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13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
14 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
15 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

16 DANIELLE S. COOPER, on behalf of herself  
and all others similarly situated,

17 Plaintiff,

18 v.

19 THE QUAKER OATS COMPANY,

20 Defendant.

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT  
FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF AND  
DAMAGES**

CLASS ACTION

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

23 Plaintiff Danielle S. Cooper (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others  
24 similarly situated, by and through her undersigned counsel, hereby files this Class Action  
25  
26  
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1 Complaint for Equitable Relief and Damages, against Defendant, The Quaker Oats Company  
2 (“Quaker”), and alleges as follows:

3 1. Defendant aggressively advertises and promotes its oatmeal products as “100%  
4 Natural,” and claims its oats are grown using “eco-friendly” methods that pose “less risk of  
5 pollutants and groundwater pollution.” These claims are false, deceptive, and misleading.  
6 Quaker Oats are not “100% Natural,” but instead contain the chemical glyphosate, a potent  
7 herbicide that last year was declared a probable human carcinogen by the cancer research arm  
8 of the World Health Organization. Glyphosate makes its way into Quaker Oats not simply  
9 because it is used as an agricultural weed killer, but because it is sprayed on the oats as a drying  
10 agent shortly before harvest.

11 2. There is nothing unlawful about Quaker Oats’ growing and processing methods.  
12 What is unlawful is Quaker’s claim that Quaker Oats is something that it is not in order to  
13 capitalize on growing consumer demand for healthful, natural products.

14 3. Plaintiff brings this deceptive advertising case on behalf of a nationwide class of  
15 Quaker Oats purchasers, and seeks relief including refunds to purchasers for the falsely  
16 advertised products and a court-ordered corrective advertising campaign to inform the public of  
17 the true nature of Quaker’s carcinogen-contaminated oats.

### 18 I. INTRODUCTION

19 4. This is a proposed consumer protection class action for injunctive relief and  
20 economic damages based on misrepresentations and omissions committed by Quaker regarding  
21 certain varieties of its products, which Quaker falsely and deceptively labels and markets as  
22 “Natural,” “100% Natural,” “100% Natural Whole Grain,” and “Heart Healthy” or “part of a  
23 heart healthy diet.” The products are not “Natural,” “100% Natural,” or “100% Natural Whole  
24 Grain” as labeled and marketed. In fact, the products contain glyphosate, a potent and  
25 *unnatural* biocide.  
26  
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1           5.       Specifically, the products at issue are: (1) Quaker Oats Old-Fashioned, (2)  
2 Quaker Oats Quick 1-Minute, and (3) Quaker Steel Cut Oats Sweet Almond Mint (collectively,  
3 “Quaker Oats,” or the “Products”).

4           6.       Aware of the health risks and environmental damage caused by chemical-laden  
5 foods, especially packaged foods, consumers increasingly demand foods that are natural and  
6 whole, and that omit chemicals.

7           7.       Quaker knows that consumers seek out and wish to purchase whole, natural  
8 foods that do not contain chemicals, and that consumers will pay more for foods that they  
9 believe to be natural than they will pay for foods that they do not believe to be natural.

10          8.       To capture this growing market, Quaker labels its Quaker Oats products as  
11 “100% Natural Whole Grain.” Quaker also states, on the front labels of its Quaker Oats Old  
12 Fashioned product, “As part of a heart-healthy diet, the soluble fiber in Oatmeal can help  
13 reduce cholesterol.” The back of its Quaker Oats Old Fashioned label advises consumers, “Get  
14 your day off to a Heart Healthy Start with Whole Grain Quaker Oatmeal!” *See* Ex. 1 (product  
15 labels).

16          9.       The only ingredient listed on Quaker’s “100% Natural Whole Grain” Quaker  
17 Oats products is “100% Natural Whole-Grain Quaker Quality Rolled Oats.” *See* Ex. 1 (product  
18 labels).

19          10.      No reasonable consumer, seeing these representations, would expect Quaker  
20 Oats to contain anything unnatural, or anything other than whole, rolled oats.

21          11.      Quaker Oats, despite their labels, do contain something other than whole, rolled  
22 oats; namely, Quaker Oats contain glyphosate.

23          12.      Glyphosate is not “Natural” or “100% Natural.” Glyphosate is a synthetic  
24 biocide and probable human carcinogen, with additional health dangers rapidly becoming  
25 known.

1           13.     Glyphosate is “legal” in connection to food products, insofar as the law does not  
2 preclude the use of glyphosate in treating and harvesting crops. Quaker, however, did not and  
3 does not simply claim that its Quaker Oats are “legal”; it claims that Quaker Oats are “Natural”  
4 and contain “100% Natural Whole Grain” and nothing else. *See* Ex. 1.

5           14.     By deceiving consumers about the nature, quality, and/or ingredients of its  
6 Quaker Oats, Quaker is able to sell a greater volume of Quaker Oats, charge higher prices for  
7 Quaker Oats, and take away market share from competing products, thereby increasing its own  
8 sales and profits.

9           15.     Consumers lack the scientific knowledge necessary to determine whether  
10 Quaker Oats in fact contain only “100% Natural Whole Grain,” to know or to ascertain the true  
11 ingredients and quality of Quaker Oats, or to assess the safety of ingesting glyphosate.  
12 Reasonable consumers must and do rely on Quaker to report honestly what Quaker Oats  
13 contain, and whether the ingredients in fact are “Natural” or “Heart Healthy.”

14           16.     Quaker further hides the fact that the oats contain a modern biocide by  
15 marketing some Quaker Oats as “Old Fashioned,” and all Quaker Oats under a picture of a man  
16 dressed in Colonial-era attire.

17           17.     Across all Quaker Oats products, Quaker conceals the presence of glyphosate,  
18 fails to warn consumers of the presence of glyphosate, and fails to warn consumers about the  
19 harmful effects of ingesting glyphosate.

20           18.     Should any consumer seek further information, Quaker’s own website declares  
21 that Quaker Oats are “a healthful and tasty ingredient to many recipes.”

22 <http://www.quakeroats.com/products/hot-cereals/old-fashioned-oats.aspx> (last visited April 26,  
23 2016). Quaker’s website further promotes the health benefits of Quaker Oats, stating: “Even  
24 better, the goodness doesn’t stop with the taste; Quaker Oats is 100% whole grains which may  
25 help reduce the risk of heart disease.” *Id.* (last visited April 26, 2016).

1           19.     Quaker intended for consumers to rely on its representations, and reasonable  
2 consumers did in fact so rely. As a result of its false and misleading labeling, failure to warn,  
3 and omissions of fact, Quaker was able to sell Quaker Oats to hundreds of thousands of  
4 consumers throughout the United States and to realize sizeable profits.

5           20.     Plaintiff is not seeking damages for any personal injuries in this Complaint<sup>1</sup>;  
6 rather, this case is based on Quaker's misrepresentations and omissions regarding the Quaker  
7 Oats Products purchased by Plaintiff and Class Members during the class period, defined  
8 below.

