

Using a new in vitro method and fiber model (TTNDFD) to improve estimates of digestibility of alfalfa for dairy cattle.

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Carbohydrate Digestibility Affects Health & Production

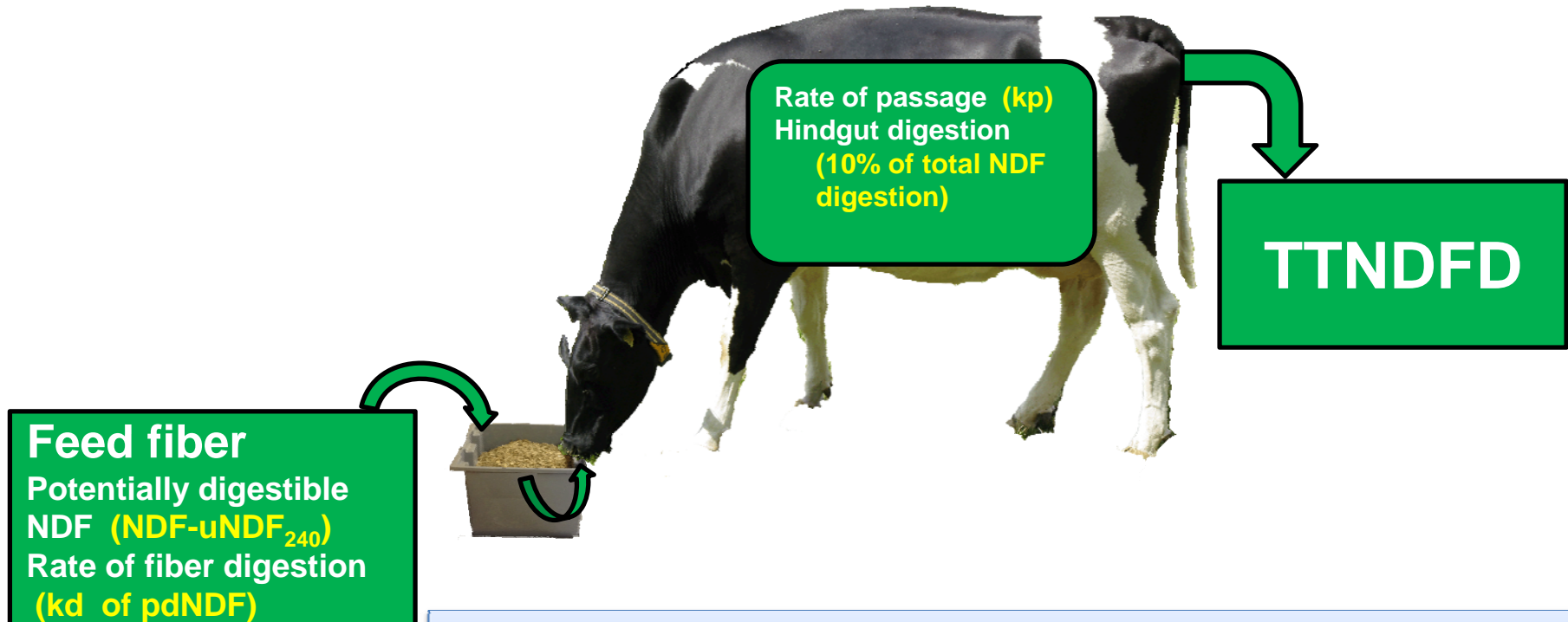


Properly balancing Starch and NDF is critical for health and production in high producing dairy cows.

