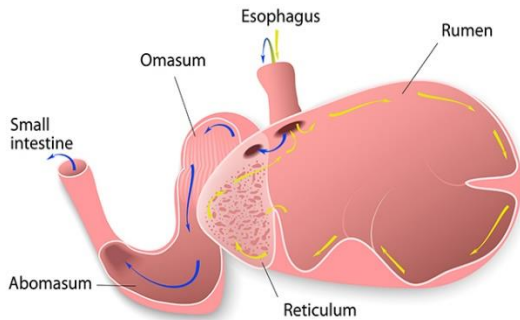
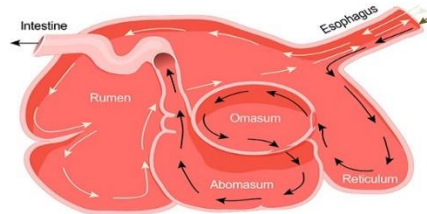


Godly Family Training (Mature level)
Digestive Systems of Animals
Part 13

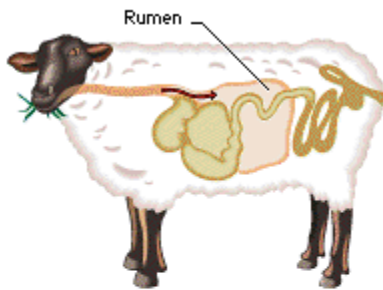
RUMINANT STOMACH



Ruminant digestive system

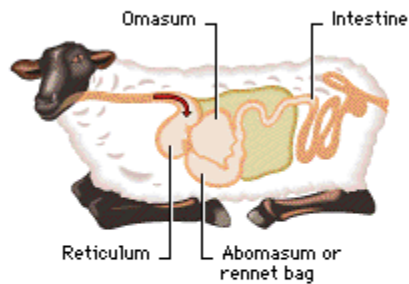


Four-Chambered Stomach Ruminant animals, **including sheep**, domestic cattle, goats, deer, and giraffes, have four-chambered stomachs.



Grazing

Plant material is chewed a little before being swallowed.
Part-digested food is stored in the rumen where it is broken down into cud by bacterial action.



Ruminating

Cud is regurgitated and chewed again while the ruminant is lying down.
Food swallowed for the second time bypasses the rumen.
Food is finally processed by acids and digestive enzymes in the other stomach chambers.

(Microsoft® Encarta® Reference Library 2002)

The **four** stomachs of the sheep:

1. Rumen
2. Reticulum
3. Omasum
4. Abomasum (it has a true digestive function)

1. **Grazing** = Gathering God's word using a notebook or device.
2. **Ruminating** = Chewing and reflecting on God's word with the joyous expectation of application.

Realize that Jesus calls believers His sheep

John 10:1-18

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; ² but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. ⁹ I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and **I lay down my life for the sheep.** ¹⁶ **And I have other sheep**, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father."

John 10:27-29

"**My sheep** hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; ²⁸ and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." RSV

John 21:16-17

"He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "**Tend My sheep.**" ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Feed My sheep.**" NKJV

Sheep must have a balance between **Eating** and **Exercise**

Sheep that spend too much time eating and ruminating build up layers of fat. Obesity in sheep is dangerous, since an overweight sheep can easily roll over during a time of rumination. Rolling over is called **casting**.

When a sheep is cast, stomach gasses begin to swell its stomach. Soon the bloated stomach cuts off circulation to the feet, and the sheep is no longer able to stand upon them. The ultimate consequence of casting is death.

In scripture God warns us to maintain a balance between the study of the Word and its application through service. The imbalance of study without application is strongly condemned in James 1.

James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the Word [obey the message], and not merely listeners to it, betraying yourselves [into deception by reasoning contrary to the Truth].

23 For if anyone only listens to the Word without obeying it and being a doer of it, he is like a man who looks carefully at his [own] natural face in a mirror;

24 For he thoughtfully observes himself, and then goes off and promptly forgets what he was like.

25 But he who looks carefully into the faultless law, the [law] of liberty, and is faithful to it and perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys], he shall be blessed in his doing (his life of obedience).

AMP

Many pastors of local churches have affirmed that the two groups of members who cause the most trouble are those who get too little spiritual food and those who get “too much” spiritual food. The goal of constant meditation is consistent daily obedience to God:

Joshua 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall have good success. RSV



“A cast sheep is a sheep that has laid down and can't get up because its center of gravity is off – sometimes because it's pregnant or simply because it has a full fleece. Once down, gasses start to build up in their abdomen and they can die in a matter of hours. If you get them back up on their feet, then they're fine.”

“If a sheep goes too long without being shorn; a number of problems occur. The excess wool impedes the ability of sheep to regulate their body temperatures. This can cause sheep to become overheated and die. Urine, feces, and other materials become trapped in the wool, attracting flies, maggots and other pests.”

Sheep must have a balance between Eating and Exercise!

[Click here.](#) “Casting” Part 1 Full teaching (Audio)

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Suggested application:

Make the decision to be balanced between eating God's word and doing God's word.