



A farmer converts a mixed hedgerow habitat into a monoculture field to grow crops for animal feed. Using your knowledge of food webs and the accumulation of toxic materials, explain two ways this could affect the ecosystem.

Word bank – cross off each word as you use it in the paragraphs below:

interdependence consumers pesticides bioaccumulation
non-biodegradable accumulate apex predator biodiversity animals

Food web disruption

When the hedgerow habitat is destroyed, _____ lose their habitat and food sources. This affects other organisms in the food web because all living things depend on each other – scientists call this _____. As more species are lost, the _____ of the ecosystem decreases, meaning there are fewer different types of organisms living there.

Accumulation of toxic materials

To grow the monoculture crop, the farmer may use _____. These chemicals enter the food chain when producers absorb them and are eaten by _____. The chemicals are _____, which means they cannot be broken down inside an organism's body. Instead, they _____ over time. The organism most severely affected is likely to be the _____ because it has eaten the most contaminated organisms over its lifetime. Scientists call this process _____.

Independent paragraph Can you use these words to write your own paragraph?

habitat loss food web pesticides toxic producer consumer
