

Potential questions from The Doctors

Thank you for having me, I'm very excited to be here. I've been reading the headlines and know people have questions about glyphosate. As a mom and scientist, I'm happy to be here to help answer those questions and address any confusion that has come from this report.

HOMEBASE - Donna to further personalize

As a mom, I understand people want to know more about what they're feeding their families. I too care a lot about what I eat and what my kids eat and can tell you that I, and my colleagues, are committed to developing products that are safe and nutritious for everyone, including our own families and friends.

I've spent 20 years looking at the safety of herbicides, specifically glyphosate, and I'm confident that glyphosate is safe. Glyphosate herbicides have a history of more than 40 years of safe use around the world and have been the subject of hundreds of studies in that time.

IARC's assessment is disappointing because it is counter to the decades of careful and credible research reviewed by the world's leading regulatory authorities, and has the potential to confuse and alarm parents and consumers.

As an example, this past January, a German government regulatory agency called the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, or "B-F-R" in German, completed a comprehensive, multiyear examination of glyphosate safety on behalf of the European Union. B-F-R reviewed every single study IARC looked at, plus many more, over several years. And B-F-R's conclusion was that glyphosate was unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk in humans.

There's a lot of information on the internet from various points of view, but I encourage you to look at the sources of the information yourself and rely on the regulatory agencies like the EPA; it's their job to examine the safety of our products every day. I encourage everyone to do their own research, going to credible resources directly.

Just for perspective, some of the other things on IARC's list include professions like being a barber or fry cook, and products like aloe vera, cell phones, pickled vegetables – even alcohol and coffee. I don't mention that to make light of the situation. We look at the safety of our products every single day.

As do regulators around the world. Before products go to the market, the EPA conducts a risk assessment to determine the safety. In addition, the European Commission, Health Canada and many other regulatory bodies and science organizations, such as the World Health Organization, have reviewed data on glyphosate. Their overwhelming consensus has been that glyphosate does not pose a risk to humans, wildlife or the environment.

Deflect on Monsanto questions (use the Q&A)

- **What does this ranking mean to the average consumer?** As a scientist, I could go into great detail. But as a mom—and someone who uses glyphosate on her own driveway, I can tell you that you don't need to be concerned. I'm not changing how I use the product or how I consumer produce. We should all feel good about the fact that our food supply is one of the safest in the world and this product has a 40-year history of safe use.
- **How does glyphosate work?** Glyphosate is an active ingredient in many herbicides, which are used to control unwanted plants and weeds. Glyphosate is unique because it acts on an enzyme only found in plants, one not found in humans, animals or insects.
- **What would you say to people who are worried about using glyphosate?** There are people who dedicate their careers to studying products, and none of the data they used to reach their conclusions that this product is safe has changed. I encourage individuals to look to the authors and the original research—they reached the opposite conclusion looking at the same, and more, data as IARC. I encourage people to be smart consumers and cautious about what they see in social media. An excellent example is the agricultural health study, which found no health concerns with people who are using glyphosate every day.
- **What does the report say?** This is a body that exams studies about many everyday items, looking for potential carcinogens. In this case they looked at glyphosate, a product that's been on the market, studied and used safely for more than 40 years. IARC selected very few points of data in the week they reviewed the product and reached a cautionary position. What their report doesn't do is establish any link to a human health concern. It's why I, like much of scientific community, was so shocked, because it's inconsistent. It contradicts what other bodies have found for years.
- **Why is WHO saying this?** We were very surprised by this report – because other bodies inside the WHO came to the opposite conclusions – and would like to sit down with IARC to understand how they reached their conclusions.
- **Am I going to get cancer from eating fruits and vegetables?** No. There isn't any real science that would say that. This product has been on the market for 40 years and been reviewed time and again. There is a lot of misinformation out there, but it's my job to look at every study that comes out, along with any allegations, and research them. We always start by asking: is it reproducible, is it relevant and what does it mean?
- **What should consumers do with fruits and vegetables?** It's a great idea to rinse and wipe them—they've been handled by many individuals before they get to your table. That's it. The EPA, USDA, and other agencies do a really good job of keeping our food supply safe. We have one of the safest food supplies in the history of mankind.
- **Should farmers be concerned about this?** No. Studies have shown that it is safe and they've found it to be one of the most beneficial tools on their farms.

- **It can't be good for consumers to eat vegetables doused with chemicals, right?** Farmers use this across their fields, sometimes thousands of acres, and are judicious about how much they buy and apply.
- **How could IARC come to this conclusion?** This is a very new process to us and we're looking into how to sit down with IARC to review it. We understand that it's difficult to review thousands of studies in just 7 days. As a scientist I'd love for IARC to update their review process to the more evolved hazard and risk approach most scientific organizations have adopted.
- **Studies have found glyphosate in breast milk and urine. Doesn't this show that we're consuming it at unhealthy levels?** I've been studying this for 20 years and know the product is safe. What people don't realize is that everything around you is processed by your body and then excreted. This is no different. If exposure were to occur, it is rapidly eliminated from the body.
- **What about the warning label on Roundup?** The warning label on the product is not about human health, it's because if glyphosate doesn't dry and you walk on it, then walk on your grass, you'll kill a footprint shape into your grass.
- **What is the difference between a cancer "hazard" and a cancer "risk?"** In general terms, a hazard is something that has the ability to cause harm. For example, many things we do each day such as driving or walking down stairs are hazardous. They all have the ability to cause harm. A risk is the chance that a person will be harmed if exposed to a hazard. For instance, a person who drives while using a cell phone or while under the influence of alcohol has a much higher risk of harm than a person following the rules of the road. IARC's focus is limited to assessing cancer "hazards," while regulatory agencies like the EPA that are responsible for ensuring public safety are focused on assessing cancer "risks."