562-8. doi: 10.1021/acs.jafc.5b04453. Epub 2015 Nov 23.

Analysis of Glyphosate and Aminomethylphosphonic Acid in Nutritional Ingredients and Milk by Derivatization with Fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl Chloride and Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry.

Ehling S1, Reddy TM1.

F Fear

**U** Uncertainty

D Doubt

# USDA-ARS Pesticide Data Program

- Started in 1991
- Focus on infants and children
- ~600 sites
- Test for 450 pesticides, breakdown products
- ~10,000 samples collected/year

#### • 2016 Samples

- Fresh and processed fruits and vegetables (20)
- Eggs
- Milk
- Environmental contaminants

# Summary of Pesticide Data Program

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Samples	11,893	10,104	10,619	10,187	10,365
% No Detections	47.4	40.5	*	15	23
% Below Tolerance	>99	>99	>99	>99	>99
% Above Tolerance	0.53	0.23	0.36	0.53	0.46
% W/O Tolerance	4.3	3.0	*	3.9	2.6

<sup>\*</sup>Could not access data.

# Herbicide Analysis – Glyphosate SRM

Commodity	# Samples	% No Residue	% Violative	% Glyphosate	% Glufosinate
Corn	274	36.9	0	63.1	1.4
Soybeans	267	33.0	0	67.0	1.1
Milk	113	100	0	0	0
Eggs	106	100	0	0	0
Total	760	53.7	0	46.2	0.9



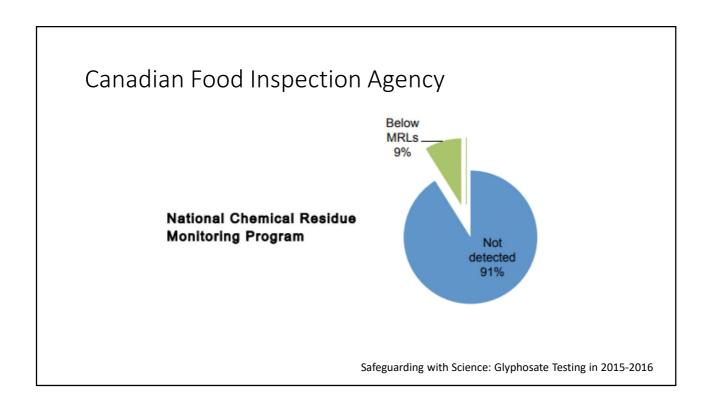


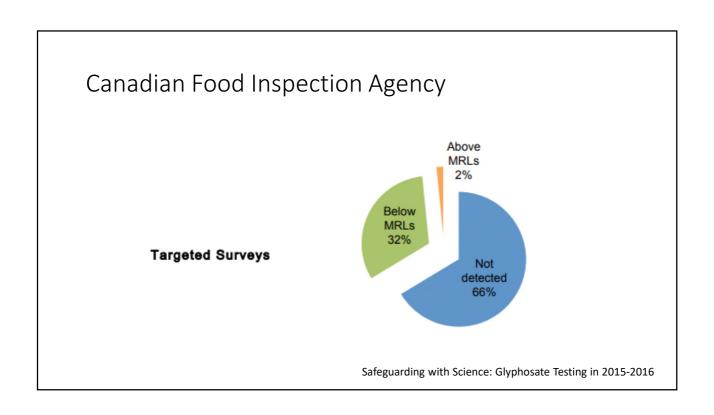


# Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Program	Food Type	# Samples	% with Glyphosate	% > MRL
National Chemical Residue Monitoring Program	Fresh fruits and vegetables	317	7.3	0
	Processed fruits and vegetable	165	12.1	0
Targeted Surveys	Grain products	869	36.6	3.9
	Juice and other beverages	496	16.3	0.2
	Bean/pea/lentil products	869	47.4	0.6
	Soy products	263	11.0	0
Children's Food Project	Infant cereal	82	31.7	0
	Infant food	127	30.7	0
	Total	3,188	29.7	1.3

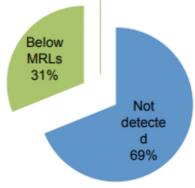
Safeguarding with Science: Glyphosate Testing in 2015-2016







#### Children's Food Project



Safeguarding with Science: Glyphosate Testing in 2015-2016

"All substances are poisons; there is none which is not a poison. The right dose differentiates poison from remedy."

