

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

SS2

WK 8

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM OF A RUMINANT

Example Cow

MOUTH

It consists of teeth, tongue, salivary gland. The ruminant gathers grass with its tongue, and pulls a small quantity which it hurriedly chews before swallowing.

OESOPHAGUS

The esophagus is the avenue or channel through which food passes from the mouth into the rumen.

RUMEN

This is the first stomach here the grass is acted upon by microorganisms like bacteria and converts the grass into starch. The rumen can also be used for temporary storage especially if the animal is allowed to feed for a long time. The food now goes into the reticulum.

RETICULUM

This is the second stomach, the food stays for a short time before and then is moved by regurgitation or anti-peristaltic movement to the mouth through the esophagus. The food is now chewed properly using the molar and premolar (chewing the cud), into a semi-liquid and which is re-swallowed in bits into the Omasum.

OMASUM

This is the third stomach where the food stays for some time and later moves into the Abomasum.

ABOMASUM

This is the fourth stomach and also called the True stomach. Here enzymes act on the food. Further digestion and absorption of the food take place progressively. Along the digestive tract the digested food is then absorbed into the blood through the villi in the small intestine, while the undigested food passes into the large intestine where they are removed through the anus as dung or faeces which serves as a good source of manure for enriching the soil.

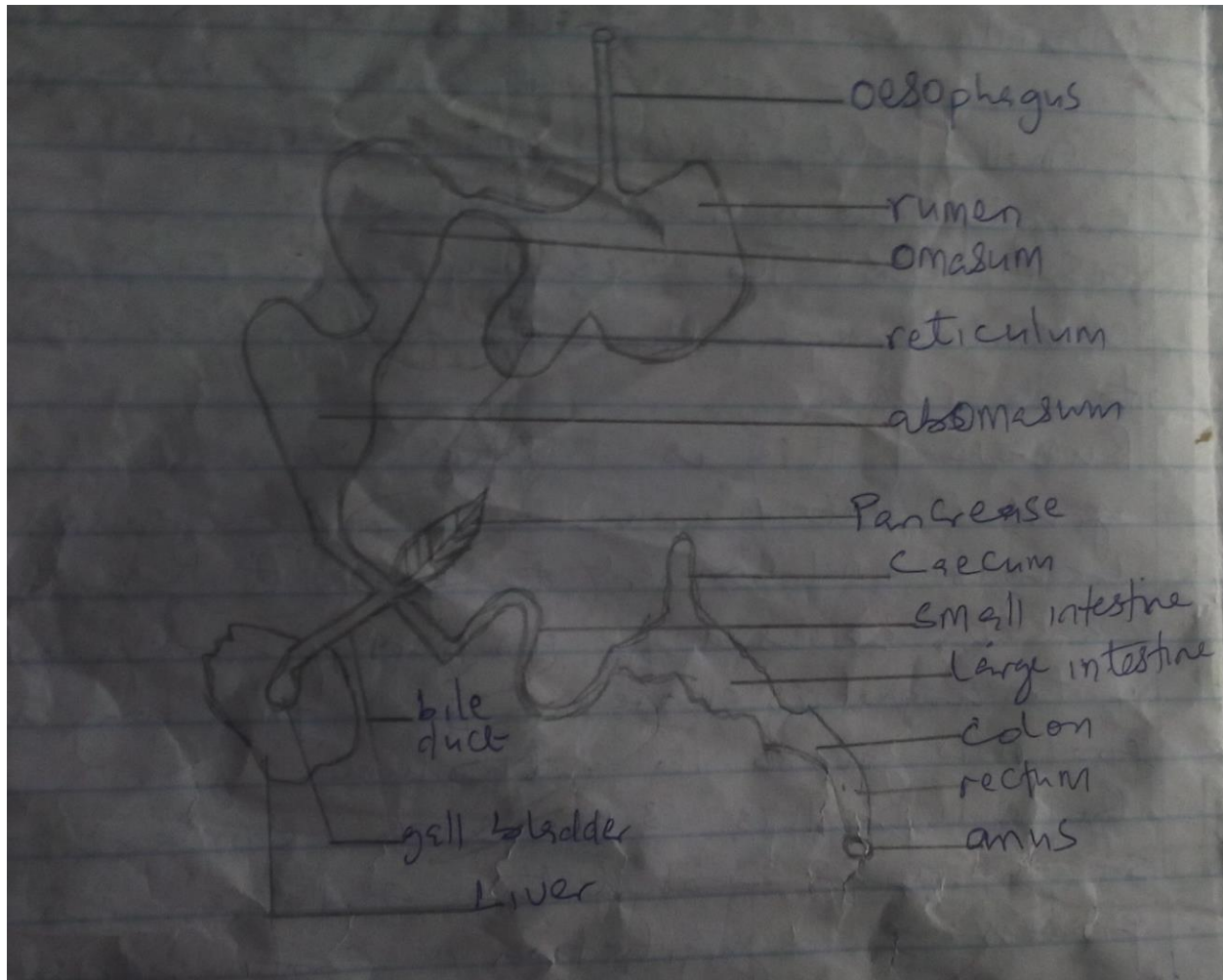
DIGESTIVE

TRACTS

OF

A

COW



ASSIGNMENT

With the aid of a diagram, Explain

1. Digestion in fowl
2. Digestion in pig or rabbit

Submit at the school gate and copy every lesson in your Agric notes including the diagrams.