

Equine Digestive Tract - Function

Type of Digestion	Foregut	Capacity (L)	% of Gastrointestinal System	Digestion Substrate
Enzymatic Digestion	Stomach	8-15 litres	8%	protein, lipids, soluble carbohydrates (i.e. grains)
	Small Intestine (duodenum, jejunum, ileum) 70ft	68 litres	30%	

Type of Digestion	Hindgut	Capacity (L)	% of Gastrointestinal System	Digestion Substrate
Microbial Digestion	Cecum (4ft)	28-36 litres	15%	forage (pasture, hay), beet pulp, oat and soy hulls
	Large Colon (10-12ft)	86 litres	38%	
	Small Colon (10-12 ft)	16 litres	9%	

Adapted from: http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/info_digest.htm