**Anatomy of the bovine large intestine**

The bovine large intestine consists of the cecum, the ascending, transverse, and descending colon, and the rectum ([Fig. 1](https://els-jbs-prod-cdn.literatumonline.com/cms/attachment/2006032333/2027075683/gr1.jpg)). The cecum usually lies in the supraomental recess with its blind end directed caudally toward the pelvis. It is connected ventrally to the ileum by the ileocecal fold, which contains blood vessels and nerves, and dorsally to the proximal loop of the ascending colon (PLAC) through the short cecocolic band. At the ileocecocolic junction, the cecum continues as the PLAC without visible transition. After extending cranially to the level of the 12th rib, the PLAC turns back laterally until it reaches the caudal flexure of the duodenum. There, it turns around cranially and continues as the spiral colon (spiral loop of the ascending colon), which is embedded in its mesentery in the form of a flat oval. The spiral colon consists of centripetal and centrifugal coils (with 1.5 to 2 revolutions each). The distal loop of the ascending colon runs first in a caudal, then in a cranial direction, and leads to the descending colon over the short transverse colon, which crosses from the right to the left side of the abdomen in front of the cranial mesenteric artery. The rectum lies mostly in the peritoneal part of the pelvic cavity.

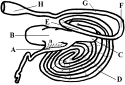
[](https://els-jbs-prod-cdn.literatumonline.com/cms/attachment/659944d1-029b-415b-8485-4b1efa34a225/gr1.jpg)

Fig. 1

The bovine large intestine. A, ileum; B, cecum; C, proximal loop of the ascending colon; D, spiral loop of the ascending colon; E, distal loop of the ascending colon; F, transverse colon; G, descending colon; H, rectum; a, ileocecal fold. The cecocolic fold between the cecum and the proximal loop of the ascending colon is not visible under the distal loop of the ascending colon.