

1ST SEM. 2009/2010



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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER

**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

**DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR.**

QUESTION 1

The major reasons for establishing government ranches was to improve the beef cattle industry in the country. However, over the years the contribution of government ranches to the beef cattle industry has decreased markedly. Discuss the major functions of government ranches and the problems that make them ineffective.

(25 marks)

QUESTION 2

Farmer X recently bought a farm with cattle from Farmer B. After the sale Farmer X is told that the reason Farmer B sold the farm was that the beef herd was not performing well. Farmer X has hired you to systematically identify the reasons for the poor performance of the herd. Give a detailed account on how you would approach this task.

(25 marks)

QUESTION 3

What are the major limitations of beef cattle productivity in Swaziland. Give five main constraints and explain how they affect cattle productivity.

(25 marks)

QUESTION 4

The shortage of quality cattle for both local and export markets has made Swaziland Meat Industries (SMI) to promote and help establish feedlots in the country. However, recently many feedlot farmers have left the business due to financial and technical difficulties. Discuss these problems faced by feedlot owners and their causes.

(25 marks)

QUESTION 5

Discuss the segments of the beef industry, the traits of economic importance under each segment and why each segment can be treated as a business on its own.

(25 marks)