



The Glyphosate Deception

What Chemical Companies Never Told America or Its Farmers

By: Lisa Bennett

In the weeks since President Trump signed the February 18, 2026, executive order invoking the Defense Production Act to ramp up domestic production of elemental phosphorus and glyphosate-based herbicides, the Make America Healthy Again movement has been quietly fracturing. Farmers who once viewed the administration as a bulwark against overreach are now raising sharp questions. Moms battling chemicals in school lunches are calling the order “a love letter to glyphosate.” Regenerative cattlemen who escaped the chemical treadmill say the move doesn’t free them—it locks the gate behind them.

The order positions glyphosate—the core of Roundup—as indispensable for food security and national defense. Without it, the text warns, yields collapse, rural economies falter, and affordable food slips out of reach. Yet the court records, the internal emails that litigation finally dragged into daylight, the voices rising from the very movement Trump helped energize, the patent filings that few noticed, the soil and health patterns that emerged in farming communities, and the simple natural options that were never part of the standard advice together sketch a deeper picture: one of studies shelved, science shaped behind closed doors, jury findings of malice, billions changing hands, and federal protection arriving at the precise moment legal pressure peaked—while the same corporate hands hold patents on venom-derived compounds sprayed across the same fields.

No single memo screams conspiracy. But when the 1999 toxicology review, the employee safety sheets, the EPA correspondence, the jury verdicts, the ongoing lawsuits, the venom patents, Jonathan Otto’s stark warning, the documented chemical-pharmaceutical overlaps, the cancer clusters, the soil collapse, and the free alternative of diluted human urine all sit on the same table, the pattern invites anyone paying attention to wonder: in a cycle where corporations fund the research, help write the rules, patent multiple tools, gain government shields when the bills arrive, and leave farmers and families to absorb the costs, whose security is truly being protected?

The documents litigation forced open—the Monsanto Papers—show executives calculating how to draft “independent” studies in-house and pay academics to sign them. One internal note celebrated keeping costs down by writing the papers themselves. Another admitted the full Roundup formulation had never been tested for carcinogenicity, even as marketing called it safer than table salt. Monsanto scientist Donna Farmer wrote plainly: “We cannot say Roundup is noncarcinogenic. We have not done the necessary testing.”

A 1999 secret review by Dr. James Perry at the University of Wales found glyphosate triggers oxidative DNA damage—a cancer pathway.

Monsanto filed it away. It emerged only years later in California discovery. The World Health Organization’s cancer agency classified glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen in 2015; Swedish oncologists had drawn the non-Hodgkin lymphoma link in 2001. Yet the EPA’s 2016 review—court papers allege Monsanto staff edited drafts and officials tipped the company about upcoming scrutiny—declared it “not likely to be carcinogenic.” One EPA manager wrote of a federal study that could have shifted everything: “If I can kill this I deserve a medal.”

Juries saw the gap. Dewayne Johnson: \$78.5 million. Hardeman v. Monsanto: \$80.2 million. Alva and Alberta Pilliod: \$2 billion. They examined Monsanto’s own employee safety sheet requiring respirators, chemical suits, goggles, gloves, and rubber boots—while commercials showed families spraying in shorts and T-shirts. The label they applied: malice.

Bayer, which purchased Monsanto in 2018, has paid billions and still faces 60,000 to 67,000 pending lawsuits in state and federal courts—down from over 100,000, with 4,000–4,400 still in federal court, thousands more in state courts,



© Dusan Kostic | Dreamstime.com

and new filings continuing. A \$7.25 billion class-action settlement proposal surfaced just before the order. The Supreme Court hears a preemption case April 27 that could decide whether state failure-to-warn claims survive. The February 18 order, declaring glyphosate critical to defense, has attorneys noting it reinforces the same kind of immunity shield vaccine makers have long enjoyed.

Inside MAHA the response has been blunt. Zen Honeycutt of Moms Across America called it a love letter to glyphosate and said it has sharpened the drive to teach families label-reading, backyard growing, and organic choices—mirroring how vaccine mandates once drew attention to side effects. Tony Lyons of MAHA Action spoke of a bailout for a carcinogen while noting the goal of cutting Chinese dependence on phosphorus and generic glyphosate. John Klar, Vermont regenerative farmer and MAHA Action partner, observed rising scrutiny of food sources and growing demand for non-chemical paths. “No one is eating glyphosate in the name of defending national security.”

Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm called glyphosate a deadly poison sustaining GMO corn and soy that mostly feed ethanol plants or leave the country. Will Harris of White Oak Pastures, fourth-generation Georgia cattleman who rebuilt his operation after watching soil and livestock decline, described the order as trapping farmers on a toxic treadmill. He now hosts conventional growers hunting for an exit.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. addressed the tension directly. Pesticides are toxic by design; manufacturers have paid tens of billions settling cancer claims; farm communities report elevated rates. Abrupt removal would spike prices and shutter farms. The order, he said, brings production home from adversaries. HHS, USDA, and EPA followed with a three-pillar strategy and \$700 million in regenerative transition grants—measures MAHA voices are pressing to expand with tax breaks, robotic weeding, and faster alternative approvals.