9           21.     Plaintiff and numerous other Class Members who purchased the Products  
10 suffered economic damages in a similar manner because they purchased, purchased more of, or  
11 paid more for Quaker Oats than they would have had they known the Products were not  
12 "Natural" or "100% Natural" as labeled and marketed. When a product purports to be "100%  
13 Natural," consumers not only are willing to pay more for the product, they expect it to be  
14 pesticide-free. Had Plaintiff and Class Members known at or before the time of purchase that  
15 the Products in fact contain glyphosate, a synthetic biocide and probable human carcinogen,  
16 they would not have purchased or used the Products, and they will not continue to use the  
17 Products unless and until remedial action is taken.

18           22.     Plaintiff, and all other similarly situated consumers, did not bargain for  
19 Products that contain unnatural ingredients in exchange for their payment of the purchase price.  
20 Plaintiff contends that the Products are not "Natural" or "100% Natural Whole Grain" as  
21 labeled and marketed, and as a result, such representations mislead consumers into purchasing  
22 the Products.

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25 <sup>1</sup> All potential claims for individual tort relief by Plaintiff and Putative Class Members are  
26 preserved and outside the scope of the damages sought in this litigation.  
27









1       **A. Quaker’s Brand Image: Natural, “Green,” and Environmentally Conscious.**

2           39. Hoping to capture this growing market, Quaker markets Quaker Oats as a  
3 natural and healthful choice containing only “100% Natural Whole Grain.” Quaker does not  
4 disclose the presence in Quaker Oats of anything other than “100% Natural Whole Grain.”

5           40. Quaker cultivates its image as a healthful, wholesome, impurity-free brand—the  
6 kind of company whose label claims can be trusted. Indeed, Quaker advertises its Quaker Oats  
7 with the “image of a man dressed in the Quaker garb... because the Quaker faith projected the  
8 values of honesty, integrity, purity and strength.” [http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-](http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/content/quaker-faq.aspx)  
9 [oats/content/quaker-faq.aspx](http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/content/quaker-faq.aspx) (last visited April 26, 2016).

10          41. Quaker also presents itself as a leader in environmental responsibility. On its  
11 website, Quaker asserts, “As part of Quaker’s holistic approach to environmental sustainability,  
12 we have taken special interest in our milling and manufacturing processes.”

13 [http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment/innovations-in-milling-and-manufacturing)  
14 [environment/innovations-in-milling-and-manufacturing](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment/innovations-in-milling-and-manufacturing) (last visited April 26, 2016).

15          42. Quaker also presents itself as an expert source of information on oats—touting  
16 their health benefits and environmentally friendly properties. Quaker’s website headlines the  
17 “Quaker Oats Center of Excellence,” billed as “advancing the unique benefits of the oat” with a

18 “Scientific Advisory Board comprised of prominent experts in science, agricultural  
19 sustainability, product innovation and consumer insights.” [http://www.quakeroats.com/about-](http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/content/quakeroats-center-of-excellence.aspx)  
20 [quaker-oats/content/quakeroats-center-of-excellence.aspx](http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/content/quakeroats-center-of-excellence.aspx) (last visited April 26, 2016);

21 [http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/content/quakeroats-center-of-excellence/meet-](http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/content/quakeroats-center-of-excellence/meet-the-experts.aspx)  
22 [the-experts.aspx](http://www.quakeroats.com/about-quaker-oats/content/quakeroats-center-of-excellence/meet-the-experts.aspx) (last visited April 26, 2016).

23          43. Quaker claims that it possesses unique expertise in oat cultivation by its status as  
24 the world’s largest miller of oats:

25                   At Quaker, we know our oats. Having worked with farmers for  
26                   over 70 years, we have high standards for our growers. But we  
27                   appreciate the farmers who have helped us become the world’s

1 largest miller of oats, and have worked with them over the years  
2 to implement new changes and innovations in the way they farm  
3 their land.

4 While the health benefits of oats are well documented, many  
5 people will be surprised to learn about the numerous  
6 environmental advantages associated with this humble grain.  
7 Oats provide benefits to the environment that are surprising from  
8 such an unassuming grain.

9 [http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment/growing-](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment/growing-our-oat)  
10 our-oat (last visited April 26, 2016). Quaker’s website goes on to assert that cultivating oats  
11 reduces the risk of ground- and surface-water contamination and, because oats require less  
12 tilling, reduces soil’s susceptibility to erosion. *See id.*

13 44. Quaker asserts, specifically, that cultivating oats *reduces* the use of herbicides  
14 that risk pollution and groundwater contamination—“Since oats require less herbicide spray  
15 than many other grains, there is less risk of pollutants and groundwater contamination,” *id.*—  
16 further creating the impression in reasonable consumers that Quaker Oats are “100% Natural”  
17 products in which consumers will not find herbicides.

18 45. Quaker also suggests that purchasing Quaker Oats is a “green” choice, and that  
19 Quaker Oats are “eco-friendly.” Its website links to Facebook “conversations” with topics like,  
20 “What are some of your tips for living a ‘greener’ life?” and runs polls like, “What’s preventing  
21 you from buying ‘eco-friendly’ products?” *See* [http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment)  
22 your-world/oats-and-the-environment (last visited April 26, 2016).

23 46. Indeed, Quaker presents itself as a “green” organization from top to bottom:

24 Quaker is working to incorporate sustainability practices into  
25 every facet of its operation. From the corporate level to employee  
26 sponsored grassroots organizations, we are dedicated to reducing  
27 our impact on the environment.

[. . .]

Our employees reflect and help drive Quaker’s commitment to  
“green” practices. . . .

At every level of Quaker, we are committed to improving our  
environmental practices throughout every step of our business.

1 Whether it's how our products are packaged and shipped or the  
2 types of cups our employees use in the breakroom, Quaker is  
3 thinking about how best to implement positive change within the  
4 world.

5 [http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment/we-are-](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment/we-are-living-change)  
6 [living-change](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-world/oats-and-the-environment/we-are-living-change) (last visited April 26, 2016).

7 47. Quaker also promotes the health benefits of its products, explaining, "With the  
8 growing number of people who are overweight or obese in America, it is now more important  
9 than ever that we educate ourselves about the foods that we are eating and their nutritional  
10 content." [http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-health/healthy-eating/what-to-](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-health/healthy-eating/what-to-look-for-when-reading-food-labels)  
11 [look-for-when-reading-food-labels](http://www.quakeroats.com/oats-do-more/for-your-health/healthy-eating/what-to-look-for-when-reading-food-labels) (last visited April 26, 2016).

12 48. Nowhere on its website does Quaker mention the presence of glyphosate in  
13 Quaker Oats.

14 49. Nowhere on its website does Quaker warn of the health risks of ingesting  
15 glyphosate.

16 50. Nowhere on its website does Quaker explain the environmental risks presented  
17 by glyphosate.

18 **B. Quaker Oats: Presented as "100% Natural" and "Heart Healthy."**

19 51. Quaker prominently labels its Old Fashioned Quaker Oats product as "100%  
20 Natural Whole Grain" that is "part of a heart-healthy diet." These representations appear on the  
21 front label of the product. Should any consumer seek additional information from the back of  
22 the label, Quaker lists the product's ingredients as not only "100% Natural" but also of a  
23 particular quality: "100% Natural Whole Grain Quaker Quality Rolled Oats."

