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## DAIRY DIGESTION

*New York Agriculture in the Classroom*

- 1. Rumen** - Known as the fermentation vat, the rumen holds up to 50 gallons of partially digested food & is where cud comes from. Good bacteria in the rumen help digest feed & provide protein to the cow.
- 2. Reticulum** - Known as the hardware stomach because if cows accidentally eat hardware (i.e. peice of fencing scrap) it will often lodge here causing no further damage. The reticulum moves feed into the rumen or omasum and brings "cud" back to the mouth.
- 3. Omasum** - Controls flow of digested feed into the abomasum by acting like a filter.
- 4. Abomasum** - funtions like a human's stomach by secreting acids which kills bacteria.