

Beef RVS Exam Study Guide - 2025

This guide will help you prepare for your ABVP Recognized Veterinary Specialty (RVS) examination this November. The 350 item Combined RVS Exam given in two parts on the same day. The exams are mostly to exclusively multiple-choice. There is the possibility of fill in the blank, short answer, essay, or matching for some exam items.

The AVMA best practices is that the examination items align with a Job Task Analysis (JTA) of current RVS Diplomates. The 2018 JTA identified tasks, diseases, etc. that Diplomates either saw frequently or expected a Specialist to have immediate knowledge of the subject. Additionally, it has been decided that some exam items can come from current journals and a small percentage can be at your Exam Committee's discretion. Please note that items drawn from current journals (with a 5 year look back period) are 1) from a journal on the RVS Reading List, 2) the question is drawn from the abstract only, and 3) the journal abstract must be inexpensively obtained. The exception to this is Veterinary Clinics of North America (if applicable), where the exam taker is responsible for the whole article.

Exam Blueprint

For topics that are systems (such as Cardiovascular, etc.), questions can include anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology, diseases (Including neoplasia), etiologies, diagnosis, and therapy.

| Topic | Percent of exam |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Behavioral B | up to 1% |
| Cardiovascular CV | 2% |
| Endocrine E | up to 1% |
| Gastrointestinal GI | 11 % |
| Genetic G | up to 1% |
| Hemolymphatic HL | up to 1% |
| Immunologic I | 1% |
| Infectious IN | 19% |
| Integument/Mammary IM | 14% |
| Management/Environment ME | 12% |
| Metabolic M | 2% |
| Musculoskeletal MS | 4% |
| Nervous NV | 4% |
| Nutritional N | 2% |
| Oral/Dentition/Beak O | up to 1% |
| Neoplasia - concepts, multisystem NP | 1% |
| Pharmacologic RX | up to 1% |
| Regulatory RG | up to 1% |
| Reproductive RP | 14% |
| Respiratory RS | 7% |
| Special senses SS | 2% |
| Toxicologic T | 3% |

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| Urogenital GU | 2% |
| Zoonotic Z | up to 1% |
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Specific conditions

Certain conditions were identified as important to Diplomates in your RVS. This list is meant to help guide your study and not meant to be an all-inclusive list. Conditions not on this list may be present on the exam.

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| Abscesses |
| allergic reaction |
| Analgesia |
| Animal Welfare |
| Artificial insemination |
| aural hematoma |
| Bacterial pneumonia |
| bloat- free gas |
| bloat- frothy |
| Bluetongue |
| Bovine leukemia virus |
| bovine respiratory disease complex |
| Breeding soundness exams |
| BVD- reproductive disease |
| BVD-respiratory disease |
| calf diarrhea |
| Castration |
| Cattle housing |
| Clostridium disease |
| Coccidia |
| coliform mastitis |
| Corona/Rotavirus |
| Cryptosporidiosis |
| C-section |
| Dehorn |
| Downer cow |
| Dystocia |
| E. coli diarrhea |
| Edema |
| Endometritis |
| Estrus synchronization |
| external parasites |
| Farm employee training |

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| Financial analysis |
| foot rot |
| Fractures |
| Hairy heel wart |
| health certificates |
| Heat abatement |
| Hepatic lipidosis |
| Histophilus somnus complex |
| Hoof trim |
| Housing/Handling Facilities |
| Hyperthermia |
| hypomagnesemia tetanies |
| Indigestion |
| infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis |
| Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis |
| interdigital fibroma |
| internal parasites |
| Ketosis |
| Lacerations |
| Left displaced abomasum |
| malignant edema |
| Mannheimia haemolytica |
| Mastitis |
| Metritis |
| Necropsy |
| Papillomatosis |
| Pasteurella multocida |
| periparturient hypocalcemia |
| Pneumonia |
| Polioencephalomalacia |
| preputial prolapse |
| Pyometra |
| Rabies |
| Ration analysis |
| record analysis |
| rectal prolapses |
| reproductive disorders |
| Reproductive exams |
| Retained placenta |
| Rotavirus |
| rumen acidosis |
| rupture of suspensory ligament |
| Salmonella spp |

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| Septicemia |
| Shock |
| sole ulcers |
| squamous cell carcinoma |
| Standard Operating Procedures |
| stifle injuries |
| streptococcus agalactiae |
| subacute rumen acidosis |
| subsolar abscess |
| teat/udder injury |
| Tetanus |
| toxic gasses |
| Trauma |
| traumatic reticuloperitonitis |
| Trichobezoars |
| Twinning |
| Ultrasound (reproductive) |
| uterine abnormalities |
| uterine prolapse |
| vaccinations |
| vaginal prolapse |
| Viral pneumonia |
| Vitamin E/selenium deficiency |
| White line disease |

Beef Reading List

Books (latest editions)

R - Recommended, SR - Strongly Recommended, O - Optional

- *Bovine Reproduction, 2nd Edition. 2021, RM Hopper - SR*
- *Farm Animal Surgery. 2nd Edition. 2016, SL Fubini and N Ducharmr. - SR*
- *Large Animal Internal Medicine, 6th Edition, 2020, Bradford P. Smith, David C. Van Metre, and Nicola Pusterla. - SR*
- *Merck Veterinary Manual, 11th Edition. 2016 - SR*
- *Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle, 8th Revised Edition. 2016. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, Medicine. - SR*
- *Society for Theriogenology Manual for Breeding Soundness Examination of Bulls, 2nd Edition. 2018, JH Koziol and CL Armstrong - SR*
- *Veterinary Clinical Epidemiology: patient to population, 4th Edition. 2020, Ronald D. Smith - SR*
- *Veterinary Immunology, 10th Edition. 2018, Ian Tizard - SR*
- *Veterinary Medicine, A textbook of the diseases of cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, and goats. 11th Edition. 2017, PD Constable, KW Hinchcliff, SH Done, and W Brunberg. - SR*

- *Animal Feeding and Nutrition, 11th Edition. 2012, M. Jurgens, K Bregendahl, J Cloverdale, and S Hansen.* - R
- *Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology, 14th Edition. 2021, J Hall and M Edward.* - R
- *Herd Health - Food Animal Production Medicine, 3rd Edition. 2001, OM Radostits.* - R
- *Large Animal Urogenital Surgery, 2nd Edition. 1998, DF Wolfe and HD Moll.* -R
- *Noordsy's Food Animal Surgery, 5th Edition. 2014, KN Ames* - R
- *Plants Poisonous to Livestock in the Western States, USDA. 2011.*
<https://www.ars.usda.gov/is/np/poisonousplants/poisonousplants.pdf> - R

- *Abnormal Morphology of Bovine Spermatozoa, 1st Edition. 1989, AD Barth and RJ Oko* - O
- Basic Physiology and Anatomy Texts - O
- Basic Accounting Texts - O
- *Marketing Cattle on the Grid.* - O <https://animalscience.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2012/04/beef-grid-pricing-cattle.pdf>.

Publications and Journals

R - Recommended, SR - Strongly Recommended, O - Optional

- AABP Proceedings of Annual Meetings - SR
- Academy of Veterinary Consultants Proceedings - SR
- *Bovine Practitioner* - SR
- *Veterinary Clinics of North America - Food Animal Practice* - SR
- JAVMA - Food Animal Features - R
- *Report: National Beef Quality Audit - 2017* - R
- *Veterinary Accreditation: A Reference Guide for Practitioners* - R
- Society for Theriogenology Proceedings of Annual Meetings - R
- *Journal of Animal Science* - O