

IMPOSSIBLE™

**The Unofficial Correction
of “Moms Across America”**

05.18.19

“Moms Across America” Article

Home » Blog »

GMO IMPOSSIBLE BURGER POSITIVE FOR CARCINOGENIC GLYPHOSATE


POSTED BY ZEN HONEYCUTT | 2694.40CS | ON MAY 16, 2019

GMO IMPOSSIBLE BURGER TESTS 11X HIGHER FOR GLYPHOSATE WEED KILLER RESIDUE THAN BEYOND MEAT BURGER


For Immediate Release
Contact Debbie Luican
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May 16, 2019, Mission Viejo, CA. Two days ago a Monsanto trial jury awarded the plaintiffs over **\$2 billion dollars**, for the connection between the glyphosate-based herbicide, Roundup, and their cancer. Today, Moms Across America announces that the Impossible Burger* tested positive for glyphosate. The **levels of glyphosate detected in the Impossible burger** by Health Research Institute Laboratories were 11 X higher than the Beyond Meat Burger. The total result (glyphosate and it's break down AMPA) was 11.3 ppb. Moms Across America also tested the Beyond Meat Burger and the results were 1 ppb.


"We are shocked to find that the Impossible Burger can have up to 11X higher levels of glyphosate residues than the Beyond Meat Burger according to these samples tested. This new product is being marketed



SUPPORT OUR MISSION PROTECT YOUR FAMILY



Restore for Gut Health



Colorado Hemp Oil

Feedback

Impossible Foods Response

Here's just one example of an untested, unregulated quack “supplement” containing coal extracts, among other ridiculous items that this site pushes -- in many cases to people desperate for a cure for serious illness and diseases.

[Home](#) » [Blog](#) »

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Impossible Foods Response

MAA is an anti-GMO, anti-vaccine, anti-science, fundamentalist group that cynically peddles a toxic brew of medical misinformation and completely unregulated, untested, potentially toxic quack “supplements” including \$60 bottles of “hydrogen water,” coal extracts and other bogus products, ripping off customers using scare tactics and distorted “facts” about science and medicine.

“We are shocked to find that the Impossible Burger can have up to 11X higher levels of glyphosate residues than the Beyond Meat Burger according to these samples tested. This new product is being marketed as a solution for “healthy” eating, when in fact 11 ppb of glyphosate herbicide consumption can be highly dangerous. Only 0.1 ppb of glyphosate has been shown to destroy gut bacteria, which is where the stronghold of the immune system lies. I am gravely concerned that consumers are being misled to believe the Impossible Burger is healthy.” stated Zen Honeycutt, Executive Director of Moms Across America.

Impossible Foods Response

Glyphosate is commonly detected at these low levels in both organic and non-organic foods. In fact, the minuscule levels of these chemicals that were detected in both the Beyond Burger and Impossible Burger were less than 1/1000 the limit set by EPA for glyphosate residue in dried pea (8,000 ppb) and soybeans (20,000 ppb), respectively. They were even almost 100-fold lower than the glyphosate limits set by USDA for ORGANIC certification of pea protein (400 ppb) and soy protein (1,000 ppb) - ie, the glyphosate levels measured in both products would easily pass the glyphosate-residue requirements for organic certification of soybeans or peas, respectively.

What does 11.3 ppb [=11.3 ug/kg] mean in terms of how much glyphosate plus AMPA would be present in one 4-oz.(113g) serving of Impossible Burger? The answer is 1.3 micrograms [11.3 ug/1000g x 113g].

This is almost 1000 times lower than the no significant risk level for glyphosate ingestion (1100 micrograms per day) set by California Prop 65. The safe daily limits for glyphosate exposure set by FAO/WHO and the EPA are much higher.

