



MERU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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University Examinations 2012/2013

FIRST YEAR, FIRST SEMESTER, EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATE IN AGRICULTURE
AND DIPLOMA IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND EXTENSION

AGR 0123/0221: FODDER AND PASTURES MANAGEMENT

DATE: DECEMBER 2012

TIME: 1 ½ HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer question *ONE* and any other *TWO* questions

QUESTION ONE – 30 MARKS

- (a) Both macro and micro elements are very important in pasture performance. Explain the difference between the two. (2Marks)
- (b) As a livestock production extension officer; a dairy farmer comes to your office for intervention on pasture establishment. Give and explain any 3 factors restricting the success of pasture establishment. (6Marks)
- (c) “One of the biggest challenges facing livestock farmers in the tropics is the effect of seasonal rainfall” Discuss. (4Marks)
- (d) What do you understand by the following terminologies: (5Marks)
- Ley
 - Roughage
 - Browse
 - Pasture
 - Grassland
- (e) Forage crops can be classified according to the type of plant they are and the way in which they are used to feed livestock; give five types of classes and an example of a plant in each of them. (5Marks)
- (f) In pasture and fodder production management weeds have been identified as an important factor. Explain 3 weed control methods. (3Marks)
- (g) Give 3 qualities for selection of a good pasture grass or legume. (3Marks)
- (h) As a manager in a dairy farm, what would you give as the objectives of pasture management? (2Marks)

QUESTION TWO – 15 MARKS

- (a) Give 3 reasons why grasses are suitable herbage plants. (3Marks)

- (b) What do you understand by the following terms on pasture and fodder management?
- (i) Seed treatment (2Marks)
 - (ii) Silage (2Marks)
 - (iii) Hay (2Marks)
 - (iv) Seed inoculation (2Marks)
- (c) Outline four constraints regarding forage production. (4Marks)

QUESTION THREE – 15 MARKS

Explain how you conserve Rhodes as hay. (15Marks)

QUESTION FOUR – 15 MARKS

- (a) What do you understand by the following terms:
- (i) Seed longevity (2Marks)
 - (ii) Seed dormancy (2Marks)
 - (iii) Nurse crop (2Marks)
 - (iv) Re-seeding (2Marks)
- (b) In the tropics livestock is kept for various reasons. Give 4 reasons. (4Marks)
- (c) What do you understand by the following terms: (3 Marks)
- (i) Forage conservation
 - (ii) Hydrophyte
 - (iii) Mesophyte

QUESTION FIVE – 15 MARKS

In fodder production “TUMBUKIZA METHOD OF NAPPIER ESTABLISHMENT” has been found to be very effective technology. As an agricultural extension officer prepare teaching notes for farmers attending a field day at KAGURU ATC. (15 Marks)