



7:30 pm, Tuesday 4th February 2025

The Magic of the Rumen

1. Understanding the Rumen

1. Anatomy and function of the rumen
2. Comparison of the rumen in alpacas vs. other ruminants
3. Importance of the rumen in digestion and nutrient absorption

2. The Microbial Ecosystem

1. Types of microorganisms in the rumen
2. Role of bacteria, protozoa, and fungi in the digestive process
3. How the microbial ecosystem benefits alpacas

3. Diet and Nutrition

1. Optimal diet for alpacas to support rumen health
2. Common dietary issues and how to address them
3. Importance of fiber and forage in the diet

4. Health and Management

1. Signs of a healthy vs. unhealthy rumen
2. Rumen-related health issues in alpacas
3. Best practices for maintaining rumen health

Andrew Waterhouse