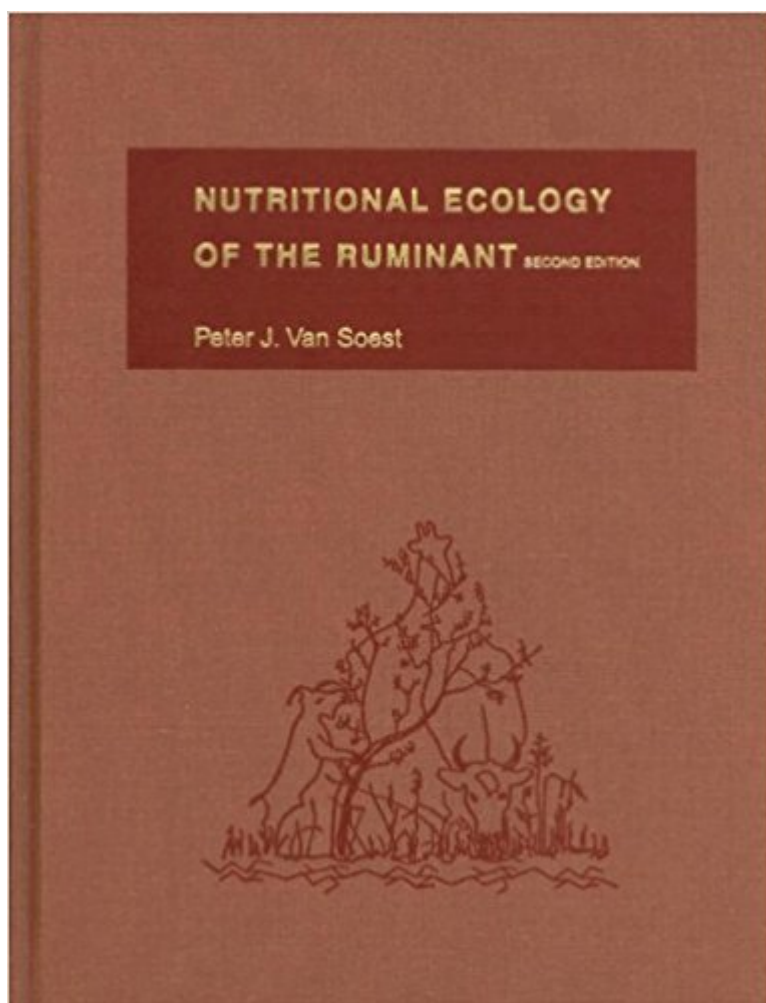


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Nutritional Ecology Of The Ruminant (Comstock Book)



Synopsis

This monumental text-reference places in clear perspective the importance of nutritional assessments to the ecology and biology of ruminants and other nonruminant herbivorous mammals. Now extensively revised and significantly expanded, it reflects the changes and growth in ruminant nutrition and related ecology since 1982. Among the subjects Peter J. Van Soest covers are nutritional constraints, mineral nutrition, rumen fermentation, microbial ecology, utilization of fibrous carbohydrates, application of ruminant precepts to fermentive digestion in nonruminants, as well as taxonomy, evolution, nonruminant competitors, gastrointestinal anatomies, feeding behavior, and problems of animal size. He also discusses methods of evaluation, nutritive value, physical structure and chemical composition of feeds, forages, and broses, the effects of lignification, and ecology of plant self-protection, in addition to metabolism of energy, protein, lipids, control of feed intake, mathematical models of animal function, digestive flow, and net energy. Van Soest has introduced a number of changes in this edition, including new illustrations and tables. He places nutritional studies in historical context to show not only the effectiveness of nutritional approaches but also why nutrition is of fundamental importance to issues of world conservation. He has extended precepts of ruminant nutritional ecology to such distant adaptations as the giant panda and streamlined conceptual issues in a clearer logical progression, with emphasis on mechanistic causal interrelationships. Peter J. Van Soest is Professor of Animal Nutrition in the Department of Animal Science and the Division of Nutritional Sciences at the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University.

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Customer Reviews

I also feel compelled to review this book due to the rather biased and (to me) uninformative reviews. Yes, this book was first published in 1994 - that's long time ago, and there's a reason it's still available. This is one of THE classic text on basic ruminant nutrition, and it absolutely nailed the literature up to the time it was published. Agriculture has been a huge business for a very long time, thus much of the material in this book - the foundations of ruminant nutrition and metabolism - was well established decades ago. As a very distinguished professor (Lee Baldwin) told a class I took in graduate school, in subsequent decades we've added another significant digit or two to e.g. VFA production ratios, but the fundamental pathways and relationships were worked out long ago, and they have not changed. I still love this book. VanSoest was a giant in the field, and in this book he very effectively conveyed his insights and knowledge, drawing from research on a huge range of studies from domestic and wild ruminants. He clearly and logically lays out fundamental concepts of ruminant (and often non-ruminant) nutrition, forage composition, fundamentals of metabolism, intake, and key aspects of the nutritional ecology of domestic and wild ruminants. Sure, there have been many advances in the field in the past couple decades, and flaws have appeared in some of the theories put forth in this book, but the basic models, simple mathematical equations, and fundamentals remain largely unchanged. I'm baffled by reviews that say this book isn't clear. It's technical, it covers a huge amount of material, it has over 30 pages of citations, and it's a great reference.

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