

## **In memoriam: Stanley (Stan) L Diesch DVM, MPH, age 91**

Born in Blooming Prairie MN, May 16, 1925, to John and Emma (Erickson) Diesch. Stan died at home on May 10 surrounded by family, and just short of his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Survived by his beloved wife Darlene of nearly 61 years; two daughters, Lauren (Mike) Falkner, Fargo and Stephanie (Rick) Wagner, rural Taylors Falls. Grandchildren: John (Blythe) Riske and great-grandson, August, Oakland CA; Kelly Riske, Fargo; USAF Staff Sgt. Andrew (Dr Laura) Wagner, Sauk City, WI; and Steven (fiancé Libby Storlie) Wagner, Forest Lake. Two step-grandsons, Eric and Jon Falkner and their families. Survived by his sister, Lucille (Erling) Lee, of rural Zumbro Falls MN and nieces and nephews, and by his sister-in-law Milly Neidt Diesch. Preceded in death by his parents, and recently his brother Gordon, age 96, who was laid to rest on April 22.

Stan was raised on the family livestock farm. He graduated from Blooming Prairie High School, salutatorian, 1943, before beginning college he spent a year in Los Angeles working at Douglas Aircraft. He then began Luther College, Decorah, IA, after two years, transferred to the University of Minnesota, College of Agriculture in pre-vet. He received his BS degree (with distinction) in Animal Industry and Ag Econ. He was a proud member of the Farmhouse Fraternity and is “known” for playing in his fraternity band around campus. He worked for one year in Belle Plaine MN, teaching Veteran’s Agriculture, returned to the U of MN to attend the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) where he graduated in 1956. Following graduation, in July of ’56 he married Darlene Witty in Noonan ND, her home area of Burke and Divide Counties. They had met on a blind date arranged by a good veterinary friend whose wife worked with Darlene. By now Stan is 30, and his friends were trying to marry him off! They then moved to Freeport IL where he worked in a mixed veterinary practice, moving in a year to a practice in Winthrop IA which he purchased within a year (mainly swine, beef and dairy cattle), staying there for 6 ½ years. He was active in that community, having served on its school board. He was proud of the fact that he had managed to introduce chemistry to the high school curriculum. A member of Lions Club there and he was one of three businessmen that developed a golf course on land donated by a farmer, Buffalo Creek Golf Course and Country Club. Their two daughters were born in Iowa. He had the urge to move on in 1962 and returned to the Univ of MN where he received a Masters in Public Health, ‘63. He then joined the faculty of the medical school at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, in its Institute for Agricultural Medicine, the beginning of his long and illustrious career in veterinary public health. Doing research, teaching, writing, which he continued after returning to join the faculty of the Univ of MN, College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Public Health in 1966, where he remained for more than 30 years. He was a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine. He had also co-developed a small animal hospital in NE Minneapolis, the Apache Animal Hospital.

In his career he has served the university, state, national, and international organizations and committees in many capacities and received many honours. He served on the AVMA’s Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine Committee for 11 years. He has received the Public Service Award from both his state and national veterinary associations, and the International Veterinary Congress Prize from the AVMA. He had served as consultant to the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization in animal/human related diseases, and for many developing countries, always representing the Univ of MN. He served as Director of International Programs for CVM for 10 years. An award in his later years that was profound for him was the Siehl Prize for the Excellence in

Agriculture from the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Sciences in 2015. And from his Blooming Prairie High School Education Foundation for Distinguished Service, in 2014, which meant he was an honouree riding in their 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade that summer!

Dr Diesch was a leader in the Minnesota-Uruguay Partners of the Americas program, a Western Hemisphere NGO, serving as president and chairman of the board for many years. He was asked by the president of the country of Uruguay to serve as Honorary Consul in Minnesota, which he served for 6 years, and became and remained a member of the Minnesota Consular Corps. His work with Partners of the Americas, along with his wife Darlene, resulted in their receiving a joint award, "The Lifetime Achievement Award" from Partners of the Americas, Washington, DC, presented at an international meeting in Quito, Ecuador in 2002. He served many years as a board member, then president for 3 years of the International Society for Animal Hygiene, initially a western and eastern European organization, which Dr Diesch expanded into to the U.S. and Mexico and So. America. He brought the international congress to St Paul MN with 36 countries sending representatives.

His career was an important part of his life, but he lived life to the fullest with his family and friends, his love of the outdoors with projects at his Chisago County land where he developed conservation programs and reclaimed wetlands. He received the Chisago Co Conservationist of the Year as a result his projects. In younger years he enjoyed camping with his family. He had many hobbies, including wine making, participating in the MN State Fair wine competition. He loved outdoor sports, hunting, fishing, golf and tramping through the woods. He enjoyed having his grandkids along. He enjoyed the lake living on Lake Owasso. He enjoyed music of all kinds, particularly enjoyed playing his concertina, to the enjoyment and amusement of family and friends. He had a unique sense of humour.

Memorials preferred to the following: Univ of MN Foundation, (for Veterinary Public Health programs); MN Veterinary Medical Assoc. (MVMA) Foundation (for student scholarships); Roseville Lutheran Church Foundation, Farmhouse Fraternity, or personal choice.

