

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE**  
**SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2022/23 SESSION**  
**ANS 3509 RABBIT PRODUCTION**

**JUNE 2023**

**MARKS: 100**

**TIME: 3 HOURS**

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Instructions: Answer **All** questions

Begin Each Question on a New Page

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## SECTION A (10 marks)

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. How many teeth does a rabbit have? (2)
  - A. 28
  - B. 22
  - C. 21
  - D. 26
  
2. Rabbits have the characteristic of being “open rooted”. This means: (2)
  - A. Their bones never completely solidify
  - B. Their teeth grow throughout their lives
  - C. They are prone to develop malocclusions
  - D. Their toenails have a blood supply with them
  
3. A newborn rabbit is called a: (2)
  - A. Pinkie
  - B. Bunny
  - C. Kit
  - D. Pup
  
4. Rabbits are considered to be coprophagic because: (2)
  - A. They have a cecum in their digestive system
  - B. They cannot vomit
  - C. They can be frightened to death
  - D. They eat soft fecal pellets
  
5. What mammal order are rabbits classified as? (2)
  - A. Lagomorphs
  - B. Animallia
  - C. Leporidae
  - D. Mammalia

## **SECTION B**

### **Question 1 (10 marks)**

- a. Give five economic reasons for keeping rabbits. **(5)**
- b. Apart from meat, what else do rabbits produce? **(1)**
- c. What are the three main systems of rabbit production and which one is used at NUL farm? **(4)**

### **Question 2 (20 marks)**

- a. Why is the selection of good bucks so important? **(1)**
- b. What do we mean by “commercial characteristics”? Give examples. **(10)**
- c. Give three reasons for keeping breeding records. **(3)**
- d. At what age should a young doe first be mated? **(1)**
- e. How many times per week should a buck be used? **(1)**
- f. What are the signs of a doe being on heat **(4)**

### **Question 3 (15 marks)**

- a. What is the gestation length of a female rabbit? **(1)**
- b. What is false pregnancy? **(2)**
- c. How many rabbits can a doe rear successfully? **(1)**
- d. What would you do with any extra baby rabbits and how should this be done **(6)**?
- e. Give five reasons for failure to breed? **(5)**

**Question 4 (15 marks)**

- a. What do baby rabbits eat for the first 2-3 weeks? (1)
- b. What do we mean by weaning and when and how is it done? (3)
- c. What other tasks are done at the same time as weaning? (4)
- d. What is sexing and when and how is it done? (5)
- e. If young male rabbits are kept in the same cage after weaning, they are likely to start fighting. What are two ways of preventing this? (2)

**Question 5 (15 marks)**

- a. What is bulky feed? Give 4 examples (5)
- b. What are concentrates? Which rabbits need concentrates most and why? (4)
- c. Give 4 examples of protein rich foods. (4)
- d. Give 2 reasons for including fibre in rabbits' diets? (2)

**Question 6 (15 marks)**

- a. Why it is necessary to house rabbits? (2)
- b. Describe six of the most important factors in the design of housing relative to the comfort of the rabbit (6)
- c. What are the quarantine hutches for? What are the special features of quarantine hutches? (7)

**Question 7 (10 marks)**

- a. Give two ways of preventing rabbit disease (2).
- b. What action should you take on the outbreak of disease? (5)
- c. Give three features of a sick rabbit (3)