24 52. Quaker prominently labels its Quick 1-Minute Quaker Oats product as "100%  
25 Natural Whole Grain" that is "Heart Healthy." These representations appear on the front label  
26 of the product. Should any consumer seek additional information from the back of the label,  
27

1 Quaker lists the product's ingredients as not only "100% Natural" but also of a particular  
2 quality: "100% Natural Whole Grain Quaker Quality Rolled Oats."

3 53. Quaker prominently labels its Quaker Steel Cut Oats product as "Hearty 100%  
4 Natural Whole Grain Oats" that is "part of a heart healthy diet." These representations appear  
5 on the front label of the product. Should any consumer seek additional information from the  
6 back of the label, Quaker lists the product's ingredients as not only "100% Natural" but also of  
7 a particular quality: "100% Natural Whole Grain Quaker Quality Steel Cut Oats."

8 54. Upon information and belief, Quaker has profited enormously from its  
9 fraudulently marketed products and its carefully orchestrated label and image.

10 55. Representing that a product is "Natural," "100% Natural," "100% Natural  
11 Whole Grain," or "Healthy" is a statement of fact.

12 56. Failing to disclose that a product contains glyphosate and failing to warn of the  
13 dangers of ingesting glyphosate are omissions of relevant fact.

14 57. Quaker further enhances the image of a natural, wholesome product by  
15 marketing some Quaker Oats as "Old Fashioned," and all Quaker Oats under a picture of man  
16 dressed in Colonial-era attire.

17 58. Consumers reasonably believe that a product labeled "Natural" or "100%  
18 Natural" does not contain synthetic ingredients.

19 59. Consumers reasonably believe that a product labeled "Natural" or "100%  
20 Natural" does not contain pesticides.

21 60. In 2014, the Consumer Reports® National Research Center conducted a  
22 nationally representative phone survey to assess consumer opinion regarding food labeling. *See*  
23 <http://www.greenerchoices.org/pdf/consumerreportsfoodlabelingsurveyjune2014.pdf> (last  
24 visited April 21, 2016).

1           61.     Sixty-six percent of all respondents in the Consumer Reports survey said that a  
2 “natural” label on packaged and processed foods means that “no toxic pesticides were used.”  
3 Eighty-six percent of respondents said that a “natural” label on packaged and processed foods  
4 should mean that “no toxic pesticides were used.” See *Id.*

5           62.     Consumers reasonably believe that a product labeled “100% Natural Whole  
6 Grain,” especially a product whose only ingredient is listed as “100% Natural Whole-Grain  
7 Quaker Quality Rolled Oats,” does not contain anything other than natural oats.

8           63.     Quaker knows and intends that when consumers see labels promising that a  
9 product is “Natural,” “100% Natural,” or “100% Natural Whole Grain,” consumers will  
10 understand that to mean that, at the very least, the product does not contain synthetic  
11 ingredients or harmful chemicals.

12           64.     Referring to its “Old Fashioned” and “Quick Oats” products, Quaker’s website  
13 states that “100% Natural” “means these products do not contain any artificial or synthetic  
14 ingredients, just oats.” See <https://cu.pepsico.com/quaker> (last visited April 27, 2016).

15           65.     Consumers reasonably expect that if a product contains a harmful substance, the  
16 presence of that substance will be disclosed, and they will be warned of the dangers associated  
17 with the substance.

### 18     **C.    Glyphosate: The Unnatural Hidden Substance.**

19           66.     Quaker’s representations that Quaker Oats are “Natural,” “100% Natural,” or  
20 “100% Natural Whole Grain” are false. In fact, quantitative testing revealed that Quaker Oats  
21 contain glyphosate.

22           67.     Quaker Oats thus are not “Natural” or “100% Natural,” and do not contain  
23 “100% Natural Whole Grain,” and labeling them as such is misleading and deceptive.

24           68.     Because glyphosate is a probable human carcinogen, Quaker Oats are not  
25 “Healthy” or “Heart-Healthy.” Moreover, despite Quaker’s “Heart-Healthy” claims, the  
26  
27

1 presence of glyphosate in Quaker Oats reduces the level of beta glucan, a soluble fiber linked to  
2 improvements in cholesterol levels and cardiovascular health. Under U.S. Food and Drug  
3 Administration regulations, the permissibility of a manufacturer's "heart healthy" claims  
4 depends, in part, on the level of soluble fibers such as beta glucan in a product.<sup>2</sup>

5 69. Quaker Oats thus has a duty to disclose the presence of glyphosate and to warn  
6 of the dangers associated with glyphosate.

7 70. On information and belief, glyphosate is, by volume, the world's most widely  
8 produced herbicide.

9 71. In 2015, the International Agency for Research on Cancer ("IARC"), a research  
10 arm of the World Health Organization, declared glyphosate a category 2A "probable" human  
11 carcinogen. A summary of the study underlying this declaration was published in *The Lancet*  
12 *Oncology*, Vol. 16, No. 5 (May 2015).<sup>3</sup> The IARC study noted such carcinogenic risk factors as  
13 DNA damage to human cells resulting from exposure to glyphosate. *See id.* Glyphosate has  
14 been previously found to be a suspected human endocrine disruptor, with estrogenic effects  
15 even at extremely low concentrations.<sup>4</sup>

16 72. Glyphosate, as a biocide, functions by disrupting the shikimate pathway.<sup>5</sup>  
17 Although humans themselves do not have a shikimate pathway, the shikimate pathway is

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18 <sup>2</sup> *See*

19 <http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/LabelingNutrition/ucm064919.htm> (last visited April 26, 2016).

20 <sup>3</sup> Available at <http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanonc/article/PIIS1470-2045%2815%2970134-8/abstract> (last visited April 26, 2016).

21 <sup>4</sup> *See* Thongprakaisang, S. *et al.*, "Glyphosate induces human breast cancer cells growth via  
22 estrogen receptors," 59 *Food & Chem. Toxicol.* 129 (June 2013), *abstract available at*  
23 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23756170> (last visited April 26, 2016); *see also, e.g.*,  
24 Gasnier, C. *et al.*, "Glyphosate-based herbicides are toxic and endocrine disruptors in human  
25 cell lines," 262(3) *Toxicology* 184 (Aug. 21, 2009), *abstract available at*  
26 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19539684> (last visited April 26, 2016).

27 <sup>5</sup> *See, e.g.*, Heike, H. & N. Amrhein, "The Site of the Inhibition of the Shikimate Pathway by  
Glyphosate," *Plant Physiol.* 66:823 (1980), *available at*

1 present in bacteria, including bacteria that inhabit the human gut and are essential to proper  
2 immune functioning. Glyphosate thus is suspected to disrupt human immune function as well.

3 73. Studies examining low doses of glyphosate-based herbicides at levels that are  
4 generally considered “safe” for humans show that these compounds can nevertheless cause  
5 liver and kidney damage.<sup>6</sup>

6 74. Glyphosate is derived from the amino acid glycine. To create glyphosate, one of  
7 the hydrogen atoms in glycine is artificially replaced with a phosphonomethyl group.

