



MERU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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University Examinations 2011/2012

FIRST YEAR, SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURAL
EDUCATION AND EXTENSION/CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE

ANS 0130: RUMINANT HUSBANDRY

DATE: AUGUST 2011

TIME: 1½ HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *one* and any other *two* questions

QUESTION ONE – (30 MARKS)

- (a) Define the following reproductive terminologies as used in ruminant husbandry.
- (i) Fertility (2 Marks)
 - (ii) Prolificacy (2 Marks)
 - (iii) Litter size (2 Marks)
 - (iv) Kidding/lambing interval (2 Marks)
- (b) (i) Explain what is anoestrus (2 Marks)
(ii) Name one cause of anoestrus (1 Mark)
- (c) Explain how temperatures and season affects beef production. (3 Marks)
- (d) State and briefly explain three reasons why a farmer may decide to cull his cows. (6 Marks)
- (e) Discuss five routine management practices carried out in dairy calves. (10 Marks)

QUESTION TWO – (15 MARKS)

- (a) State and briefly discuss three genetic factors which are likely to cause reproductive failure in cattle. (6 Marks)
- (b) What are the four differences between sheep and goat meat. (4 Marks)
- (c) Name five constraints experienced by farmers who keep sheep and goats (SHOATS) in Kenya. (5 Marks)

QUESTION THREE – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Name five advantages of keeping small ruminants as compared to large livestock. (5 Marks)
- (b) State five desirable characteristics of Galla goat/Somali goat/Boran goat. (5 Marks)
- (c) Discuss characteristics of Black Head Persian (BHP) breed of sheep which makes it suitable and survive in arid and semi arid lands (ASALS) (5 Marks)

QUESTION FOUR – (15 MARKS)

- (a) What is the importance of minerals in the diet of ruminants? (1 Mark)
- (b) State four deficiency symptoms of vitamin “A” in dairy cattle. (4 Marks)
- (c) List and discuss five factors that influence dry matter (D.M) intake in ruminants. (10 Marks)

QUESTION FIVE – (15 MARKS)

- (a) Discuss how lactose intolerance problem causes diarrhea to some people. (5 Marks)
- (b) Suggest how people who have lactose intolerance problem can be helped. (2 Marks)
- (c) Give a detailed account of milk let down in dairy cattle. (8 Marks)