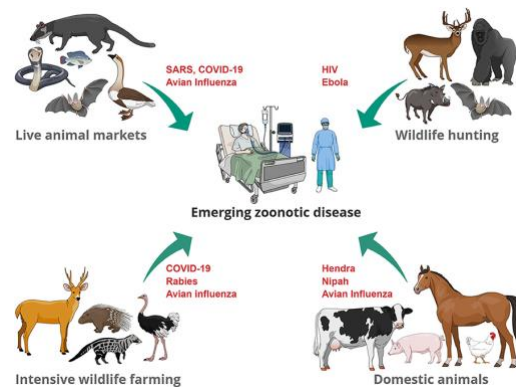


Science V11/S6: Farming and Diseases

Farming has been an important part of society for thousands of years. It is credited with starting the first civilizations. Before humans began farming, they foraged (searched) for food and hunted animals for meat. Early humans traveled the land in search of better resources. Farms are stationary, so villages, and eventually cities, rose around them.

Though farming has positively affected society, it can be said that farming created new problems. One of those problems are communicable diseases. Communicable diseases are diseases that spread between humans and animals. When a disease jumps specifically from animals to humans, it is called a zoonotic disease. Human proximity (closeness) to animals has caused some of the

worst infectious diseases in history. Infectious diseases are germs that enter the body and cause growing infections. The most recent example of this is the novel Coronavirus that affected humans globally in the year 2020. Other examples from the past include the Bubonic Plague and Ebola.



Modern factory farming practices have been credited with the spreading of disease. Farm animals are kept in small, unclean spaces and are treated preemptively with antibiotics to avoid illness. This has, however, led to its own set of problems. The overprescription of antibiotics, to both humans and animals, is creating antibiotic strains of diseases. Antibiotics are medicines that fight the bacteria that causes infectious diseases inside the body. This situation could result in many versions of infectious diseases that cannot be treated with current technologies.

The fear is that these types of continued actions will eventually lead to more dangerous diseases that cannot be treated. Washing one's hands after handling animals and keeping spaces where animals live clean could help reduce this possibility.