Variations in fiber digestibility affect production more than variations in starch digestibility
Starch digestibility => 3-5 lb/day
Fiber digestibility => 6-7 lb/day

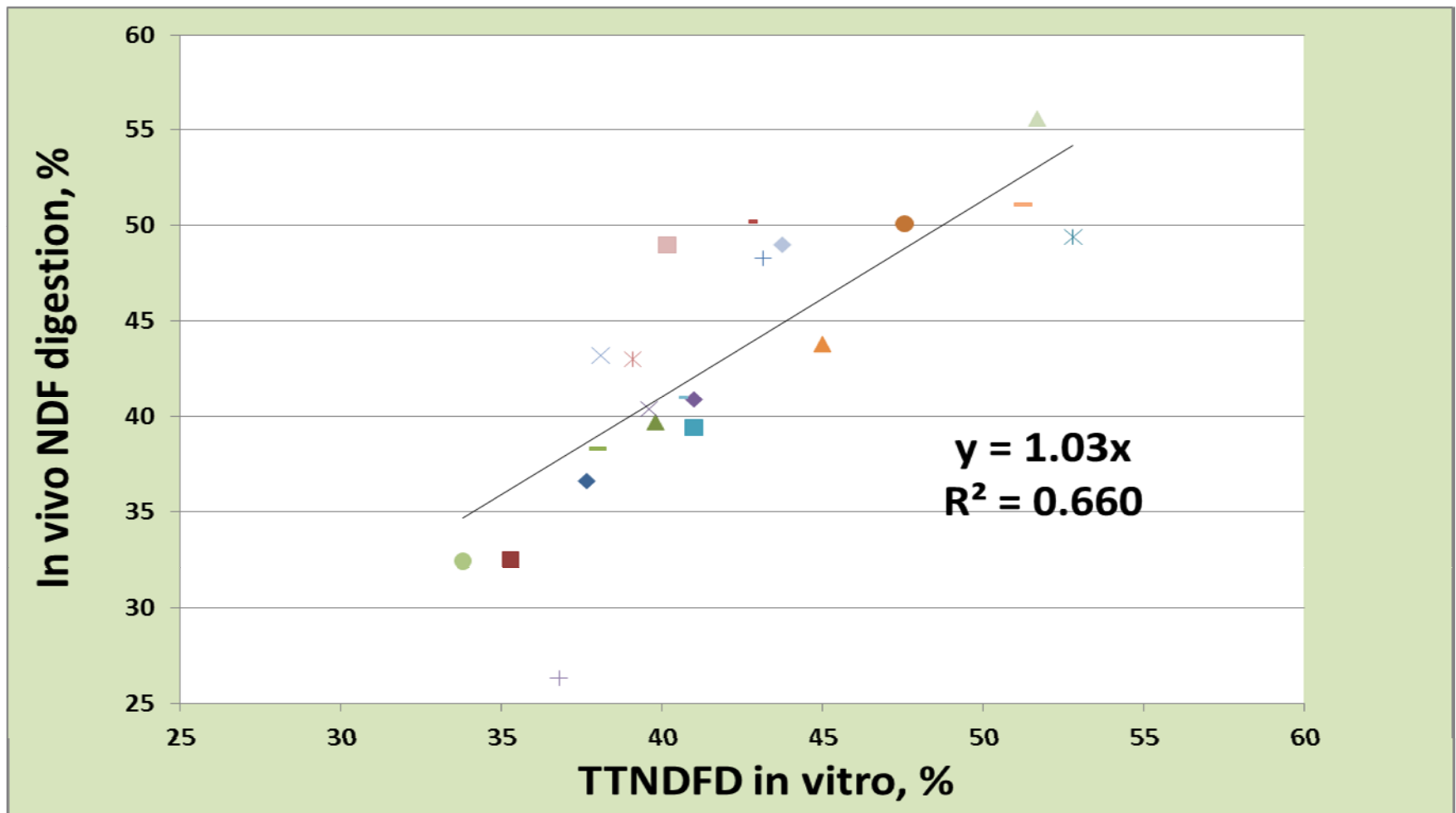
TTNDFD → *Total Tract NDF Digestibility*

Feed and cow factors are combined to measure true fiber digestion



A 2-3 unit change in ration TTNDFD corresponds to 1 pound change in milk yield.

TTNDFD combines *in vitro* rate of NDF digestion with *iNDF* to improve the prediction of *in vivo* fiber digestion



The Take Home Message

1. Fiber digestibility has a big impact on milk yield.
2. Fiber digestion is affected by feed characteristics (pdNDF and kd) and the animal (kp, rumen vs hindgut digestion).
3. TTNDFD is a better predictor of fiber digestion than other measures such as ivDMD, uNDF or NDFD