8 75. Glyphosate is not “Natural.”

9 76. Glyphosate is neither “100% Natural” nor present in “100% Natural Whole  
10 Grain.”

11 77. On information and belief, glyphosate is used to increase oat harvest for  
12 commercial purposes; is not necessary to successful planting, growing, or harvesting of oats; is  
13 not a “natural” method of growing or harvesting oats; is applied to oats as a drying agent  
14 shortly before harvest; and is applied for commercial purposes only.

15  
16  
17 <http://www.plantphysiol.org/content/66/5/823.full.pdf> (last visited April 26, 2016); *see also*  
<http://www.glyphosate.eu/glyphosate-mechanism-action> (last visited April 26, 2016).

18 <sup>6</sup> Myers, J. et al, “Concerns over use of glyphosate-based herbicides and risks associated with  
19 exposures: a consensus statement.” *See also* Seralini G.E., et al, “Republished study: long-term  
20 toxicity of a Roundup herbicide and a Roundup-tolerant genetically modified maize,” *Environ.*  
*Sci. Europe* 2014;26:14, available at  
21 <http://enveurope.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s12302-014-0014-5> (last visited April 20,  
2016); Benedetti A.L., “The effects of sub-chronic exposure of Wistar rats to the herbicide  
22 Glyphosate-Biocarb, *Toxicol. Lett.* 2004;153(2):227–232, available at  
23 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15451553> (last visited April 20, 2016); Larsen K. et al,  
“Effects of Sublethal Exposure to a Glyphosate-Based Herbicide Formulation on Metabolic  
24 Activities of Different Xenobiotic-Metabolizing Enzymes in Rats,” *Int. J. Toxicol.* 2014,  
25 available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24985121> (last visited April 20, 2016);  
Mesnage R. et al, “Transcriptome profile analysis reflects rat liver and kidney damage  
26 following chronic ultra-low dose Roundup exposure,” *Environ. Health* 2015;14:70, available at  
27 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4549093/> (last visited April 20, 2016).

1           78.     Glyphosate is a dangerous substance, the presence and dangers of which should  
2 be disclosed.

3     **D.     Quaker’s Misleading Labeling and Omissions.**

4           79.     Quaker’s conduct in labeling Quaker Oats “Natural,” “100% Natural,” and  
5 “100% Natural Whole Grain” deceived and/or was likely to deceive the public. Consumers  
6 were deceived into believing that the listed ingredients were all the ingredients, and that the  
7 product was “Natural” and “100% Natural,” and that nothing in Quaker Oats was not  
8 “Natural.” Instead, Quaker Oats contain glyphosate, an *unnatural* biocide and probable human  
9 carcinogen, with a myriad of other potential health effects.

10          80.     Consumers cannot discover the true nature of Quaker Oats from reading the  
11 label. Consumers could not discover the true nature of Quaker Oats even by visiting Quaker’s  
12 website, which makes no mention of glyphosate. Discovery of the true nature of the ingredients  
13 requires knowledge of chemistry and access to laboratory testing that is not available to the  
14 average reasonable consumer.

15          81.     Quaker deceptively and misleadingly conceals material facts about Quaker Oats,  
16 namely, that Quaker Oats are not “Natural” or “100% Natural,” because in fact they contain  
17 glyphosate; and that Quaker Oats are not what a reasonable consumer would consider  
18 “Natural” or “100% Natural,” because in fact they contain glyphosate.

19          82.     Quaker fails to warn consumers of the dangers of consuming glyphosate.

20          83.     Plaintiff and the members of the Class are not at fault for failing to discover  
21 Quaker’s wrongs earlier, and had no actual or presumptive knowledge of facts sufficient to put  
22 them on inquiry notice.

23          84.     The production process Quaker uses for Quaker Oats is known only to Quaker  
24 and its suppliers. Quaker has not disclosed such information to Plaintiff or the Class Members.  
25 Testing reveals the presence of glyphosate in Quaker Oats, but only Quaker knows the methods  
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1 by which its oats are grown, harvested, and processed, or what would account for the presence  
2 of glyphosate in Quaker Oats. Quaker’s concealment tolls the applicable statute of limitations.

3 85. To this day, Quaker continues to conceal and suppress the true nature, identity,  
4 source, and production method of Quaker Oats.

5 **E. Quaker Knew, or Should Have Known, That Its Representations Were False.**

6 86. Quaker holds itself out to the public as a trusted expert in the growing,  
7 harvesting, and processing of oats.

8 87. Quaker knew what representations it made on the labels of Quaker Oats. It also  
9 knew how the oats were grown, harvested, and processed, and that they were likely to contain  
10 glyphosate, an unnatural and dangerous herbicide.

11 88. Quaker thus knew all the facts demonstrating that Quaker Oats were mislabeled  
12 and falsely advertised, and that it had a duty to disclose the presence of glyphosate and to warn  
13 consumers about the dangers associated with glyphosate.

14 **F. Quaker Intended for Consumers to Rely on Its Misrepresentations.**

15 89. Quaker made the false, deceptive, and misleading representations and omissions  
16 intending for Plaintiff and the Class Members to rely upon these representations and omissions  
17 in purchasing Quaker Oats.

18 90. In making the false, misleading, and deceptive representations and omissions at  
19 issue, Quaker knew and intended that consumers would purchase the Quaker Oats when  
20 consumers would otherwise purchase a competing product.

21 91. Consumers are not only willing to pay more for a product that purports to be  
22 “100% Natural” – they expect that product to be pesticide-free.

23 92. In making the false, misleading, and deceptive representations and omissions at  
24 issue, Quaker also knew and intended that consumers would pay more for “Natural” or “100%  
25 Natural” oats that are free of unnatural agents than consumers would pay for oats that are not  
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1 “Natural” or “100% Natural,” furthering Quaker’s private interest of increasing sales of its  
2 products and decreasing the sales of the all-natural and/or glyphosate-free products that are  
3 truthfully marketed by its competitors.

4 93. Quaker knows that consumers prefer “Natural” and “100% Natural” foods, and  
5 foods that do not contain dangerous or potentially dangerous chemicals. Quaker knows that  
6 consumers will pay more for “Natural” or “100% Natural” foods, or would not purchase the  
7 foods at all unless they were “Natural” and/or “100% Natural” and/or free from unnatural and  
8 potentially dangerous chemicals.

9 94. Similarly, independent surveys confirm that consumers will purchase more  
10 “Natural” products than conventional products, and will pay more for “Natural” products.

11 **G. Consumers Did Reasonably Rely on Quaker’s Misrepresentations.**

12 95. Consumers frequently rely on label representations and information in making  
13 purchase decisions, especially in purchasing food.

14 96. When Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members purchased Quaker Oats, they saw  
15 the false, misleading, and deceptive representations detailed above, and did not receive  
16 disclosure of the presence of glyphosate or any warning of the dangers associated with  
17 glyphosate, as detailed above.

18 97. These misrepresentations and omissions were uniform and were communicated  
19 to Plaintiff Cooper and every other member of the Class at every point of purchase and  
20 consumption.