Investigators have surfaced another layer. Monsanto—now Bayer—holds the world-leading patents and assignments on animal venom-based pesticides, compounds drawn from funnel-web spiders, cobras, cone snails, black widows, scorpions, wasps, and snakes.

Jonathan Otto, the Australian investigative journalist and filmmaker known for health advocacy work, has connected these dots in recent discussions tied to the broader pattern. He argues the same corporations shaping agriculture also influence medicine, creating a loop where chemicals damage health and pharmaceuticals manage symptoms. Otto has warned: “We are headed for a mass extinction event, especially with Trump’s Executive Order giving immunity to Bayer for glyphosates. Leaders of chemical and pharmaceutical companies believe in population reduction, so

they see their products’ health effects as doing a public service.”

The broader loop appears in overlapping corporate portfolios: synthetic venom analogs developed for agriculture sit alongside pharmaceutical products like Ozempic and Wegovy, both derived from a hormone found in Gila monster venom.

The same corporate entities operate seamlessly across food systems, biotechnology, and medicine—connections documented in public patents and pipelines but seldom highlighted for the farmers spraying the fields daily or the families eating the harvest at the end of the supply chain.

Glyphosate itself disrupts the shikimate pathway in soil microbes, killing the organisms that cycle nutrients and fight disease. It binds zinc, iron, manganese, and calcium so plants cannot use them. Dead microbes lead to compaction, harder soil, less water retention—pushing farmers toward more fertilizer and deeper dependency. Resistant “superweeds” now cover more than 100 million acres, forcing higher doses or new chemicals. And the chemical is not only sprayed while crops are growing; it is also applied directly to harvested fields as a desiccant, drying oats, wheat, barley, and other grains right before harvest so they can be collected more efficiently. The result is measurable residues ending up straight in the food supply—especially in everyday oat products that fill grocery shelves and breakfast bowls. Cancer clusters have appeared in farming regions—non-Hodgkin lymphoma in Nebraska children on one street, “lymphoma belt” labels in California’s Central Valley, pets and families affected near sprayed fields. Water runs downhill carrying residues; one French village saw half the homes lose a spouse to cancer before petitions halted roadside spraying that fed directly into the town’s drinking supply. France later banned Roundup for private use. U.S. fields still receive 280 million pounds yearly.

Yet nature quietly offered a different path the entire time—one that never required corporate patents or billion-dollar marketing. Human urine, diluted 1:10 with water, contains the exact nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium sold in expensive bags. The United States produces 180 billion liters of it annually, a free, renewable source simply flushed away. Modern studies confirm it matches synthetic fertilizer performance while feeding soil biology instead of killing it. Thousands of years of use worldwide prove the point. No middleman. No dependency.

Regenerative operations like White Oak Pastures and Polyface show the land rebounds—soil loosens, microbes return, animals thrive, yields stabilize—without the inputs. Farmers at Harris’s workshops are voting with their boots for the off-ramp. States and localities are already restricting use. Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) introduced a bipartisan bill to block funding for the order,



stating: “If we’re Making America Healthy Again, government shouldn’t be promoting glyphosate and providing liability immunity for corporations making it.”

No single document brands anyone corrupt. No verdict convicts every regulator. Juries simply weighed what they saw and awarded damages. Internal emails simply recorded what employees wrote to one another. Patents sit in public records. The executive order simply activates existing law to secure supply chains. Urine is simply what the body produces every day.

Yet when the buried DNA-damage study, the ghostwritten papers regulators cited, the EPA coordination, the jury findings of malice, the billions paid, the 60,000-to-67,000 lawsuits still moving through state and federal courts, the national-security shield at peak legal exposure, the venom patents, Otto’s warning, the chemical-pharmaceutical overlaps, the

soil collapse, the cancer clusters, the desiccant spraying that puts residues directly into oat products and other foods, and the free natural fertilizer that was never part of the standard advice all occupy the same page, the question lingers for anyone tracing the trail: in a system where corporations fund the science, help draft the rules, patent the tools, gain federal protection when the bills come due, and leave farmers dependent while alternatives are ignored, whose future is the government really securing?

Farmers, consumers, cancer patients, soil, water, and the next generation now confront the choice the MAHA movement is voicing in the open: keep riding the chemical cycle that courts, documents, juries, and the land itself have repeatedly scrutinized, or accelerate the regenerative and natural path already proving itself on the ground—one handful of soil, one diluted bucket of urine, one independent farmer at a time.

The order did not invent the dependency, the lawsuits, the patents, or the patterns. But it has brought the stakes into sharp relief. When the same government that once oversaw the reviews now deploys defense powers to shield production of a product juries tied to harm—while broader corporate holdings and forgotten natural options raise further questions—the public is left to connect the dots for itself.

And more Americans—inside MAHA, on regenerative farms, and in backyards across the country—are doing exactly that.

“Only after the last tree has been cut down,

Only after the last river has been poisoned,

Only after the last fish has been caught,

Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten.”

— Cree Indian Prophecy 🗿