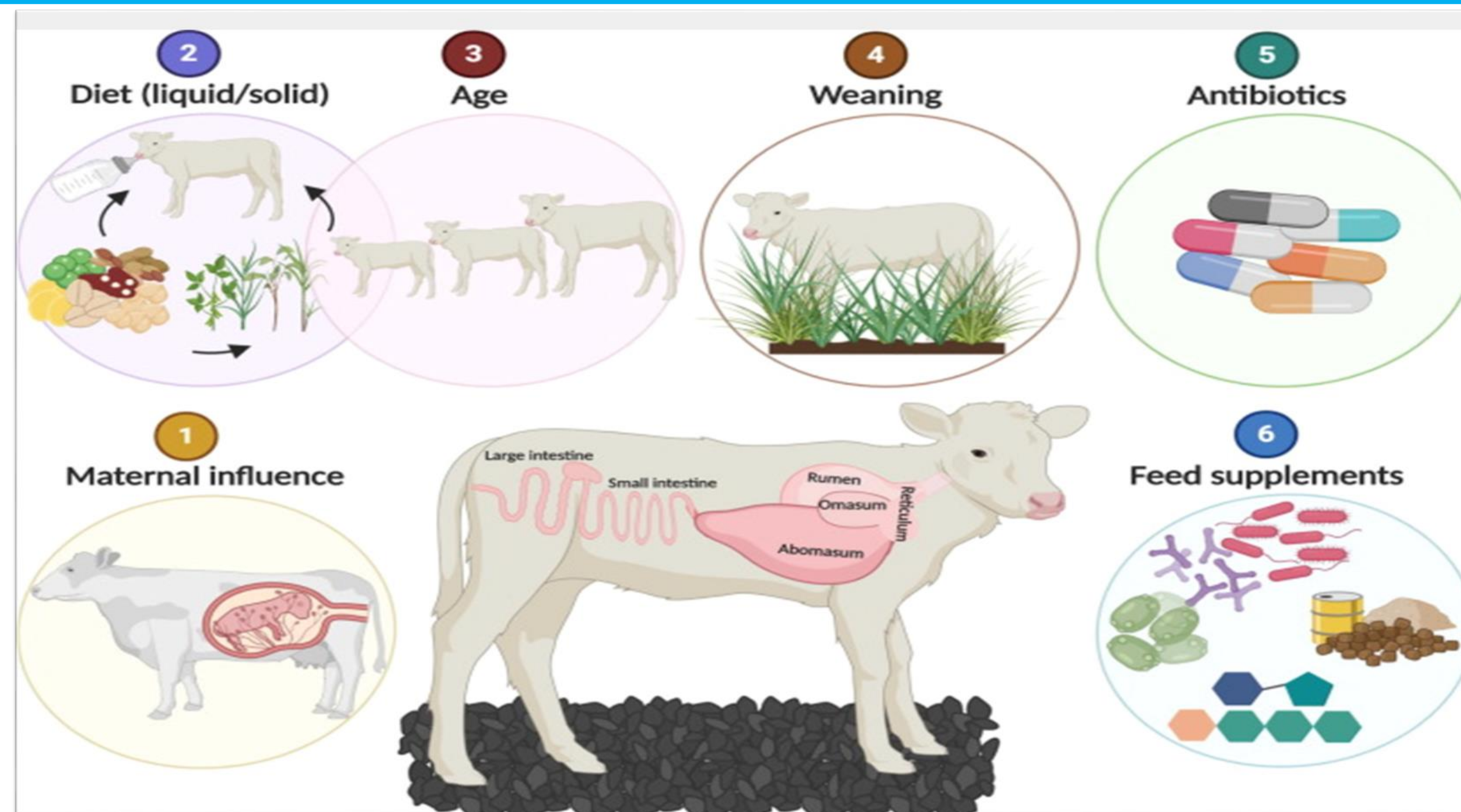


**HoloRuminant** aims to elucidate the role of microbes and their interplay with the ruminant animal during life events and how it affects performance, health, welfare and the environment.

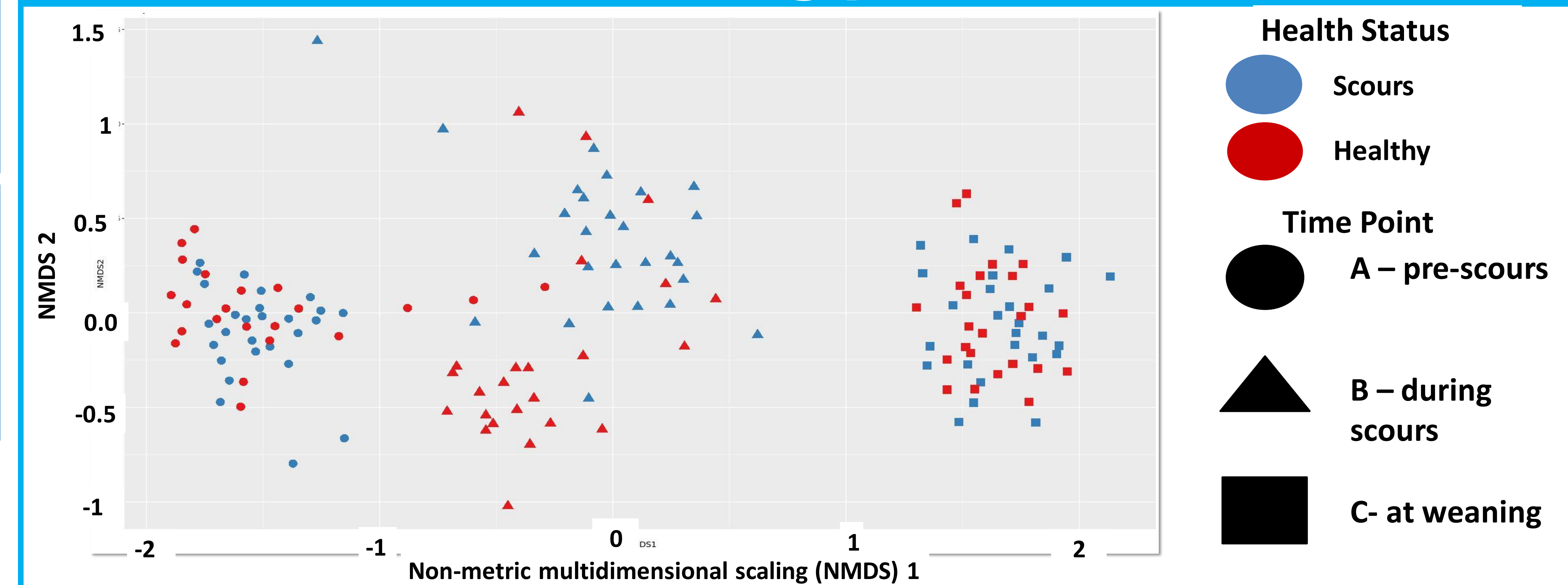
## Defining the microbiome

*A community of microorganisms in a particular environment*

## Factors influencing development



## Diversity of the faecal microbiome over the pre-weaning period



## Take home messages

- Diversity in the microbiome is a key feature of ruminants
- Greater understanding of gastrointestinal tract microbial function and dynamics will lead to improvements in ruminant performance, health and welfare.