#### - Paracelsus





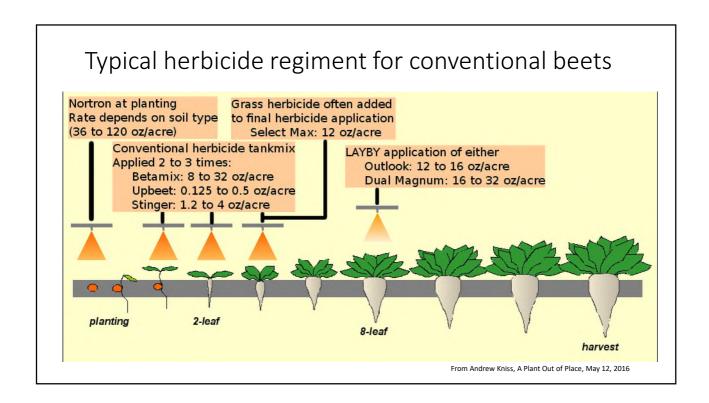
Taken from Casarett & Doull's Toxicology: The Basic Science of Poisons.

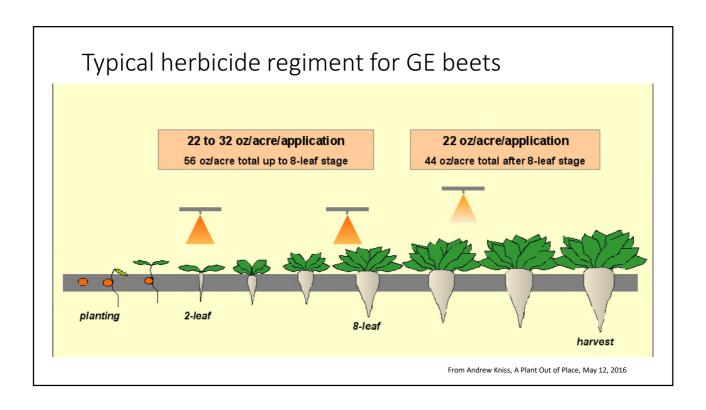


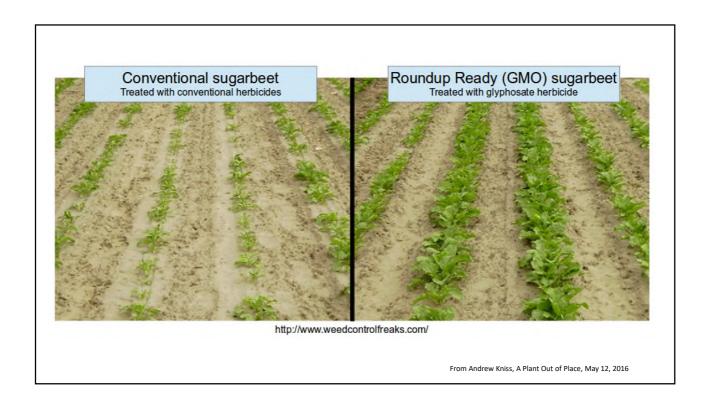
To answer question 3:

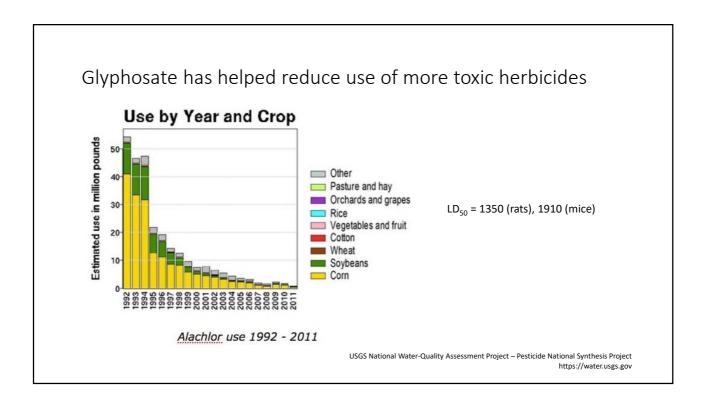
Glyphosate may be in some food products. But you shouldn't be worried.

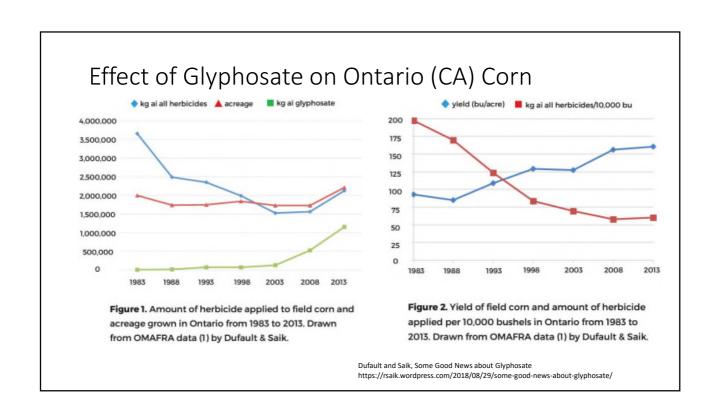
Is glyphosate a terrific tool?