21 98. Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members were among the intended recipients of  
22 Quaker’s deceptive representations and omissions.

23 99. Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members reasonably relied to their detriment on  
24 Quaker’s misleading representations and omissions.

1           100. Quaker's false, misleading, and deceptive misrepresentations and omissions  
2 deceived and misled, and are likely to continue to deceive and mislead, Plaintiff Cooper, the  
3 Class Members, reasonable consumers, and the general public.

4           101. Quaker's misleading affirmative statements further obscured what it failed to  
5 disclose, and the warnings it failed to give. Thus, reliance upon Quaker's misleading and  
6 deceptive representations and omissions may be presumed.

7           102. Quaker made the deceptive representations and omissions with the intent to  
8 induce Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members to purchase Quaker Oats. Plaintiff Cooper's  
9 and the Class Members' reliance upon such representations and omissions may be presumed.

10           103. Quaker's deceptive representations and omissions are material in that a  
11 reasonable person would attach importance to such information and would be induced to act  
12 upon such information in making purchase decisions. Thus, Plaintiff Cooper's and the Class  
13 Members' reliance upon such representations and omissions may be presumed as a matter of  
14 law; the representations and omissions were material; and a nexus exists between Quaker's  
15 conduct, on the one hand, and Plaintiff Cooper's and the Class Members' decisions to purchase  
16 Quaker Oats at a certain price, on the other hand.

17       **H. Quaker's Conduct and Plaintiff's and the Class Members' Injury.**

18           104. As an immediate, direct, and proximate result of Quaker's false, misleading, and  
19 deceptive representations and omissions, Quaker injured Plaintiff Cooper and the Class  
20 Members in that they:

- 21           a. paid a sum of money for a product that was falsely represented;
- 22           b. paid a sum of money for a product containing glyphosate, of which they  
23 received no warning;
- 24           c. paid more for a product that was falsely represented than they would  
25 have paid had the product not been falsely represented;
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- 27

1 d. were deprived the benefit of the bargain because the Quaker Oats they  
2 purchased were different from what Quaker warranted;

3 e. were deprived the benefit of the bargain because the Quaker Oats they  
4 purchased had less value than what was represented;

5 f. did not receive a product that measured up to their expectations as  
6 created by Quaker;

7 g. ingested (or caused their children to ingest) a substance that was other  
8 than what was represented;

9 h. ingested (or caused their children to ingest) a substance they did not  
10 expect or consent to;

11 i. ingested (or caused their children to ingest) a product that included an  
12 unnatural substance;

13 j. without their knowing consent, ingested (or caused their children to  
14 ingest) an herbicide that is harmful to their health or their children's health;

15 k. without their knowing consent, ingested (or caused their children to  
16 ingest) a substance that is, contains, or is produced with a known or suspected toxin,  
17 carcinogen, or hazardous substance;

18 l. without their knowing consent, ingested (or caused their children to  
19 ingest) a substance that poses health or environmental risks;

20 m. without their knowing consent, ingested (or caused their children to  
21 ingest) a substance that is otherwise harmful to the environment and/or the farmers and other  
22 workers who utilize or process such substance;

23 n. ingested (or caused their children to ingest) a substance that was of a  
24 lower quality than what Quaker promised;

1 o. were denied the benefit of knowing what they ingested (or caused their  
2 children to ingest);

3 p. were caused unwittingly to support an industry that contributes to  
4 environmental, ecological, or health damage;

5 q. were denied the benefit of supporting an industry that sells natural  
6 products and contributes to environmental sustainability; and/or

7 r. were denied the benefit of the beneficial properties of the “Natural”  
8 products promised.

9 105. Had Quaker not made the false, misleading, and deceptive representations and  
10 omissions, and had Quaker not failed to warn of the presence of glyphosate and dangers  
11 associated with glyphosate, Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members would not have been  
12 injured as listed above. Accordingly, Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members have suffered  
13 “injury in fact” as a result of Quaker’s wrongful conduct.

14 106. Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members all paid money for Quaker Oats, but did  
15 not obtain the full value of the advertised products due to Quaker’s misrepresentations and  
16 omissions. Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members purchased, purchased more of, or paid  
17 more for, Quaker Oats than they would have had they known the truth about Quaker Oats.  
18 Accordingly, Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members have suffered “injury in fact” and lost  
19 money or property as a result of Quaker’s wrongful conduct.

20 **I. Quaker Benefited From Its Misleading Representations and Omissions.**

21 107. As the intended, direct, and proximate result of Quaker’s false, misleading, and  
22 deceptive representations and omissions, Quaker has been unjustly enriched through more sales  
23 of Quaker Oats and higher profits at the expense of Plaintiff Cooper and the Class Members.  
24 As a direct and proximate result of its deception, Quaker also unfairly obtained other benefits,  
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1 including the higher value associated with a “natural” brand, redirecting sales to it and away  
2 from its competitors, and increased sales of its other products.

3 108. Plaintiff, and all other similarly situated consumers, did not bargain for Products  
4 that contain unnatural ingredients in exchange for their payment of the purchase price.

5 109. Quaker has profited by failing to warn consumers of the presence of glyphosate  
6 in the Products or of the health effects of consuming glyphosate.

7 110. Upon information and belief, Quaker has failed to remedy the problem with the  
8 Products, thus causing future harm to consumers. Plaintiff, Class Members, and future  
9 purchasers in the consuming public, are at risk of real, immediate, and continuing harm if the  
10 Products continue to be sold as is, and without adequate warning of the presence of glyphosate  
11 and of the health effects of ingesting glyphosate.

12 111. Plaintiff would continue to purchase the Products again in the future if the  
13 Products were reformulated so that they did not contain glyphosate.

14 112. Quaker has failed to provide adequate relief to Plaintiff or Class Members as of  
15 the date of filing this Complaint.

16 113. Plaintiff contends that the Products were sold pursuant to unfair and  
17 unconscionable trade practices because the sale of the Products offends public policy and is  
18 immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and caused substantial economic injuries to  
19 Plaintiff and Class Members.

20 114. Reasonable consumers do not expect Products advertised as “Natural,” “100%  
21 Natural,” and “100% Natural Whole Grain” to contain unnatural ingredients such as  
22 glyphosate. Defendant’s statements and other representations convey a series of express and  
23 implied claims and/or omissions which Defendant knows are material to the reasonable  
24 consumer in making a purchasing decision, and which Defendant intended for consumers to  
25 rely upon when choosing to purchase the Products.  
26  
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1 All persons who have purchased the Products, for personal use,  
2 and not for resale, within any applicable limitations period until  
Notice is provided to the Class.

3 Excluded from the class are: (1) Defendant, any entity or division in which Defendant has a  
4 controlling interest, and their legal representatives, officers, directors, assigns, and successors;  
5 and (2) the judge to whom this case is assigned and the judge's staff.

6 122. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class definition if further information  
7 and discovery indicates that the Class definition should be narrowed, expanded, or otherwise  
8 modified, including but not limited to, the creation of subclasses based on geography and/or  
9 location of sale.

