# School of Food and Agriculture Faculty Position Request

**Title:** Lecturer in Animal and Veterinary Science (fulltime, nine-month, 100% teaching, non- tenure-track)

**Justification:**

Due to recent faculty retirements, AVS has reduced teaching capacity in the face of continued high enrollment. This shortage of teaching faculty threatens delivery of our heavily enrolled, foundational, first year courses (AVS 145/146). Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen aspects of the AVS curriculum to better prepare our graduates to enter Maine’s agricultural workforce, familiarizing them with new technologies, and positioning them to assume leadership roles in animal agriculture. Therefore, AVS faculty feel that a Lecturer should be hired to deliver the foundational class to first year students, and to strengthen industry-relevant course offerings for students planning to join the workforce in animal agriculture, biotechnology, and related sectors.

**Critical Teaching Needs:**

The core teaching need met by the Lecturer will be to deliver AVS 145 – Introduction to Animal Science, and AVS 146 - Introduction to Animal Science Laboratory. Both courses are required by AVS Majors, and meet specific requirements for Sustainable Agriculture and Zoology majors. Currently the course has 103 students enrolled. To meet this high demand, and the scheduling needs of diverse students, the lecture course (AVS 145) will be offered in Fall and Spring semesters. The laboratory course (AVS 146) will also be offered in the Fall (4 lab sections) and Spring (1 - 2 lab sections). In addition, during the second year of the appointment, the Lecturer will develop two classes, each of 3 credits, to replace those removed from the AVS curriculum due to lack of faculty availability (AVS 349 - Livestock Management and AVS 351 - Animal Science Techniques). The content of these two new classes will depend on the species orientation and expertise of the Lecturer. However, they will be expected broadly to include business applications in animal management, and the use of current technology (e.g. field - side diagnostics, robotic innovations, the handling of “big data”, and possibly engineering applications) in animal agriculture. The emphasis of these courses will be to prepare students for the workforce, and possible leadership roles in Maine’s agricultural sector.

**Additional Information:** This position is designed to encourage student interest in Animal Science and to enhance student understanding of the many possible career paths open to students majoring in AVS. Within the AVS curriculum, the role of this position is to strengthen the Animal Science concentration (as distinct from pre-veterinary), and to support the productivity of pre - tenure research faculty, while enabling existing faculty to develop graduate courses. Additional duties of the position will include undergraduate advising, and, depending on expertise, may include delivery of some combination of courses including NFA 117 – Issues and Opportunities, AVS 396 – Field Experience, AVS 347 – Dairy Cattle Technology Laboratory, AVS 303 – Equine Management Cooperative, and development of a class suitable for all SFA undergraduates. Regardless of its composition, the formal teaching load will be expected to average 18 credits a year. Work with students on undergraduate capstone and honors research projects involving cows, horses, and/or sheep at the Witter Center and aquatic species at the Aquaculture Research Center will be encouraged. In addition, there are six or more student clubs related to different aspects of animal science; the Lecturer may serve as club advisor to one or several of these clubs. Although solely a teaching appointment, the Lecturer will be a full member of the SFA and AVS faculty, eligible for committee service and, in due time, eligible for leadership positions and administrative roles within AVS and SFA.

# Alignment with Unit Plans or Strategies

This proposed position conforms with recent discussions of the Board of Agriculture to enhance workforce development, and aligns with our major goal of excellence in our undergraduate programs and providing strong and creative leadership for the AVS undergraduate program. This position also supports the unit goal of creating opportunities for teaching across the diverse disciplines of SFA.

# Assurance Statement

This position has been discussed broadly with SFA faculty and in detail with AVS Faculty. The justification has been circulated to all AVS faculty to provide an opportunity for comments.