

In Vitro True Digestibility (IVTD) is an anaerobic fermentation that is done in the lab and simulates digestion as it occurs in the rumen. As the name suggests, IVTD is used to determine the true digestibility of a forage. This test is especially useful for hay that will be fed to dairy, show, purebred, or other high performing cattle. Additionally, ash is important as it is normally only estimated if a test is not requested for it. By specifically testing for ash, a true value will be found. The true ash value is inversely proportional to TDN. That is, if the true ash value was actually much higher than the estimate, it would cause TDN to be much lower. In addition to the basic hay test, we recommend testing for "48 hr In vitro digestibilities" along with ash, as this information will provide the producer with the most accurate forage digestibility analysis.

For more information on IVTD testing and how it is done, visit <http://www.dairyone.com/Forage/FactSheet/lvtd%20Fact%20Sheet.htm>.

To have your hay tested, or if you have any questions, contact Laura at Henderson County Veterinary Hospital.

Thanks,  
Jesse Richardson, DVM

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