10 123. All members of the Class were and are similarly affected by the deceptive  
11 advertising of the Products, and the relief sought herein is for the benefit of Plaintiff and  
12 members of the Class.

13 **A. Numerosity**

14 124. Based on the annual sales of the Products and the popularity of the Products, it is  
15 readily apparent that the number of consumers in the Class is so large as to make joinder  
16 impracticable, if not impossible. Class Members may be notified of the pendency of this action  
17 by recognized, Court-approved notice dissemination methods, which may include U.S. Mail,  
18 electronic mail, Internet postings, and/or published notice.

19 **B. Common Questions of Law and Fact Predominate**

20 125. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and Class  
21 Members that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including:

22 a. Whether Defendant's practices and representations related to the  
23 marketing, labeling and sales of the Products were unfair, deceptive, fraudulent, and/or  
24 unlawful in any respect, thereby violating California law;

25 b. Whether Defendant failed to warn Plaintiff and Class Members of the  
26 presence of glyphosate in the Products and/or of the health effects of ingesting glyphosate in  
27



1 violation of California law with its practices and representations related to the marketing,  
2 labeling, and sale of the Products;

3 c. Whether Defendant breached an express warranty created through the  
4 labeling and marketing of its falsely labeled Products;

5 d. Whether Defendant's conduct as set forth above economically injured  
6 Plaintiff and Class Members; and

7 e. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief.

8 **C. Typicality**

9 126. The claims asserted by Plaintiff in this action are typical of the claims of the  
10 Class Members, as the claims arise from the same course of conduct by Defendant, and the  
11 relief sought within the Class is common to the Class Members. Further, there are no defenses  
12 available to Defendant that are unique to Plaintiff.

13 **D. Adequacy**

14 127. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the  
15 Class. Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class because her interests do not conflict  
16 with the interests of the Class members she seeks to represent, and she has retained counsel  
17 competent and experienced in both consumer protection and class action litigation. Plaintiff and  
18 Plaintiff's counsel will fairly and adequately protect Class Members' interests. Undersigned  
19 counsel has represented consumers in a wide variety of actions where they have sought to  
20 protect consumers from fraudulent and deceptive practices.

21 **E. Predominance and Superiority of Class Action**

22 128. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil  
23 Procedure 23(b)(3) are met because questions of law and fact common to each Class Member  
24 predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and a class action is  
25 superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.  
26  
27

1           129. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient  
 2 adjudication of this controversy. Individual joinder of the Class Members is not practicable,  
 3 and questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any questions affecting  
 4 only individual Class Members. Each Class Member has been damaged and is entitled to  
 5 recovery as a result of the violations alleged herein.

6           130. Moreover, because the damages suffered by individual members of the Class  
 7 may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult  
 8 or impossible for individual Class Members to redress the wrongs done to them, while an  
 9 important public interest will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. Class action  
 10 treatment will allow those persons similarly situated to litigate their claims in the manner that is  
 11 most efficient and economical for the parties and the judicial system.

12           131. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties in managing this case that should  
 13 preclude class action.

14       **F. Declaratory and Injunctive Relief**

15           132. Certification also is appropriate under Rule 23(b)(2) because Defendant acted,  
 16 or refused to act, on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate the  
 17 injunctive relief sought on behalf of the Class. Further, given the large number of consumers of  
 18 the Products, allowing individual actions to proceed in lieu of a class action would run the risk  
 19 of yielding inconsistent and conflicting adjudications.

20                               **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

21                                       **COUNT I:**

22                                               **(Unfair and Deceptive Acts and Practices against Defendant)**

23           133. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the  
 24 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

25           134. This cause of action is brought pursuant to California’s Consumers Legal  
 26 Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750-1785 (the “CLRA”).  
 27

1           135. Plaintiff and the Class Members are “consumers,” as the term is defined by  
2 California Civil Code § 1761(d), because they bought the falsely labeled Products for personal,  
3 family, or household purposes. Defendant is a “person” under Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(c).

4           136. Plaintiff, Class Members, and Quaker have engaged in “transactions,” as that  
5 term is defined by California Civil Code §1761(e).

6           137. The Products are “goods” under Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(a). Plaintiff, the other  
7 members of the Class, and Quaker have engaged in “transactions,” as that term is defined by  
8 California Civil Code § 1761(e).

9           138. The conduct alleged in this Complaint constitutes unfair methods of competition  
10 and unfair and deceptive acts and practices for the purposes of the CLRA, and the conduct was  
11 undertaken by Quaker in transactions intended to result in, and which did result in, the sale of  
12 goods to consumers.

13           139. Quaker’s false and fraudulent representations and omissions have violated, and  
14 continue to violate the CLRA because they extend to transactions that are intended to result, or  
15 have resulted, in the sale of goods to consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members.  
16 Specifically, Quaker has misrepresented the true nature, quality, and ingredients of the Products  
17 and failed to adequately warn of and disclose the presence of glyphosate in the Products and/or  
18 the health effects of ingesting glyphosate, thereby disseminating representations or omissions  
19 that are false, deceptive, and likely to mislead a reasonable consumer, such as Plaintiff and  
20 Class Members.

21           140. Quaker misrepresented and/or omitted facts about the presence of glyphosate in  
22 the Products and the health effects of ingesting glyphosate, which were and are material to  
23 Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ decisions to purchase the Products.

24           141. Quaker’s conduct violates Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(5), which prohibits  
25 “[r]epresenting that goods . . . have . . . characteristics [or] benefits . . . which they do not  
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1 have,” and Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(7), which prohibits: “[r]epresenting that goods . . . are of  
2 a particular standard, quality, or grade . . . if they are of another,” causing injury to Plaintiff and  
3 Class Members.

4 142. As a result of engaging in such conduct, Quaker has violated California Civil  
5 Code § 1770(a)(5), (a)(7), and (a)(9).

6 143. Plaintiff served Defendant with notice of its CLRA violations by certified mail,  
7 return receipt requested, on April 29, 2016. After the requisite thirty days, if Defendant has still  
8 failed to provide relief for its CLRA violations, Plaintiff will amend to seek damages.

9 144. Plaintiff and Class Members seek preliminary injunctive relief, and permanent  
10 injunctive relief against Quaker’s unfair and deceptive acts and conduct.

11 145. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(a)(2) and (a)(5), Plaintiff seeks an  
12 order of this Court that includes, but is not limited to, an order enjoining Quaker from  
13 continuing to engage in unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business practices or any other act  
14 prohibited by law.

15 146. Plaintiff and Class Members may be irreparably harmed and/or denied an  
16 effective and complete remedy if such an order is not granted.

17 147. The unfair and deceptive acts and practices of Quaker, as described above,  
18 present a serious threat to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class.

19 148. THEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.

20 **COUNT II:**

21 **(Violations of California’s False Advertising Law against Defendant)**

22 149. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the  
23 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

24 150. This cause of action is brought pursuant to California’s False Advertising Law  
25 (the “FAL”), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 *et seq.*

1           151. Such acts of Quaker, as described above, and each of them constitute unlawful,  
2 deceptive, and fraudulent business acts and practices.

