UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

(1ST SEMESTER-2017/2018)

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER

PROGRAMME: B. Sc. Animal Science Year 4

COURSE CODE: AS 402

TITLE OF PAPER: BEEF PRODUCTION

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ANY FOUR QUESTIONS

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

QUESTION 1

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

QUESTION 2

Discuss tissue growth (muscle, fat, and bone) during growth and development of beef cattle. Explain how growth and development are affected by sex, frame size and nutrition. **(25 Marks)**

QUESTION 3

Farmer X recently bought a ranch with beef cattle from farmer Y. After the sale farmer X is told that the reason farmer Y 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 this task is approached.   **(25 Marks)**

QUESTION 4

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 in beef cattle production.
                                                                                        (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.   **(10 Marks)**

QUESTION 5

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 nutrient requirements are important at that reproductive/reproductive stage.
                                                                                        (25 Marks)