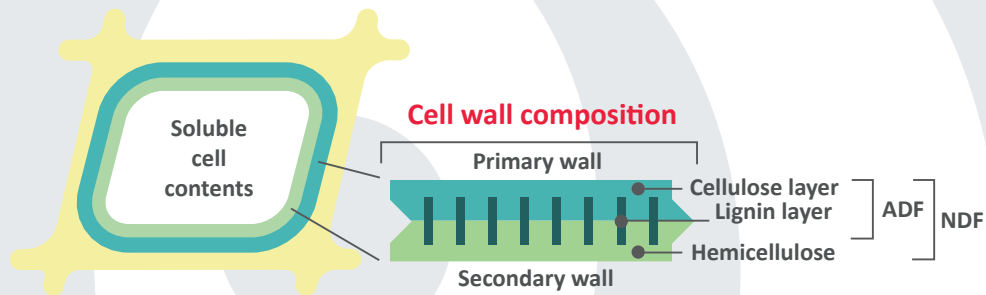


# FEEDING QUALITY EXPLAINED



## Is cell wall digestibility the same as fibre digestibility?

The digestibility of fibre (dNDF) in maize is measured by cell wall digestibility (CWD). CWD measures the extent to which animals can digest maize plant fibre. As lignin content increases, cell wall digestibility declines.

The higher the cell wall digestibility, the better the potential feed value of the plant.

## Digestible fibre (dNDF) - the key to improved performance

**Dairy cows** need to maximise dry matter intake (DMI) if they are to absorb sufficient energy to maintain high levels of milk production.

**AD plants** can improve efficiency of gas production by increasing the highly degradable fibre content of maize silage to help speed passage through the digester.

**To maximise feed quality, select maize varieties with both high starch content and cell wall digestibility.**

## Cell wall digestibility and diet formulation

The greater the proportion of maize silage in the diet, the more important the cell wall digestibility becomes.

The lower the digestibility of cell wall, the slower the rate of forage digestion. Varieties with poor cell wall digestibility impact feed intakes with slower digestion and reduced production.

A maize variety with improved cell wall digestibility can be formulated into the diet at a higher level than one with a lower cell wall digestibility, saving money on purchased concentrates.