3           152. At all material times, Quaker engaged in a scheme of offering the Products for  
4 sale to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class by way of distributing to the public, *inter*  
5 *alia*, commercial marketing and advertising, the World Wide Web (Internet), the Product  
6 packaging and labeling, and other promotional materials and offered for sale the Products on a  
7 nationwide basis, including in California.

8           153. The misrepresentations and non-disclosures by Quaker of the material facts  
9 detailed above constitute false and misleading advertising, and therefore constitute a violation  
10 of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, *et seq.*

11           154. Said advertisements and inducements were made nationwide, including within  
12 the State of California, and come within the definition of advertising contained in the FAL in  
13 that such promotional materials were intended as inducements to purchase Defendant's Quaker  
14 Oats and are statements disseminated by Quaker to Plaintiff and Class Members. Quaker knew,  
15 or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, that these representations were  
16 misleading and deceptive.

17           155. Consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members, necessarily and reasonably  
18 relied on these materials concerning Quaker's Products. Consumers, including Plaintiff and the  
19 Class members, were among the intended targets of such representations.

20           156. The above acts of Quaker did and were likely to deceive reasonable consumers,  
21 including Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, by obfuscating the nature, quality,  
22 and/or ingredients of the Products, in violation of the "misleading" prong of the FAL.

23           157. The business practices alleged above are unlawful under the CLRA, which  
24 forbids misleading and deceptive advertising.

1           158. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class have suffered injury in fact and  
2 have lost money or property as a result of Quaker’s violations of the FAL.

3           159. As a result, Quaker has been unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff and the  
4 other members of the Class. Plaintiff and the Class, pursuant to California Business and  
5 Professions Code § 17535, are entitled to an order of this Court enjoining such future conduct  
6 on the part of Quaker, and such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to  
7 disgorge Quaker’s ill-gotten gains and restore to any person in interest any money paid for its  
8 falsely labeled Products as a result of the wrongful conduct of Quaker.

9           160. THEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.

10                                               **COUNT III:**

11                                               **(Violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law against Defendant)**

12           161. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the  
13 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

14           162. This cause of action is brought pursuant to California’s Unfair Competition Law  
15 (the “UCL”), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.*

16           163. By committing the acts and practices alleged herein, Quaker has engaged in  
17 deceptive, unfair, and unlawful business practices in violation of the UCL.

18           164. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim as she has suffered injury in fact and  
19 has lost money or property as a result of Quaker’s actions as set forth above. Class Members  
20 also have suffered injury in fact and have lost money or property as a result of Quaker’s actions  
21 as set forth above.

22           165. The violation of any law constitutes an “unlawful” business practice under Cal.  
23 Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

24           166. Each of Quaker’s false representations alleged herein violates 21 U.S.C. § 331;  
25 Cal. Civ. Code § 1709; Cal. Civ. Code § 1750 *et seq.*; Cal. Com. Code § 2313; and Cal. Bus. &  
26 Prof. Code § 17500 *et seq.*  
27

1           167. Quaker has violated the UCL’s proscription against engaging in unlawful  
2 conduct as a result of its violations of (i) the CLRA, as alleged above, and (ii) the FAL, as  
3 alleged above.

4           168. In addition, Quaker has violated the UCL’s proscription against engaging in  
5 unlawful conduct as a result of its violations of the Sherman Law, Cal. Health & Safety Code  
6 § 109875 *et seq.*, which forbids misbranding of any food, *id.* at § 110398, such as by false or  
7 misleading labeling, *id.* at § 111730.

8           169. The Sherman Law defines a “person” as “any individual, firm, partnership, trust,  
9 corporation, limited liability company, company, estate, public or private institution,  
10 association, organization, group, city, county, city and county, political subdivision of this  
11 state, other governmental agency within the state, and any representative, agent, or agency of  
12 any of the foregoing.” Cal. Health & Safety Code § 109995. Defendant is a “person” within the  
13 meaning of the Sherman Law.

14           170. As more fully described herein, Quaker’s misleading marketing, advertising,  
15 packaging, and labeling of the Products is likely to deceive a reasonable consumer. Indeed,  
16 Plaintiff and the other Class members were unquestionably deceived regarding the  
17 characteristics of Quaker’s Products, as Quaker’s marketing, advertising, packaging, and  
18 labeling of Quaker Oats misrepresents and/or omits the true nature, quality, and/or ingredients  
19 of the Products.

20           171. There is no benefit to consumers or competition from deceptively marketing and  
21 labeling products. Indeed, the harm to consumers and competition is substantial. Plaintiff and  
22 the other members of the Class who purchased the Products suffered a substantial injury as  
23 alleged herein.

24           172. Plaintiff and the other members of the Class who purchased Quaker Oats had no  
25 way of reasonably knowing that the Products they purchased were not as marketed, advertised,  
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1 packaged, and labeled. Thus, they could not have reasonably avoided the injury each of them  
2 suffered.

3 173. Quaker's acts and omissions alleged above constitute unfair business practices  
4 under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 because the gravity of the consequences of Quaker's  
5 conduct as described above outweighs any justification, motive, or reason therefor, particularly  
6 considering the available legal alternatives which exist in the marketplace, and such conduct is  
7 immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, offends established public policy, or is substantially  
8 injurious to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class. Quaker's false and misleading  
9 representations and omissions also violate legislatively declared policy as they have violated  
10 numerous state and federal laws. Moreover, the gravity of the harm to Plaintiff and Class  
11 members resulting from Quaker's conduct outweighs Quaker's legitimate reasons,  
12 justifications, and/or motives for engaging in such deceptive acts and practices, if any.

13 174. Each false and misleading representation and omission constitutes fraudulent  
14 business practices under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 because the representations and  
15 omissions were false. Quaker's representations and deceptive concealment were fraudulent  
16 under the statute because they were misleading and were likely to and did deceive the  
17 reasonable consumer, including Plaintiff and the Class Members.

18 175. Quaker's violations continue to this day.

19 176. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code § 17203, Plaintiff and the  
20 other members of the Class seek an order of this Court that includes, but is not limited to, an  
21 order enjoining such future conduct on the part of Quaker and such other orders and judgments  
22 which may be necessary to disgorge Quaker's ill-gotten gains and to restore to any person in  
23 interest any money paid for Quaker's falsely labeled Products as a result of the wrongful  
24 conduct of Quaker.

25 177. THEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.  
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**COUNT IV:**

**(Breach of Express Warranty against Defendant)**

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2 178. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the  
3 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, as if fully set forth herein verbatim.

4 179. Quaker provided Plaintiff and other members of the Class with written, express  
5 warranties including, but not limited to, warranties that its Quaker Oats were “Natural,” “100%  
6 Natural,” and “100% Natural Whole Grain.” The products are not “Natural,” “100% Natural,”  
7 “100% Natural Whole Grain,” “Heart Healthy,” or “part of a heart healthy diet.”

8 180. Quaker, the seller, made these affirmations of fact to Plaintiff and the other  
9 Class Members, the buyers.

10 181. These affirmations of fact or promises by Quaker relate to the goods and became  
11 part of the basis of the bargain.

