

## Ruminants

### Stomach of a cow, goat, or sheep

The cow, goat, or sheep has four stomachs. When the cow, goat, or sheep eats, it swallows into stomach number one, then spits up the food to chew it some more. This food is called the cud. When the cow, goat, or sheep finishes chewing its cud, it swallows it into stomach number two. The food then goes to stomachs three and four, where more digestion takes place.

An animal that chews its cud such as a cow, goat, or sheep is called a ruminant. A ruminant can use up to 50-80% roughages and hays in its diet. The simple stomached animals such as the pig, horse, and human must eat a smaller amount of bulky feeds and a larger amount of concentrated feeds or grains.

