Grazer – an organism that primarily consumes grasses. A grazer is a broad definition for any and all animals that consume grasses. This course and the NIRS technology being explained here, deals with a specific type of grazer. It is important to remember, that there are many types of grazers, from a very small rabbit to a very large camel.

Ruminant Grazers – Animals such as the cow, sheep, and goat, which possess four stomachs – the rumen, the reticulum, the omasum, and the abomasum. These animals are different from other mammals such as man, pig, dog, and rat, which have one stomach.

Forage – The plant material eaten by livestock. Forage usually refers to grasses, leaves, and stems.

Digestible Organic Matter (DOM) - Digestion is the breaking down of food in the body, into a form that can be absorbed. DOM is the energy in the diet. The animal’s body breaks food down into different parts that can be utilized for nutrients. DOM is one of the items that is measured by NIRS, that can be used to determine if an animal is receiving enough energy in the form of energy.

Audio Transcript – Animal Nutrition

درس سمعي – مواد غذایی مواشی

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Indigestible – Food that is difficult or impossible to digest. Some food that animals eat cannot be broken down by the body and used as a nutrient. This food is considered indigestible or unpalatable. It may make the animal seem full, but no nutrients are present and the animal is not getting what it needs to survive.

Crude Protein (CP) - Amount of protein that is present in the diet that was digested. CP includes true protein and non-protein nitrogen. Ruminants can use both types of nutrients to some varying degree. CP is another component of the diet that can be identified by NIRS. Just like energy or DOM, Crude Protein is required to maintain healthy animals.