Scientific Studies:

Pesticides Reduce Sperm Count

"The subjects with the highest OP exposure had the lowest semen count, as well as the poorest quality semen."

If you want a child, researchers say to avoid using pesticides. Pesticides have contributed to semen reduction over the last few decades, and without enough semen, the chances of reproducing are slim.

If reproduction is hampered to a large extent, the human race may even be at risk of extinction. Well, it's not that bad… yet.

University researchers at Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila in Mexico evaluated the effect of organophosphate pesticides (OP) at three occupational exposure levels on semen quality by examining the association between semen and urinary excretion of OP in both exposed and unexposed workers.

OPs refers to a group of nerve agents used as pesticides that act on the enzyme acetylcholinesterase by irreversibly inactivating it in the body.

Without acetylcholinesterase nerve function in both insects and mammals. including human beings, declines. The brain and nervous system can no longer function properly.

The subjects in the study with the highest OP exposure had the lowest semen count, as well as the poorest quality semen.

OP poisoning may also occur as a result of inhalation, skin contact, or ingestion. Children and small pets are especially susceptible to inhalation and skin contact as they live and play closer to the ground where pesticides are commonly sprayed.

Symptoms of poisoning include runny nose, muscle twitching, confusion, chest tightness, shortness of breath, sweating, nausea, vomiting, cramps, and death. Now researches have added low semen count and poor quality semen.

There are steps that can help to reduce exposure, including not using OPs inside the home and work area. Alternatives include boric acid and keeping things neat and clean. Many other insect specific alternatives can be found. Two excellent sources of information about safer pest control are:

The Best Control
http://www.thebestcontrol.com/sitemap.htm

The Bug Stops Here
http://www.thebestcontrol.com/bugstop

The precautionary principal prevails. Avoiding exposure and use of OPs is the most sensible approach when efficacious alternatives exist.

Reference

Recio-Vega R, Ocampo-Gómez G, Borja-Aburto VH, Moran-Martínez J, Organophosphorus pesticide exposure decreases sperm quality: association between sperm parameters and urinary pesticide levels. J Appl Toxicol. 2007 Nov 28,