# UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

## FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER

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| PROGRAMME: | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ANIMAL SCIENCE IV |
| COURSE CODE: | APH 402 |
| TITLE OF PAPER: | BEEF PRODUCTION |
| TIME ALLOWED: | TWO (2) HOURS |
| INSTRUCTIONS: | ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS. |

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## QUESTION 1

A large proportion of breeding cows on Swazi Nation Land (SNL) do not calve during any given calving season and there is high calf mortality between birth and weaning. Discuss the causes, possible solutions and the effect on profitability of the above problem on SNL beef cattle operations.

(25 marks)

## QUESTION 2

What are the main beef cattle management activities in a Commercial ranch? Specify when these activities are done (months), why they are done during that time (months) and why they are important in beef cattle production.

(25 marks)

## QUESTION 3

Understanding nutrient requirements of different classes of beef cattle is critical in beef cattle production. Highlight the classes of beef cattle that need particular attention in terms of their nutrient requirements, also specify why their requirements are important. (25 marks)

## QUESTION 4

Imagine you had a bank loan to start a commercial ranch with a capacity to graze 600 breeding cows and a corresponding number of breeding bulls. Assuming that you are starting from nothing, give a detailed account on how you would use the money. What aspects of ranch business are important in order to ensure profitability? (25 marks)

## QUESTION 5

a) What beef cattle records would you expect a ranch manager to keep? What is the relevance of these records to the beef cattle business?

(15 marks)

b) What is the role of the Data Processing Unit in beef cattle breeding and selection in the country? (10 marks)