

1ST SEM. 2011/2012



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UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER

**PROGRAMME: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
ANIMAL SCIENCE IV**

COURSE CODE: AS/APH 402

TITLE OF PAPER: BEEF PRODUCTION

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS

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GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR.**

QUESTION 1

- a) Inbreeding and crossbreeding are both essential for the improvement of beef cattle productivity in any country. Discuss the role played by each breeding system. (15 marks)
- b) The normal bull to cow ratio in commercial beef cattle ranches is 1 bull to 30 cows. Briefly discuss factors that would require adjustment up or down in the bull to cow ratio. (10 marks)

QUESTION 2

Imagine you have a bank loan to start a feedlot business with a capacity to feed 500 cattle at a given time. Give a detailed account on how you would use the money. What aspects of your business (feedlot) would you pay particular attention to in order to ensure profitability?. (25 marks)

QUESTION 3

Beef cattle production as it exists on Swazi Nation Land (SNL) is unsustainable. Discuss management issues to support the above statement. (25 marks)

QUESTION 4

- a) Discuss the importance of government breeding ranches to the beef cattle industry in Swaziland. (15 marks)
- b) In commercial beef cattle ranches, when are the following activities done (months)?
- i) Breeding season
 - ii) Weaning\pregnancy diagnosis
 - iii) Calving season
 - iv) Breeding evaluation of bulls.

Where possible provide the reason why the activities are done during that period. (10 marks)

QUESTION 5

Discuss the tissue growth (muscle, fat and bone) during growth and development of beef cattle. How is the growth and development affected by sex, frame size and nutrition? (25 marks)