**Resume: Stanley L. Diesch, BS, DVM, MPH  
Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota**

**1943** High School Diploma (Salutatorian) Blooming Prairie, MN

**1951** BS Agriculture (With Distinction), University of Minnesota

**1956** DVM Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

**1963** MPH School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

**Board Certified:** 1984, American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, subspecialty, Epidemiology

***Highest Academic Appointments and Private Practice Experience***

**1956-57:** General practitioner, Freeport, ILL

**1957-62:** Owned and conducted Large Animal Practice, Winthrop, IA

**1962-63:** MPH graduate degree at University of Minnesota

**1963-66:** Assistant Professor and Chief Epidemiologist, Comparative Medicine Section, Institute of Agricultural Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

**1966-95:** Professor, Department of Clinical and Population Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota: tenured, 1973

**1973-95:** Joint appointment, Division of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Health Sciences Centre, University of Minnesota

**1995:** Awarded Professor Emeritus status, University of Minnesota

***Administrative Appointments***

**1965-66:** Assistant Chief, Comparative Medicine Section Institute of Agricultural Medicine, University of Iowa

**1975-94:** Head, Division of Epidemiology, Food Hygiene and Veterinary Public Health (CVM, UMN)

**1989-95:** Joint academic appointment, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Sciences Resources, UMN

**1985-98:** Director of International Veterinary Medicine Programs

**Academic Accomplishments (Summary): University of Minnesota**

**Chair, Advisor or Examining Committee** for 21 PhD students; 4 MS students; Major Advisor for over 100 veterinarians for the Master of Public Health degree (MPH)

**Taught 11 Credit Hours to undergraduate, professional veterinary students:** subject was veterinary epidemiology, animal health and disease. VPH Clinics 24 credit hours.

**Taught 13 Credit Hours of graduate courses:** zoonoses, monitoring and disease surveillance and reporting

**Major Research Grants and Publications:** over \$1,000,000 as Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator or Collaborator, over 100 publications in such journals as New England Journal of Medicine, Nature (London). AVMA Journal, Public Health Reports, Canadian J. of Microbiology; Arch of Environmental Health, and Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

**Major Research Areas:** Animal and human disease surveillance systems; Minnesota Food Animal Disease Reporting System (prototype for USDA); Disease transmission of water-borne organisms of livestock origin; international food safety by research and outreach education.

**Grants Awarded from:** USPHS National Communicable Disease Centre (CDC); Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station; US Atomic Energy Commission contract; USPHS National Centre for Urban and Industrial Health; Environmental Protection Agency; Cooperative Study, US Department of Agriculture for Validation of Minnesota Food Animal Reporting System; National Association of Partners of the Americas; US AID Farmer to Farmer Program with Government of Uruguay (Foot and Mouth disease of cattle study).

**Major Awards and Recognitions:** Farm House fraternity, Alpha Zeta (Agriculture), Phi Zeta (Veterinary Medicine) honorary societies; and Sigma Xi honorary society for research accomplishments; Award of Merit, Society of Gamma Sigma Delta, Honour Society of Agriculture of Distinguished Service to Agriculture, Public Service Award, American Veterinary Medical Association, 12<sup>th</sup> International Veterinary Congress Prize by AVMA for international accomplishments, Distinguished Service Award, Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association, Livestock Environmental Science Committee Certificate of Achievement for being in the top 10% of the researchers on Livestock and Environmental Relationships and signed by the Executive Secretary for Cattlemen, Diploma for Outstanding Scientific Activities for many decades by International Society for Animal Hygiene.

**Personal:** Was married to Darlene (Witty) Diesch; daughters, Lauren and Stephanie, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Last Address:** 3081 Highpointe Curve, St. Paul, MN 55113

## **Achievements: Dr Stanley L. Diesch**

### **1. Animal and Human Disease Surveillance Systems in Agriculture-Related Occupational and Recreational Pursuits**

**Achievements:** Dr Diesch was one of the first to document *Leptospira interrogans* serovars *hardjo* and *grippotyphosa* (leptospirosis) that cause abortions in cattle in Iowa. This effort further documented the need to have *hardjo* and *grippotyphosa* added to vaccines to protect cattle and reduce spread to cattle and people occupationally in other areas of the world. Also this research led to isolating serovar *pomona* from a farm creek that was the focus of an outbreak in human leptospirosis as a recreational activity. He published research in the New England Journal of Medicine with the first isolation of a serovar *grippotyphosa* from squirrels that resulted from epidemiologic follow-up of a farmer who hunted fox squirrels and was exposed by “cleaning” them. Three other cases in fox squirrel hunters were discovered in cooperation with practicing physicians.

**Some Specifics:** Surveillance in cattle was determined by a team effort of veterinarians sending samples of blood from cattle that had aborted to the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Ames, Iowa. A 10 county area near the Institute of Agricultural Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa was selected as the research area. These samples were tested in our laboratory for antibodies and if positive, epidemiologic follow-up was made in cooperation with the livestock producer and local veterinarians. Another blood sample and urine samples were cultured.

