



# Insights From DR. John

**QUESTION:** Should I feed my young kids (goats) hay?

## Dr. J's Response:

The fermentation of non-roughage ingredients stimulates development of the rumen papillae which will result in better absorption of roughage fermentation products.

Roughage (hay) itself DOES NOT stimulate papillae development.

So, feeding hay to young kids:

- (1) retards rumen development for future utilization of forage,
- (2) hay is lower in energy which results in slower growth,
- (3) young kid's rumens are not fully functional for digesting roughage which may cause a pot-belly.

I hope this clarifies why hay is not feed of choice for baby ruminants.

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