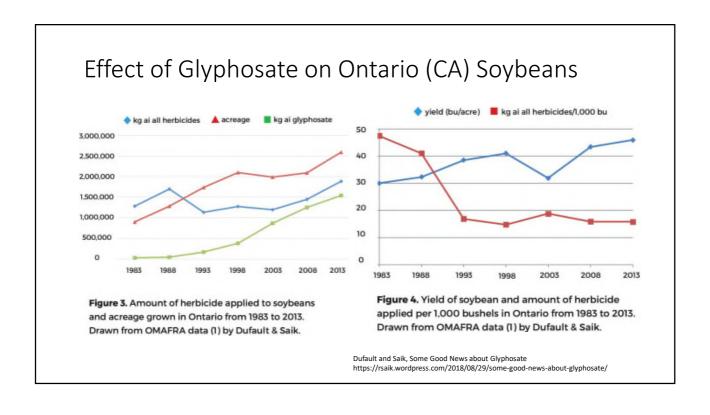












#### Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ)

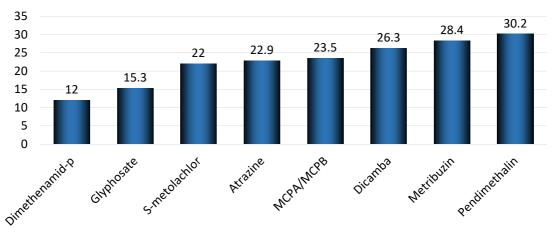
- Chronic toxicity
- Dermal toxicity
- Plant surface half-life (weeks)
- Soil half-life (days)
- Systemicity
- Leaching potential

- Fish toxicity
- Runoff potential
- Bird toxicity
- Bee toxicity
- Beneficial arthropod toxicity

Higher the EIQ, the higher the pesticide hazard

Environmental Risk of Pesticide Use in Ontarion: 2013/2014 Pesticide Use Survey Laura L. Van Eerd, University of Guelph, 5 October 2016





Environmental Risk of Pesticide Use in Ontarion: 2013/2014 Pesticide Use Survey Laura L. Van Eerd, University of Guelph, 5 October 2016

#### Results of GM insect resistant and herbicide tolerant crops

- Reduction in 553,000,000 kg of pesticides
- Reduction in fuel use and tillage
  - Reduction in greenhouse emissions
  - Equivalent to removing 12.4 million cars from the road

Brookes and Barfoot, 2015. Environmental impacts of genetically modified (GM) crop use 1996-2013: Impacts on pesticide use and carbon emissions. GM Crops and Foods 6:103-133.

#### Reasons to use glyphosate

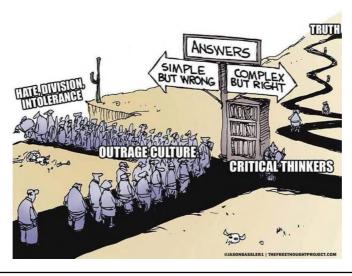
- 1. Effective and efficient weed control.
- 2. Fundamental part of no- and low-tillage farming.
- 3. Scientific agreement that it is safe for human use.
- 4. Valuable pre-harvest tool for drying crops.
- 5. No longer patented. No single company profits.

Adapted from NFU Scotland www.nfus.org.uk

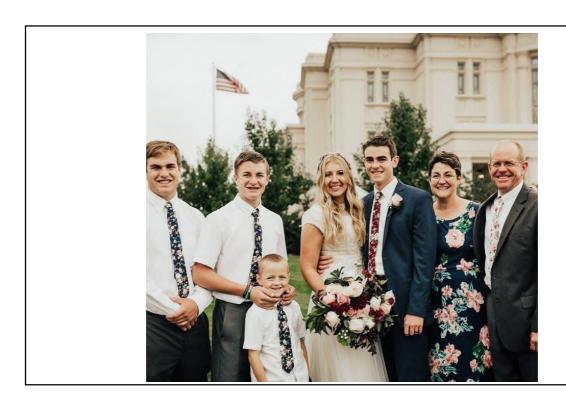
To answer question 4:

Glyphosate is a terrific tool. But like any tool, it needs to be used properly.

# AMERICA 2019



Thefreethoughtproject.com Via CFACT



#### For further information – selected references

- IARC Monographs Vol. 112, "Some Organophosphate Insecticides and Herbicides"
- US EPA Draft Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments for Glyphosate
  - https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/draft-human-health-and-ecological-risk-assessments-glyphosate
- Thoughtscapism: 17 Questions About Glyphosate
  - https://thoughtscapism.com/2016/09/07/17-questions-about-glyphosate/
- Hazard vs. Risk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= GwVTdsnN1E
- Glyphosate and Cancer: What does the data say? (Andrew Kniss)
  - https://plantoutofplace.com/2015/03/glyphosate-and-cancer-what-does-the-data-say/
- Know Ideas Media (YouTube), "Roundup for Breakfast?!"
- National Cancer Institute
  - https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/nhl.html