

Lesson 5.1 Glossary

A

Abomasum – The true stomach of a ruminant animal, majority of the digestion occurs here.

Absorption – The passage of digested food from the alimentary canal to the circulatory system.

Alimentary canal – The passage in an animal's body through which food passes from mouth to anus.

Anabolism – Constructive process by which simple substances are converted by living cells into compounds that are more complex.

Anterior – In four-legged animals, toward the head; the opposite of posterior.

Anus – The posterior opening of the digestive tract.

Avian – Refers to birds; the class Aves.

B

Bile – Yellowish green alkaline bitter liquid. Stored in gall bladder. Aids in the digestion of fatty acids.

Bolus – Regurgitated food that has been chewed and is ready to be swallowed; a cud.

C

Cardia – Juncture of the esophagus and stomach that prevents food from moving back into the esophagus.

Cecum (pl. ceca) – “Blind gut” where small and large intestine join. Performs little function except in the horse where it assists with the digestion of roughages through bacterial action.

Chyme – The partly digested material passed from the stomach into the duodenum.

Cloaca – Enlarged vent in chickens used to excrete waste and lay eggs.

Concentrates – Grain and protein supplements, ex. corn

Crop – Crop; a saclike enlargement in the esophagus of many birds to store food.

Cud – A small wad of regurgitated feed in a ruminant's mouth, which is rechewed and swallowed.

D

Digestion – The breaking down of food into simple substances that are more readily available to the body to use.

Digestive tract – The mouth, esophagus, digestive organs; stomach or stomachs, crop, gizzard, the small and large intestines, and anus; all of the organs of an animal or fowl through which food passes.

Duodenum – In mammals, the part of the small intestine nearest the stomach. In birds, the part of the small intestine nearest the gizzard.

E

Enzyme – An organic catalyst; a large protein molecule produced by the body that stimulates or speeds up various chemical reactions without being used up itself.

Esophagus – Gullet; the tube that connects the throat or pharynx with the stomach. It varies greatly in the vertebrates; e.g., in the crop of a bird, it is distended for retention of food.

F

Feed – 1) Harvested forage, such as hay and grain, for livestock. 2) To furnish with essential nutrients.

G

Gastrointestinal tract – The digestive tract from the mouth to the anus.

Gizzard – The muscular posterior stomach of birds, which has muscular walls and a thick, horny lining; its principle function is the grinding or crushing of coarse feed particles. The presence of grit increases the efficiency of the grinding process.

Gullet – The esophagus.

I

Ileum – The third and lowest division of the small intestine, extending from the jejunum to the cecum.

J

Jejunum – The part of the small intestine between the duodenum and the ileum.

L

Large intestine – An organ of digestion in which water is reabsorbed.

M

Mastication – The process of chewing food.

Metabolism – The chemical changes that take place in the living plant and animal cells whereby one compound is converted to one or more other compounds.

Monogastric – Simple stomached animals. Ex. Pigs, dogs and horses.

Mouth – The opening through which an animal or human takes in food.

O

Omasum – The third compartment of the ruminant stomach. Contains a mass of suspended, parallel, rough-surfaced leaves that grind ingesta to a fine consistency.

P

Pancreas – A gland below and behind the stomach that secretes pancreatic juice.

Posterior – Hind or rear.

Prehension – The method or way food is delivered to the mouth.

Proventriculus – The true stomach of birds, which is a spindle-shaped organ between the esophagus and gizzard.

R

Rectum – The terminal or lower part of the intestine, which ends at the anus.

Reticulum – The second compartment of the ruminant stomach, where bacterial digestion continues. Has a honeycomb-textured lining.

Roughage – High fiber feed. Ex. pasture, hay, silage.

Rumen – Largest part of the ruminant stomach; a large amount of bacterial fermentation of feed materials occurs in the rumen.

Ruminant – Animal with a four-chambered stomach, consumes large quantities of roughages.

S

Salivary glands – Glands that open into the mouth and secrete a fluid with digestive, irritant, or anticoagulatory properties.

Small intestine – Long folded tube attached to the lower end of the stomach.

Stomach – In humans and certain other vertebrate animals, a large saclike organ into which food passes from the esophagus or gullet for storage while undergoing the early stages of digestions.

V

Vent – The opening of the cloaca; the anus of a bird.

Villi – Microscopic, hair-like extensions or projections of the inner lining of the digestive tract.