

Dairy 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 filling 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	Percentage on Exam
Behavioral B	up to 1%
Cardiovascular CV	1%
Endocrine E	up to 1%
Gastrointestinal GI	14%
Genetic G	up to 1%
Hemolymphatic HL	1%
Immunologic I	1%
Infectious IN	20%
Integument/Mammary IM	14 %
Management/Environment ME	9%
Metabolic M	3%
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	13%
Respiratory RS	6 %

Special senses SS	1%
Toxicologic T	2%
Urogenital UG	4%
Zoonotic Z	up to 1%

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.

Abomasal ulcer
Actinobacillosis
Actinomycosis
allergic reaction
Analgesia
Animal Welfare
aural hematoma
Bacterial pneumonia
bloat- free gas
bloat- frothy
bovine respiratory disease complex
Brucellosis
calf diarrhea
Clostridium disease
Corona/Rotavirus
Cryptosporidiosis
Dehorn
Dystocia
E. coli diarrhea
early embryonic death
Endometritis
environmental strep mastitis
Estrus synchronization
foot rot
Fractures
Hairy heel wart
Hoof trim
hypomagnesemic tetany
Indigestion
infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis

interdigital fibroma
Ketosis
Lacerations
Laminitis
Left displaced abomasum
Listeriosis
Mastitis
Metritis
Milk cultures
Necropsy
Papillomatosis
peripheral neuropathies
Pneumonia
pregnancy toxemia
Rabies
record analysis
rectal prolapses
rectal tears
reproductive disorders
Reproductive exams
stifle injuries
streptococcus agalactiae
teat/udder injury
Tetanus
traumatic reticuloperitonitis
Twinning
Ultrasound (reproductive)
uterine prolapse
vaccinations
Viral pneumonia
Vitamin E/selenium deficiency

Dairy Reading List

Texts

- *Current Therapy (1-4): Food Animal Practice* – Howard
- *Current Therapy in Theriogenology* – Morrow
- *Bovine Reproduction 2nd ed.* – Hopper
- *Current Therapy in Large Animal Theriogenology* - Youngquist
- *Dairy Production Medicine* – Risco and Melendez
- *Food Animal Surgery* – Noordsy
- *Herd Health: Food Animal Production Medicine* - Radostits, Leslie & Fetrow
- *Lameness in Cattle* – Greenough

- *Large Animal Clinical Nutrition* - Ralston and Naylor
- *Large Animal Internal Medicine* – Smith
- *Large Dairy Herd Management* - Van Horne, et. al.
- *Rebhun's Diseases of Dairy Cattle*, 3rd ed, Elsevier, 2018; Peek S, Divers TJ.
- *The Merck Veterinary Manual, Ninth Edition*
- *Turner and McIlwraith's Techniques in Large Animal Surgery*, 4th ed. – Baird and Hendrickson
- *Veterinary Medicine* by Radostits, et al.

Journals

- *American Journal of Veterinary Research*
- *Bovine Practitioner*
- *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*
- *Journal of Animal Science*
- *Journal of Dairy Science*
- *Theriogenology*
- *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice*

Miscellaneous Proceedings:

- Proceedings of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (Past 10 years)
- Dairy Production Medicine Meetings
- National Mastitis Council (Past 10 years)
- Society for Theriogenology

Continuing Education:

- AABP (especially the pre-convention seminars on nutrition, quality milk production, dairy economic health, calf rearing, records analysis, etc.)
- ABVP Bovine Sessions
- ADSA Meetings
- ASAS Meetings
- AVMA Meetings
- Certification Programs (currently programs are being offered at Penn, Guelph and Ohio State that, upon completion, certify the practitioner as having completed extensive course work in dairy production medicine.)
- Dairy Production Medicine Nutrition and Management Meetings
 - Examples: Northeast Dairy Production Medicine Symposium, Western Dairy Management Conference, Cornell Nutrition Conference, Academy of Western Dairy Consultants
- National Mastitis Council
- Society for Theriogenology