Supplementary Figures

Supplementary Figure S1 - gamma.tif

**Supplementary Figure S1** Electrophoretic profile of 16S rRNA gene sequences of ruminal γ-Proteobacteria obtained by PCR-DGGE. The PCR-DGGE profiles were generated after amplification by Nested-PCR of ruminal fluid DNA using specific primers for the phylum γ-Proteobacteria as described in the text. The dendrogram was generated with the BioNumerics software package (version 5.1) using the UPGMA method. (C) Non-supplemented steers (control) receiving only basal forage; (R) Rumen-supplemented steers that received a daily supply of 230 g of casein infused directly into the rumen; 6h and 18h indicates the time during the feeding cycle when the rumen fluid samples were collected for DNA extraction.

Supplementary Figure S2 - Firmicutes.tif

**Supplementary Figure S2** Electrophoretic profile of 16S rRNA gene sequences of ruminal Firmicutes obtained by PCR-DGGE. The PCR-DGGE profiles were generated after amplification by Nested-PCR of ruminal fluid DNA using specific primers for the phylum Firmicutes as described in the text. The dendrogram was generated with the BioNumerics software package (version 5.1) using the UPGMA method. (C) Non-supplemented steers (control) receiving only basal forage; (R) Rumen-supplemented steers that received a daily supply of 230 g of casein infused directly into the rumen; 6h and 18h indicates the time during the feeding cycle when the rumen fluid samples were collected for DNA extraction.

Supplementary Figure S3 - Bacteroidetes.tif

**Supplementary Figure S3** Electrophoretic profile of 16S rRNA gene sequences of ruminal Bacteroidetes obtained by PCR-DGGE. The PCR-DGGE profiles were generated after amplification by Nested-PCR of ruminal fluid DNA using specific primers for the phylum Bacteroidetes as described in the text. The dendrogram was generated with the BioNumerics software package (version 5.1) using the UPGMA method. (C) Non-supplemented steers (control) receiving only basal forage; (R) Rumen-supplemented steers that received a daily supply of 230 g of casein infused directly into the rumen; 6h and 18h indicates the time during the feeding cycle when the rumen fluid samples were collected for DNA extraction.

Supplementary Figure S4 - Archaea.tif

**Supplementary Figure S4** Electrophoretic profile of 16S rRNA gene sequences of ruminal archaea obtained by PCR-DGGE. The PCR-DGGE profiles were generated after amplification by Nested-PCR of ruminal fluid DNA using specific primers for ruminal archaea as described in the text. The dendrogram was generated with the BioNumerics software package (version 5.1) using the UPGMA method. (C) Non-supplemented steers (control) receiving only basal forage; (R) Rumen-supplemented steers that received a daily supply of 230 g of casein infused directly into the rumen; 6h and 18h indicates the time during the feeding cycle when the rumen fluid samples were collected for DNA extraction.