

Questions 1 to 4

Do the following statements reflect the claims of the writer in Reading Passage 1?

In boxes 1-4 on your answer sheet write

- YES** if the statement reflects the claims of the writer
NO if the statement contradicts the claims of the writer
NOT GIVEN if it is impossible to say what the writer thinks about this

1. Climate may affect the chance of humans catching diseases carried by animals.
2. The UN believes there is a link between factory farming and recent disease outbreaks.
3. The WSPA are drawing up global standards for destroying diseased animals.
4. Abandoning factory farming will have unexpected economic benefits.

Reading Passage:**Factory farming: the next global health crisis?**

Factory farming is the single biggest cause of animal suffering in the world today. Millions of animals are treated as mere commodities and reared in artificial environments where they may never see the sky or smell fresh air. Their world is often defined by the amount of room that they need to stand or lie down. Space is at a premium in a factory farm, where the object is to house as many animals in as small a space as possible.

In recent years, this type of farming has become the subject of increasing controversy in the West. This has been paralleled by the rising popularity of all things organic.

While some may think that factory farms are becoming a thing of the past, the reality is that this form of intensive farming remains the fastest growing method of animal production worldwide. Systems that are being banned in the West, such as the keeping of chickens in battery cages, are not disappearing. They are being exported

to developing countries, which are set to be the world's leading producers of meat by 2020.



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The crowded and often unsanitary conditions in factory farms can make ideal breeding grounds for disease. Some scientists predict that, as this type of industrialised farming is promoted in tropical environments, the risk from diseases that can jump the species barrier is growing. Make no mistake, factory farming poses a very real danger to human health and animal welfare. In recent years, The American Public Health Association has called for a ban on the construction of new industrial animal farms until more specific data on their risks has been collected.

The routine use of antibiotics in animal feed also continues to be a problem. The European Commission has proposed to ban all antibiotic growth promoters from 2006, due to concern over antibiotic resistance.

According to a spokesperson for the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), "Intensive farming practices are becoming increasingly rejected in the West and sold into the developing world. This is causing widespread suffering to farm animals, as well as increasing the risk of disease to animals and humans. Much is at stake if we fail to ensure the health and welfare of the animals that we farm."

Reports from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization implicate factory farms in the spread of Avian Flu. Since January 2004, Avian Flu has killed more than 50 people in developing countries. It has cost billions of dollars and the loss of tens of millions of chickens. During previous outbreaks, chickens have not always been killed in a humane way.

WSPA continues to campaign to ensure that animals are treated humanely in emergency situations of disease control. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is now developing international standards for the emergency slaughter of animals in future disease outbreaks.

WSPA is calling for effective legislation to protect people and animals alike from the risks of factory farming. WSPA's recommendations include a halt to the expansion of factory farms; the adoption of humane and sustainable forms of farming; and a global ban on the use of production-enhancing hormones.

WSPA concludes, "Overcrowding farm animals in unnatural settings can lead to an unbalanced environment that can facilitate the spread and growth of disease. It is high time that we abandoned factory farming and adopted more sustainable and humane forms of farming."

Text adapted from:

"Industrial animal agriculture: the next global health crisis?"

Animals International, Issue 72, 2006, WSPA, p22

