



# MERU UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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## UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2024/2025

SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE OF BACHELOR  
OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER  
EXAMINATION FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION  
AND EXTENSION

### EMT 3207: AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES

DATE: JANUARY 2025

TIME: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer Question ONE and any other TWO questions.

#### QUESTION ONE (30 MARKS)

- (a) Highlight the functions of the following agricultural structures:
- (i) Dips (2 marks)
  - (ii) Spray races (2 marks)
  - (iii) Crushes (2 marks)
  - (iv) Hotbeds (2 marks)
- (b) Briefly explain three types of milking parlours. (9 marks)
- (c) Outline four basis on which to classify greenhouses. (10 marks)
- (d) List six factors considered when choosing a site for a farm building. (3 marks)

#### QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- (a) With the aid of labelled diagrams, explain the operating principles of machine milking. (12 marks)
- (b) The following parameters are given for a certain structure:
- (i) Roof area ----- 60 m<sup>2</sup>
  - (ii) Wall area ----- 150 m<sup>2</sup>
  - (iii) Floor area ----- 60 m<sup>2</sup>



- |       |   |                          |
|-------|---|--------------------------|
| (iv)  | Wall insulating properties -----            | 0.68 W/m <sup>2</sup> °C |
| (v)   | Roof insulating properties -----            | 0.57 W/m <sup>2</sup> °C |
| (vi)  | Floor insulating properties -----           | 1.10 W/m <sup>2</sup> °C |
| (vii) | Inside-outside temperature difference ----- | 5 °C                     |

Calculate the total heat gain/loss through the structure by conduction.

(8 marks)

### QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- (a) In question 2 (b) above, it is also given that the air ventilation rate is 60 m<sup>3</sup>/S, air density is 1.2 kg/m<sup>3</sup> and that there are no moisture content changes. Calculate the heat gain/loss due to ventilation and air exchange through the structure. (6 marks)
- (b) Briefly discuss three main types of ventilation systems which may be used in animal housing and handling structures. (9 marks)
- (c) Highlight the aspects of a cold chain. (5 marks)

### QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- (a) Explain the following methods which may be used for crop storage:
  - (i) Refrigerated storage (4 marks)
  - (ii) Ventilated storage (3 marks)
  - (iii) Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage (5 marks)
- (b) Outline the classification of construction / engineering materials. (8 marks)

### QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

- (a) What are bituminous materials? . (8 marks)
- (b) A certain structural component consists of 0.08 m<sup>2</sup> cross-sectional area, a length of 8 m and weighing 78.5 kN/m<sup>3</sup>. Calculate the dead-load of the component. (5 marks)
- (c) Differentiate “Heat transfer” from “Thermodynamics”. (7 marks)