12 182. Plaintiff and members of the Class purchased the Products, believing them to  
13 conform to the express warranties.

14 183. Quaker breached these warranties. This breach resulted in damages to Plaintiff  
15 and other members of the Class, who bought the Products but did not receive the goods as  
16 warranted.

17 184. As a proximate result of the breach of warranties by Quaker, Plaintiff and the  
18 other members of the Class did not receive goods as warranted. Plaintiff and the members of  
19 the Class therefore have been injured and have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at  
20 trial. Among other things, Plaintiff and members of the Class did not receive the benefit of the  
21 bargain and have suffered other injuries as detailed above. Moreover, had Plaintiff and Class  
22 Members known the true facts, they either would not have purchased the Products, or would  
23 not have been willing to pay the premium price Quaker charged for the Products.

24 185. THEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.  
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**VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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2 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for relief as  
3 follows:

4 A. An order certifying that this action is properly brought and may be maintained  
5 as a class action, that Plaintiff be appointed the class representative, and that Plaintiff's counsel  
6 be appointed counsel for the Class;

7 B. An order declaring Defendant's conduct to be in violation of applicable law and  
8 enjoining Defendant from pursuing the unlawful acts and practices alleged herein by  
9 adequately disclosing the presence of glyphosate in the Products and of the health effects of  
10 ingesting glyphosate;

11 C. An order requiring Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign to  
12 inform the public concerning the true nature of Quaker Oats, including a recall of the products;

13 D. Restitution, disgorgement, refund, and/or other monetary damages, together with  
14 costs, disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to the applicable statutes  
15 and prejudgment interest at the maximum rate allowable by law;

16 E. Restitution to the Class pursuant to California Business and Professions Code  
17 §§ 17203 and 17535;

18 F. Disgorgement to the Class pursuant to California Business and Professions Code  
19 §§ 17203 and 17535;

20 G. Damages, together with costs and disbursements, including reasonable  
21 attorneys' fees, pursuant to the applicable statutes. Plaintiff does not seek, in this Complaint,  
22 damages under the CLRA;

23 H. Monetary damages, including but not limited to any compensatory, incidental,  
24 or consequential damages in an amount to be determined at trial, together with prejudgment  
25 interest at the maximum rate allowable by law with respect to the claims alleged;

26 I. Statutory damages in the maximum amount provided by law;

1 J. Punitive damages in accordance with proof and in an amount consistent with  
2 applicable precedent;

3 K. An award to Plaintiff and Class Members of reasonable attorneys' fees and  
4 costs;

5 L. For such other and further relief as may be deemed just, necessary, or proper.

6 **VIII. JURY DEMAND**

7 Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

8 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED AND DATED this 29th day of April, 2016.

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**— EXHIBIT 1 —**



# QUAKER OATS

100% Natural Whole Grain  
**QUICK 1-MINUTE**



BRING YOUR  
**BEST  
BOWL**

FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN

# Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1/2 cup dry (40 g)  
 Servings Per Container about 30

Amount Per Serving	As prepared with one cup of Vit. A&D fortified skim milk	
	Cereal Alone	A&D fortified skim milk
<b>Calories</b>	150	230
Calories from Fat	25	25
	% Daily Value**	
<b>Total Fat</b> 3g*	<b>4%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Saturated Fat 0.5g	<b>3%</b>	<b>4%</b>
Trans Fat 0g		
Polyunsaturated Fat 1g		
Monounsaturated Fat 1g		
<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 0mg	<b>0%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 27g	<b>9%</b>	<b>13%</b>
Dietary Fiber 4g	<b>15%</b>	<b>15%</b>
Soluble Fiber 2g		
Sugars 1g		
<b>Protein</b> 5g	<b>6%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Vitamin A	0%	8%
Vitamin C	0%	0%
Calcium	0%	30%
Iron	8%	8%
Vitamin D	0%	25%
Thiamin	10%	20%
Phosphorus	15%	40%
Magnesium	10%	15%

\*Percent Daily Values are based on a diet of other people's misdeeds.  
 \*\*Percent Daily Values are based on a diet of other people's misdeeds.

	Calories	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	45g	65g
Sat. Fat	Less than	10g	15g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	Less than	300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		40g	40g
Protein		50g	60g

Ingredients: Whole Grain Rolled Oats.

**YOU COULD WIN \$250,000**

**HERE'S HOW TO ENTER**

1. Visit [bringyourbestto.com](http://bringyourbestto.com)
2. Unleash your creativity and use 2-5 ingredients for a bowl of delicious oatmeal
3. America will vote and the winner will win \$250,000 and receive our newest limited-edition cereal

See the website for rules and regulations.



DISTRIBUTED BY:  
 THE QUAKER OATS COMPANY  
 P.O. BOX 888888  
 CHICAGO, IL 60688-8888  
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Dietary fiber from whole grain foods and other plant-based sources and low in saturated fat and cholesterol may help reduce the risk of heart disease.



100% RECYCLED PAPER









**Nutrition Facts**

Serving Size 1/3 cup (45g)  
 Servings Per Container see table

Amount per Serving	
<b>Calories 170</b>	Calories from Fat 25
<small>%Daily Value*</small>	
<b>Total Fat 3g</b>	5%
Saturated Fat 0.5g	3%
Trans Fat 0g	
Polyunsaturated Fat 1g	
Monounsaturated Fat 1g	
<b>Cholesterol 0mg</b>	0%
<b>Sodium 0mg</b>	0%
<b>Potassium 170mg</b>	5%
<b>Total Carbohydrate 31g</b>	10%
Dietary Fiber 4g	17%
Soluble Fiber 2g	
Sugars 1g	
<b>Protein 6g</b>	
Vitamin A	0%
Vitamin C	0%
Calcium	2%
Iron	8%
Thiamin	15%
Phosphorus	20%
Magnesium	15%

\*Percent(%) Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower based on your calorie needs.

	Calories	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	less than	65g	80g
Sat. Fat	less than	10g	25g
Cholesterol	less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	less than	2400mg	2400mg
Potassium		3500mg	3500mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Calories per gram  
 Fat 9 • Carbohydrates 4 • Protein 4

**Ingredients**

WHOLE GRAIN STEEL CUT OATS.



## Products

# QUAKER® STEEL CUT OATS

## TRADITIONAL



★★★★★ 4.3 (69) [Write a review](#)

Just when you thought Quaker Oats couldn't get any better, Quaker Steel Cut Oats are out to prove otherwise. These 100% whole grain oats are steel cut, rather than rolled, offering you a heartier texture and a rich, nutty taste. Try them topped with your favorite fruits, nuts or a dab of honey, and you'll agree that Quaker Steel Cut Oats are a distinctly delicious way to start your day.

- **Made from 100% natural, whole grain Quaker Oats**
- **Heart Healthy Whole Grains\***
- **Sodium free**

\*Diets rich in whole grains and other plant foods and low in saturated fat and cholesterol may reduce the risk of heart disease.

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## Other Flavors



com/products/hot-

Quaker Steel Cut Oats  
Quick 3-Minute  
(<http://www.quakeroats.com>,