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Impossible Foods Response

Safe levels for glyphosate ingestion have been set by many US and international regulatory agencies. California Prop 65 sets a safe harbor level for posing no significant risk of cancer at 1100 ug per day (1000 x the amount in a 4 oz Impossible burger, based on MAA’s report). The EPA and FAO/WHO set limits of 1 mg per kg body weight per day. For a 60-kg (132 lb) person, this equates to 60,000 ug per day (60,000 times the amount in a 4 oz Impossible burger, based on MAA’s report).

Impossible Foods Response

This is not even close to correct. In fact, it’s wrong by a factor of almost a million-fold! The paper cited by Honeycutt demonstrates that the lowest glyphosate concentration that could inhibit any of the bacteria tested was actually 0.075 mg/ml for Bifidobacterium adolescent (see Table 2). 0.075 mg/ml is 75,000 ppb, not 0.1 ppb. (It appears that MAA rounded up from .075 mg/ml to .1 mg/ml and then confused -- or intentionally misrepresented -- mg/ml for ppb when in fact 1 mg/ml = 1,000,000 ppb)

The Impossible Burger is a new genetically modified (GM) plant-based product that was prominently featured at the Natural Products Expo West. Burger King, White Castle, Hard Rock Cafe, Red Robin,



Cheesecake Factory** and hundreds of other restaurants now carry the product where it does not have to be labeled or described as GM on the menu. The Impossible Burger is made of GMO soy, which has been shown to cause organ damage in animal studies and has been shown to be significantly different from non GMO soy. The GM ingredients of the Impossible Burger, which includes a genetically modified yeast and GM soy leghemoglobin proteins, 46 of which are undisclosed and untested, are even more concerning to many consumers than the long-term health effects from glyphosate because of the reported immediate allergic reaction potential, which is acknowledged by the manufacturer. The part of the genetically modified soy used in the Impossible Burger has never before been allowed in the human food supply and has not been properly safety tested.

Impossible Foods Response

More than 7,000 restaurants serve the Impossible Burger.

Impossible Foods Response

Completely disingenuous. Please [read this blog](#) about the significant nutritional benefits of soy. Please [read this blog](#) to learn why Impossible Foods uses GM soy.

Impossible Foods Response

There are not 46 "undisclosed and untested" soy leghemoglobin proteins. In the course of extensive safety testing that resulted in [an FDA "no questions" letter](#), Impossible Foods reported 46 "unknown" proteins found in yeast. This number is a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of different proteins in "meat" from animal cadavers, cheese, yeast, our own bodies *and in everything we eat every single day* that are still "unknown." Scientists use the labels "unknown" or "hypothetical" for proteins whose biological functions haven't yet been fully characterized.

In addition, this link refers to our acknowledgement of the simple scientific fact that any of the thousands of proteins we consume every day has the potential to be an allergen, not a specific concern about the allergic potential of soy leghemoglobin. Our soy leghemoglobin is made by fermentation of a yeast strain that contains the leghemoglobin gene from soybeans.

Impossible Foods Response

Not only has it been properly safety-tested, those tests have been exhaustively reviewed by independent food-safety experts and [by the US FDA which had "no questions" about its safety](#).

Although the leghemoglobin soy is claimed to be “identical to soy heme which has been consumed for thousands of years”, the following question posed by Consumers Report’s Michael Hansen has never been answered: “How could the heme in the Impossible Burger be ‘identical’ to the heme humans have been consuming for hundreds of thousands of years in meat and other foods if you genetically engineer it?”

The Impossible Burger also contains conventional wheat which, along with soy, is commonly sprayed with glyphosate herbicides as a drying agent before harvesting. The “natural” product also contains potatoes, which may be genetically modified, and could also absorb the chemical through the soil after pre-planting herbicide applications. Glyphosate does not wash, dry, or cook off and was listed on the Prop 65 California EPA list of carcinogens in 2017.

