

4. How much food do Animals Eat?

Time: 10-15 minutes

Supplies: Forage Demand of Animals worksheet for each student.

Introduction:

Different types of animals require different amounts of food each day. As a general rule, **ruminants** like bison, deer, cattle, and sheep will eat about 2.5% of their body weight per day (in dry weight of forage); **hind-gut fermenters** such as horses and rabbits will eat about 3.0% of their body weight each day; and **concentrate selectors** such as birds, bears, and mice will eat about 0.25% of their body weight daily.

Do:

- Fill in the Blank: Forage Demand of Animals.
- Calculate how much forage an 800 pound cow eats each day.
- Calculate how much forage a 1,200 pound horse eats each day.
- Calculate how much forage a 3 pound rabbit eats each day.

Example:

A 200 pound deer eats 2.5% of its body weight each day. In one day, it will eat 5 pounds

(200 pounds x 0.025 = 5 pounds)

Forage Demand of Animals

RUMINANTS

Eat _____ of body weight/day in dry matter of forage.



HIND-GUT FERMENTERS

Eat _____ of body weight/day in dry matter of forage.



How much food do Animals eat a day?

A _____ pound cow eats _____% of its body weight each day. In one day, it will eat _____ pounds.

A _____ pound horse eats _____% of its body weight each day. In one day, it will eat _____ pounds.

A _____ pound rabbit eats _____% of its body weight each day. In one day, it will eat _____ pounds.

Answers:

- **Cattle:** 800 lbs X 2.5% = 20 pounds in one day.
- **Horse:** 1200 lbs X 3.0% = 36 pounds in one day.
- **Rabbit:** 3 lbs X 3.0% = 0.09 pounds in one day.