Title of Project: Rural Animal & Human Health Needs Assessment

Principal Investigator: **Dr. Lauri M. Baker**
Dr. Rhoel Dinglasan

Please read the information below carefully before you decide to participate in this research study. **Your participation is voluntary. You can decide not to participate or later decide to stop participating at any time without penalty or lose any benefits that would normally be expected**.

1. **Purpose of the Study:** To identify the needs of rural communities in Florida and neighboring states, with a focus on animal and human health. Your responses will be used, in part, to help develop the next strategic plan for the University of Florida. We may also use this data to develop grant proposals to address rural community needs and publish academic papers to raise awareness about the challenges faced by rural communities.

2. **What will you be asked to do:** You will be asked to answer questions related to the needs of your rural community.

3. **Time Required:** It will take about 8-10 minutes to participate in the research.

4. **Research Benefits:** There are no direct benefits to you for being in this study. There is a possibility your community may benefit from the outcomes of projects that come from this initial data collection. There may be a benefit to other communities as well, depending on the results of this study.

5. **Research Risks:** There are no risks or discomforts anticipated.

6. **Statement of Confidentiality:** Your participation in this research is confidential. We will not collect personally identifying information. Information collected about your community will be stored in computers with security passwords or in locked filing cabinets. Only certain people have the legal right to review these research records, and they will protect the secrecy (confidentiality) of these records as much as the law allows. These people include the researchers for this study, certain University of Florida officials, and the Institutional Review Board (IRB; an IRB is a group of people who are responsible for looking after the rights and welfare of people taking part in research). Otherwise your research records will not be released without your permission unless required by law or a court order. The researchers will not have your name or other identifiable information about you and if they publish, present, or share the results this research it will be in aggregate.

7. **Who to contact if you have questions:** Please contact Dr. Lauri M. Baker at lauri.m.baker@ufl.edu or Dr. Rhoel Dinglasan at rdinglasan@epi.ufl.edu with questions or concerns about this study.

8. **Voluntary Participation:** Your decision to be in this research is voluntary. You do not have to do any study activities that you do not want to take part in. You can stop at any time. If you decide you want to stop participating in the research, you can let the research team know or call the Principal Investigator at any time at 352-273-2093. If you choose not to take part, this will have no effect on you or your relationships with the University of Florida. If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you can phone the Institutional Review Board at 352-273-9600.

Participation in the research implies that you have read the information in this form and consent to take part in the research. Please save a copy of this form for your records or future reference.

If you want to participate in this research study, you may continue to answer the questions in the website portal. If you do not want to participate, you may simply not answer the questions.