

Food Animal 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 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	Percent on Exam
Behavioral B	up to 1%
Cardiovascular CV	up to 1%
Endocrine E	up to 1%
Gastrointestinal GI	12%
Genetic G	up to 1%
Hemolymphatic HL	1%
Immunologic I	1%
Infectious IN	22%
Integument/Mammary IM	17%
Management/Environment ME	11%
Metabolic M	4%
Musculoskeletal MS	3%
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	4%
Special senses SS	2%
Toxicologic T	2%
Urogenital UG	up to 1%
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
Abscesses
allergic reaction
Analgesia
Animal Welfare
Artificial insemination
Bacterial pneumonia
bloat- free gas
Bovine leukemia virus
bovine respiratory disease complex
bovine respiratory syncytial virus
calcium:phosphorus imbalance/deficiency
calf diarrhea
caseous lymphadenitis
Castration
Cattle housing
Clostridium disease
Coccidia
coliform mastitis
contagious ecthyma
Cryptosporidiosis
C-section
Dehorn
Downer cow
Drug toxicoses
Dystocia
E. coli diarrhea
early embryonic death



Ectoparasites –lice
Ectoparasites –mites
Endometritis
Endoparasites – gastric worms
Endoparasites – intestinal worms
Environmental strep mastitis
Estrus synchronization
Farm employee training
Fractures
gastric dilatation and volvulus
Haemophilus parasuis
health certificates
Hoof trim
hyperthermia
hypomagnesemic tetany
Indigestion
interdigital fibroma
interdigital necrobacillosis
internal parasites
Ketosis
Lacerations
Laminitis
Left displaced abomasum
Mannheimia haemolytica
Mastitis
Metritis
Milk cultures
Necropsy
nervous ketosis
Papillomatosis
Papillomatous digital dermatitis
Pasteurella multocida
periparturient hypocalcemia
Peritonitis
Pneumonia
Pododermatitis circumscripta (sole ulcer)
Pododermatitis septica (subsolar abscess)
Polioencephalomalacia
pregnancy toxemia
Reproductive exams
Retained placenta
right displaced abomasum



Rotavirus
rumen acidosis
salt poisoning
Shock
Staphylococcus aureus
streptococcus agalactiae
Streptococcus spp
subacute rumen acidosis
Tetanus
Trauma
traumatic reticuloperitonitis
Tritrichomoniasis
Twinning
Udder cleft dermatitis
Ultrasound (reproductive)
uterine abnormalities
uterine prolapse
Vaccinations
vaginal prolapse
Viral pneumonia
Vitamin E/selenium deficiency
White line disease
Winter dysentery

Food Animal Reading List

Textbooks:

- Beef Practice: Cow-Calf Production Medicine, 1st Edition - Peter J. Chenoweth
- Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult: Ruminant, 1st Edition - Scott R. R. Haskell
- Color Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of Cattle, 3rd Edition - Roger Blowey, A. David Weaver
- Color Atlas of Diseases and Disorders of the Pig – Smith, Taylor, Penny
- Current Therapy in Large Animal Theriogenology, 2nd Edition - Robert S. Youngquist , Walter Threlfall
- Current Therapy in Theriogenology – Morrow
- Current Veterinary Therapy, 5th Edition, Food Animal Practice - David E. Anderson & Michael Rings
- Diseases of Swine, 10th Edition – Jeffrey J. Zimmerman and Locke A. Karriker
- Epidemiology for Field Veterinarians: An Introduction - Evan Sergeant and Nigel Perkins



- Farm Animal Anesthesia: Cattle, Small Ruminants, Camelids, and Pigs, 1st Edition - HuiChu Lin , Paul Walz
- Farm Animal Surgery, 2nd Edition - Susan L. Fubini & Norm Ducharme
- Goat Medicine, 2nd Edition - Smith and Sherman
- Herd Health: Food Animal Production Medicine – Radostits, Leslie, and Fetrow
- Large Animal Internal Medicine, 5th Edition – Smith
- Noordsy's Food Animal Surgery, 5th Edition - N. Kent Ames
- Rebhun's Diseases of Dairy Cattle, 2nd Edition - Thomas J. Divers, Simon Peek
- Sheep and Goat Medicine, 2nd Edition - D. G. Pugh, N. (Nickie) Baird
- Swine Disease Manual – Neumann, Ramirez, Schwartz
- The Merck Veterinary Manual, 9th Edition
- Theriogenology – Roberts
- Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice
- Veterinary Medicine, 10th Edition - Radostits, Gay, Hinchcliff, Constable

Periodicals:

- *American Journal of Veterinary Research*
- *Animal*
- *Canadian Journal of Veterinary Research*
- *Canadian Veterinary Journal*
- *In Practice*
- *International Journal of Applied Research in Veterinary Medicine*
- *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*
- *Journal of Animal Science*
- *Journal of Dairy Science*
- *Journal of Swine Health and Production*
- *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*
- *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*
- *Research in Veterinary Science*
- *The Bovine Practitioner*
- *Theriogenology*
- *Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia*
- *Veterinary Clinical Pathology*
- *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice*
- *Veterinary Dermatology*
- *Veterinary Journal*
- *Veterinary Pathology*
- *Veterinary Record*
- *Veterinary Research*
- *Veterinary Surgery*



Proceedings/ Continuing Education:

- AABP (American Association of Bovine Practitioners)
- AASP (American Association of Swine Practitioners)
- AASV (American Association of Swine Veterinarians)
- ABVP Practitioner's Symposium—Food Animal Track
- ADSA (American Dairy Science Association)
- AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association)
- Large Dairy Herd Management Conference
- National Mastitis Council
- NAVC (North America Veterinary Conference)
- Society of Theriogenology
- Small ruminant (Various local and state meetings)
- Swine (Various local and state meetings)
- WVC (Western Veterinary Conference)

