

## Beef RVS Exam Study Guide - 2026

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%
Urogenital GU	2%
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.

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
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
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*

