



Rumen In Vitro Methods for Testing the Nutritional Value of Feeds



Glen Broderick, Dave Mertens, Paul Weimer, Wendy Radloff, Diane Amundson, Chris Odt, Mary Becker
U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center, USDA-ARS, Madison, Wisconsin



INTRODUCTION

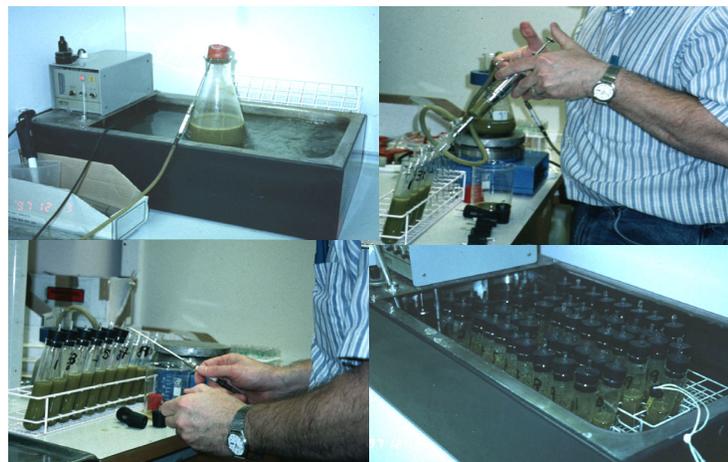
Most of the digestion of feed consumed by the dairy cow is done by the microbes living in the rumen, the first compartment of the cow's stomach. It is possible to study microbial digestion processes by incubating feeds with rumen fluid collected from cannulated cows.



Using Rumen Fluid to Measure Feed Energy (Gas Production) & Protein Bypass (Degradation)



Collecting & Straining Rumen Fluid



Pre-Incubating, Dosing & Incubating Rumen Fluid to Measure Protein Bypass