

FOOD

Kellogg's wants its suppliers to end use of glyphosate

Laura Reiley *Washington Post*

Kellogg's, the multinational food manufacturer based in Battle Creek, Michigan, is taking a stand.

But very quietly.

At the end of 2019, the company made a commitment to phase out by 2025 wheat and oats on which farmers have used glyphosate as a drying agent, according to Kellogg's chief sustainability officer Amy Senter. Glyphosate is the active ingredient in Roundup, the Bayer-Monsanto weedkiller that is the most heavily used herbicide in the U.S.

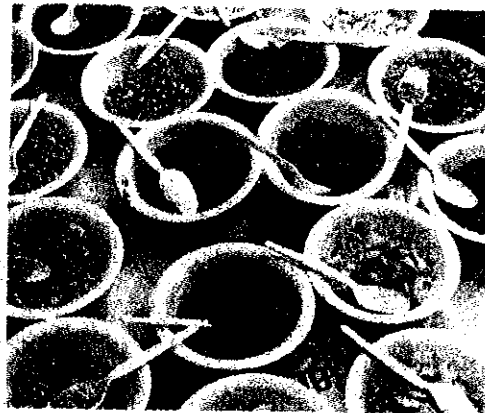
Although this practice is not widespread in Kellogg's wheat and oat supply chains, the company said in a post on its Open for Breakfast website that "we are working with our suppliers to phase out using glyphosate as pre-harvest drying agent in our wheat and oat supply chain in our major markets."

But Kellogg's neglected to tell the industry groups that support wheat and oat growers, said Caitlin Eannello, the director of communications for the National Association of Wheat Growers.

"We heard something this morning but didn't realize this was in the works on their end, and we're trying to find out exactly what it means," Eannello said. "Glyphosate

is very safe, and there's no real alternative. If it were to be totally eradicated, producers would probably stop growing. (Kellogg's) made an announcement without talking to us."

Eannello says pre-harvest applications of glyphosate occur on 3% or less of wheat acreage in the United States. These applications typically occur when wheat kernel development is complete and the crop has matured, just a little more than seven days before harvest, so that the wheat plant is not absorbing the glyphosate but the green weeds in the fields will be killed by it.



By 2025, Kellogg's will no longer buy wheat and oats from farms that have used glyphosate as a drying agent. *Kalamazoo Gazette, file*