



COLLEGE OF HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

END OF SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION

COURSE: BEEF PRODUCTION

CODE: NAAS407

DATE: APRIL/MAY 2024

DURATION: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTOR: DR. D. CHIKWANDA

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Answer ALL questions in **section A** and any three questions in **section B**.

SECTION A: Answer **ALL** questions.

Question 1

- a) Outline the importance of optimum body condition in pregnant dry cows. [4]
- b) Highlight:
 - i. The importance of any **four** (4) handling facilities on a beef farm. [4]
 - ii. Any **five** (5) causes of pre-weaning calf mortality. [5]
 - iii. The importance of cattle branding in beef production. [5]
- c) Describe the phenotypic characteristics of the Tuli cattle breed. [5]
- d) Explore any **five** (5) factors to be considered in selection of replacement heifers. [5]
- e) Contrast the traits of economic importance between the Angus and Brahman cattle breeds. [6]
- f) Outline the processes of ante-mortem inspection of slaughter cattle. [6]

SECTION B: Answer any **three (3)** questions from this section.

Question 2

As an AGRITEX Livestock Extension Officer, advise a group of farmers who would like to set up a Beef Cattle Breeder's Association on the traits of economic importance that they should consider when selecting the breed for registration. [20]

Question 3

Discuss the five freedoms in relation to the welfare of feedlot beef cattle. [20]

Question 4

- a. Outline the causes of poor reproductive performance of beef cattle in communally-managed production systems. [10]
- b. Describe a bacterial disease of economic importance in beef production in terms of:
 - i. Aetiology; [2]
 - ii. Signs and symptoms; and [4]
 - iii. Treatment. [4]

Question 5

Explore the effects of pre-slaughter handling of cattle on beef quality. [20]

Question 6

A small-scale farmer from Chakohwa village in Chimanimani District has approached you as a beef cattle expert for advice on how to set up a commercial beef enterprise:

- i. Advise the farmer on beef production system options. [12]
- ii. Highlight pros and cons of any **one** (1) production system option in 6i above. [8]

END OF EXAMINATION PAPER!!!