LECTUER 3

Dry Matter

The dry matter (DM) content of a feed represents the material left all the water has been removed it is determined by drying the sample at 100°C until a constant weight is obtained. In silages and other fermented feeds some organic acids as well as water may be removed by drying.

These are important nutrients for ruminants and should be included in the (DM) fraction.

**Procedure:**

* Weight an aluminum tray. Note the tray number (to initial tube). Record weight.
* Transfer a quantity of feed into the tray and re-weight. Record the weight.
* Place the tray in an oven at 100°C overnight.
* Remove the tray from the oven and re-weigh. Record weight.

**Calculation:**

* DM(g/kg**)=**$\frac{final sample weight }{initial sample weight }$ \*100
* Moisture(g/kg**)=**$\frac{initial sample weight-final sample weight }{initial sample weight }$**\*100**