**Foraging Strategies**

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Herbivore Carnivore

-Plants -Animals

-Stationary -Mobile

-Abundant -Rare

-Lo energy & time -Hi energy & time

-Hi success -Lo success

-10,000 bites/day -Few prey/day

-Hi Intake -Lo intake

-Lo & variable in protein -Hi & uniform in protein & energy

& energy

-High fiber in cell wall -No fiber or cell wall

-Much chewing -Little chewing

-Complex digestive tract -Simple digestive tract

-Energy & protein from -Energy & protein from catabolism

microbial fermentation

* **Diet Preferences**
  + How animals meet nutrient needs

Example 1 - Grassy Pasture

* Similarity between **pasture** and **cattle** diet = 94%
* Similarity between **pasture** and **sheep** diet = 83%

Example 2 – Shrubby Pasture

* Similarity between **pasture** and **cattle** diet = 69%
* Similarity between **pasture** and **goat** diet = 80%
* **Multi Species Grazing** 
  + Multi-species grazing is when more than one kind of livestock (i.e. sheep, goats, cattle, or horses) graze a unit of land.
  + The grazing can occur at the same time or at different times and still be considered multispecies grazing.
  + Multi-species grazing is the norm for naturally regulated ecosystems grazed by a variety of herbivores.
* **Advantages of multi-species livestock grazing over single-species grazing include?** 
  + Increased carrying capacity.
  + Improved botanical composition of pastures
  + Suppression of undesirable plants
  + Increased individual animal performance of one or more species in the mix.
  + Improved animal health --parasite problems are often reduced.
* **Advantages of multi-species livestock grazing over single-species grazing include?** 
  + Reduced predation of sheep or goats grazing among or bonded to cattle.
  + Greater net return for the ranch.
  + Improved cash flow -- marketing different products at different times of the year.
  + Reduced financial risk --increased enterprise diversity.
* **Major challenges to multi-species grazing:** 
  + Increased fencing requirements – if sheep and goats are added to cattle or horse pastures.
  + Lack of knowledge of animal husbandry for a variety of species.
  + Increased complexity because of enterprise diversity.
  + Potential disease transmission from sheep to cattle.   
     (Sheep are the unaffected carrier and cattle are affected.)