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1ST SEM. 2014/2015

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**

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

COURSE CODE: AS 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 Livestock Development Policy published by the Ministry of Agriculture proposes to commercialise beef cattle production on Swazi Nation Land (SNL). Discuss why you think commercialising beef cattle production would be a challenge on SNL
(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

The shortage of quality slaughter cattle for both the local and export markets 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 4

A commercial ranch owner wants to know the best marketing alternative from among the following:

- i) Selling weaners
- ii) Selling yearlings
- iii) Selling feedlot finished cattle

Explain situations and conditions that would favour selling cattle at each of the above stages.
(25 Marks)

QUESTION 5

In beef cattle production, the single most important factor affecting profitability is calving rate. Explain in detail how as a ranch manager you can ensure that high calving rate is attained. **(25 Marks)**