

## **Report: Oatmeal, breakfast foods contain unsafe amounts of weed killer**

Marc Daalder, Detroit Free Press

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A number of popular breakfast foods, including cereals, granola bars and instant oats, were tested and found to contain potentially dangerous amounts of cancer-linked glyphosate, the main ingredient in weed killer.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG), an environmental advocacy organization that conducted the study, said Wednesday that glyphosate was found in all but five of 29 oat-based foods that were tested.

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup, the most heavily used pesticide in the United States. Every year, according to the EWG, more than 250 million pounds of glyphosate is sprayed on American crops.

The World Health Organization has determined that glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans" and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set a safety level for the potentially dangerous chemical. Just last week, Monsanto was ordered by a court to pay nearly \$300 million to a man who claims his terminal cancer was caused by exposure to Roundup. Hundreds of other cases are working their way through the courts.

Monsanto strongly disputes the finding that glyphosate is a probable carcinogen and notes that over four decades, the EPA has consistently supported the safe and effective use of glyphosate.

The company notes on its website that on Dec. 18, the EPA stated the following: "The draft human health risk assessment concludes that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic to humans. The agency's assessment found no other meaningful risks to human health when the product is used according to the pesticide label. The agency's scientific findings are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by a number of other countries as well as the 2017 National Institute of Health Agricultural Health Survey."

The products tested by the EWG showed levels dramatically lower than current EPA standard for glyphosate.

For example, the amount allowed in grains is 30 parts per million. Most of the products tested by the EWA showed glyphosate levels that measured in parts per billion.

Yet California, which is known for its robust cancer warnings, has determined there is a one in 100,000 risk of cancer from glyphosate when more than 1.1 milligrams is consumed per day. EWG says it has calculated a one in one million risk if more than 0.1 milligrams is consumed and a similar risk for children if even 0.01 milligrams is consumed daily.

The worst offenders were Quaker oat products, which regularly clocked in at 400 or more glyphosate parts per billion - meaning they would be dangerous for children if even 27.5 grams were consumed daily. A single packet of Quaker's dinosaur eggs instant oatmeal contains more than three times EWG's daily safe limit for children.

Kellogg products largely passed muster - of the two evaluated, only one of the Michigan-based cereal company's oat foods came anywhere near dangerous to children and neither posed a threat to adults.

The full list of products tested and their results is available below:

Potentially dangerous to children

Back to Nature Classic Granola  
Quaker Simply Granola Oats, Honey, Raisin and Almonds  
Nature Valley Granola Protein Oats 'n Honey  
Giant Instant Oatmeal Original Flavor  
Quaker Dinosaur Eggs, Brown Sugar, Instant Oatmeal  
Great Value Original Instant Oatmeal  
Umpqua Oats, Maple Pecan  
Market Pantry Instant Oatmeal, Strawberries & Cream  
Cheerios Toasted Whole Grain Oat Cereal  
Lucky Charms (without marshmallows)  
Barbara's Multigrain Spoonfuls, Original, Cereal  
Kellogg's Cracklin' Oat Bran oat cereal  
Nature Valley Crunchy Granola Bars, Oats 'n Honey  
Quaker Steel Cut Oats  
Quaker Old Fashioned Oats  
Bob's Red Mill Steel Cut Oats

Contains safe amounts of glyphosate

Back to Nature Banana Walnut Granola Clusters  
KIND Vanilla, Blueberry Clusters with Flax Seeds  
Kellogg's NutriGrain Soft Baked Breakfast Bars, Strawberry  
Nature's Path Organic Old Fashioned Organic Oats

Whole Foods Bulk Bin conventional rolled oats  
Bob's Red Mill Organic Old Fashioned Rolled Oats

Contained no glyphosate in any tests

Nature's Path Organic Honey Almond granola  
Simple Truth Organic Instant Oatmeal, Original  
Kashi Heart to Heart Organic Honey Toasted cereal  
Cascadian Farm Organic Harvest Berry, granola bar  
365 Organic Old-Fashioned Rolled Oats

This product underwent multiple tests and tested above the dangerous level in one or more and below the dangerous level in one or more.