Forage Particle Length is an often overlooked piece of the forage quality puzzle

Why is forage particle length important?

Inadequate fiber results in

✧ reduced DM digestibility
✧ reduced milkfat %
✧ DA’s
✧ acidosis, laminitis
✧ fat cow syndrome

Even cows eating adequate NDF are affected if chop is too fine

Smaller particles pass through rumen more quickly, which reduces digestibility
Fiber of > 1.5” needed to form rumen mat

Rumen mat

Cud chewing

saliva

rumen buffer

less rumen acidity

Penn. State Forage Particle Separator
$240 ($195 without scale)
From NASCO