Impossible Foods Response

MAA is apparently confused about the distinction between heme, a small molecule found in the identical form in every cell in the human body and in all animals and plants, and the proteins that carry heme and keep it in an active form. The heme in our yeast is atom-for-atom identical to the heme molecule in meat. The heme protein we use (soy leghemoglobin) is an evolutionary relative of the heme protein in meat (bovine myoglobin). We describe these proteins as ‘substantially similar’ because they carry out the same cellular and biochemical functions and have nearly identical three-dimensional structures. Furthermore the heme protein is not the active ingredient -- the molecularly identical heme is -- the heme protein is simply a carrier that, whether it comes from a cow or a soybean, keeps the heme in an unreactive state until it is released by cooking.

Impossible Foods Response

The Impossible Burger 2.0 does not contain any wheat (it is gluten-free); the original Impossible Burger did contain wheat as its main source of protein. We had an independent, third-party, highly credible lab screen our wheat protein and Impossible Burgers made with wheat protein for more than 300 pesticides and never detected any glyphosate or AMPA. It is an important part of our health and safety program to routinely test all key ingredients and our products for environmental contaminants (such as pesticides, mycotoxins and heavy metals).

Glyphosate herbicides have not only been proven to be carcinogenic, but they are also neurotoxic, endocrine disrupting, cause DNA damage and liver disease at ultra low levels, lower than what was found in the Impossible Burger.

According to the American Liver Foundation over 100 million people in America, (that's about 1/3 of Americans) are estimated to have non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.



Glyphosate herbicide is also widely sprayed on animal feed, which harms the health of animals, so supporting the use of this herbicide by

consuming the Impossible Burger and other non-organic products is an animal welfare issue as well.

Impossible Foods Response

“Proven to be carcinogenic” is a ridiculous claim, refuted by multiple government agencies, including EFSA, Germany, Canada, and the World Health Organization (WHO), who determined that glyphosate exposure in the human diet is unlikely a carcinogenic risk. No regulatory authority in the world considers glyphosate to be carcinogenic to humans at current exposure levels.

Impossible Foods Response

Huh? This is a complete non-sequitur.

Impossible Foods Response

Unfathomably illogical. How is it possible that consuming a plant-based Impossible Burger, instead of a burger made from the carcass of cows, “harms the health of animals”? Setting aside the inherent absurdity of this claim, the amount of glyphosate and other herbicides and pesticides applied to the crops fed to the cows to produce a typical American burger is more than five times higher than the amount applied to the soy used to produce the equivalent Impossible Burger.

The impact glyphosate and GMO products can no longer be ignored. Honeycutt considers, "If Bayer goes bankrupt due to the outcome of about 14,000 lawsuits filed against them for the carcinogenic effects of glyphosate herbicides, who will become liable for harm to the public? I wonder if it will be retailers and food brands who continue to expose the public to toxic glyphosate herbicides."

Moms Across America calls upon consumers to ask their restaurant and grocery stores not to sell this product and to sell/buy/eat whole, organic, plant based, *real* food instead. They also request **public comments be made to the EPA to cancel the license for glyphosate**. Glyphosate herbicides have been severely restricted or **banned in 34 countries**.

Moms Across America is a 501c3 non-profit whose mission is educate mother and others to transform the food industry and environment, creating healthy communities together. Their motto is *Empowered Moms, Healthy Kids*.

**Impossible Burger is manufactured by Impossible Foods.*

*** Article corrected from Del Taco and Carl's Jr-they carry the Beyond Meat Burger.*

Impossible Foods Response

Impossible Foods calls upon all companies to do what's right for consumers and the environment. Nothing is more important for human health, global food security and the future of the world than replacing the use of animals in food production. In fact, most of the agricultural pesticides used in the US are applied to crops fed to livestock. So no single step would do more to reduce pesticide exposure then eliminating the use of livestock in food production. That's our mission.

Impossible Foods Response

MAA calls itself as a non-profit, but make no mistake: This outfit is a supplement-pushing e-commerce company that collects and sells consumer data. By MAA's [own admission](#), it gets a commission on sales of supplements from other affiliates -- and none of the bogus products it pushes have been evaluated or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration or any other governmental authority.

Thank You.