Surveillance of human cases of leptospirosis (have flu-like symptoms) began with screening blood samples sent to the Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory by physicians. If positive the physician was notified and an epidemiologic follow-up was conducted to determine what the source of exposure was. The key is that physicians needed to know the specific disease to administer appropriate and specific treatment. These data improved agriculturally-related practices by identifying new forms of leptospirosis that led to improved accuracy in diagnosis and treatment in both animal and humans, occupationally and recreationally.

#### **Selected Publications:**

Diesch, SL, and McCulloch, WF: 1966. Isolation of pathogenic leptospire from waters used for recreation. *Public Health Rep.* 81:299-304.

Diesch, SL, Crawford, RP, McCulloch, WF and Top, FH, 1967: Human Leptospirosis acquired from hunting Fox squirrels. *New Engl. J. Medicine.* 276:838-842.

Diesch, SL, McCulloch, WF, Crawford, RP, Bennett, PC and Braun, JL: 1968. Epidemiologic studies of *Leptospira grippotyphosa* and *Leptospira hardjo* infections in Iowa cattle. Proc. US Animal Health Association meeting. Pg. 195-205

### **2. Animal Waste Management for Total Livestock Care**

**Achievement:** with Dr Diesch’s research efforts, he became a world expert in diseases and environments with his team of veterinarians and agricultural engineers in livestock waste management. Diesch studied methods of treatment and disposal of livestock waste for disease control in Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Great Britain and the United States. Following successful isolation of an organism (leptospire) causing abortions in cattle and flu-like symptoms in people from a farm creek, these studies were initiated to determine survival times of selected pathogens in the environment to aid in disease control and treatment of livestock waste.

**Some Specifics:** research conducted by Dr Diesch and Dr Evan Allred (Agricultural Engineering at UM) determined the survival times in livestock waste of two organisms affecting livestock (leptospire and Salmonella). A laboratory modified oxidation ditch with beef cattle manure was studied at summer and winter temperatures which was the basis for survival studies. Pathogenic serovar *pomona* and Salmonella *typhimurium* survived in beef cattle slurry (urine and faeces) for 138 days and 87 days respectively.

**Reference:** Diesch, SL, Pomeroy, BS and Allred, ER: Survival of Pathogens in Animal Manure Disposal (three year project report), Environmental Protection Agency, 1975.

**Recognition:** Dr Diesch was honoured with the Achievement Award from the Livestock Sciences Committee composed of Extension personnel and cattlemen of the Great Plains.

### **3. Minnesota and USDA Prototype for Food Animal Disease Reporting System**

**Achievement:** Dr Diesch provided leadership for this system that was developed over a 10 year period. This effort, a team effort, provided an opportunity to document the livestock diseases that enabled agencies as the Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and US Department of Agriculture to determine and prioritize diseases that needed expanded research in diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Dr Diesch was principle investigator to validate this disease reporting system through a cooperative agreement with the CVM at UMN, and the USDA.

**Some Specifics:** this was a remarkable team effort, led by Dr Diesch, veterinary epidemiologist with Dr Frank Martin, director of applied statistics, UMN, and a member of the Agricultural Experiment Station, state veterinarians from the MN Board of Animal Health, USDA, APHIS veterinarians, private veterinary practitioners and livestock producers—an exemplary example of a team effort and is evidence of Dr Diesch's leadership skills. He served as advisor to USDA on the National Disease Surveillance System for five years in the development of a National System. This USDA, APHIS program prototype has gone through several modifications to better benefit livestock producers, improved management and production for health and economics. Today it is called the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS).

**Major Recognition:** He received the American Veterinary Medical Association Public Service Award for his contributions in 1987 and the Distinguished Service Award by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association in recognition of his outstanding contributions, lifetime service and dedication to improved management of the Livestock Industry and Veterinary Medical Science.

**Scientific Report:** USDA 12-16-5-1059, October 1981. Diesch, SL et al. Final report of Validation of the Minnesota Food Animal Disease Reporting System with agreement between CVM at UMN and USDA, 97 pages.

### **4. Advancing International Food Safety Programs at the University of Minnesota**

**Achievements:** For thirty years, he advanced and improved knowledge in International programs because of his background in livestock management and production, large animal practice and having an MPH degree with emphasis in epidemiology. For the last 13 year

period he was Director of International Programs for the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). He developed, implemented and evaluated training and research between the CVM and other countries and had signed agreements with Hungary, Uruguay, Thailand, Italy and South Korea. There was strong support by the CVM and Central Administration of the University of Minnesota through its teaching, research and outreach efforts. The agriculture Morocco program was actively supported by CVM.

**Some Specifics:** Dr Diesch lectured and consulted in conferences in 25 countries especially in Mexico, Caribbean, South America and in Europe; he worked successfully with agencies of World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization and USDA; personally advised graduate and post-doctoral students from 15 countries; and served as CVM International Programs representative to the College of Agriculture, School of Public Health and other colleges of the UMN and to the Office of International Programs of the Vice-President of the UMN.

**Recognition:** from the results of joint international programs with Uruguay S.A. and the Non-governmental organization, Partners of the Americas, he was appointed Honorary Consul in Minnesota to Uruguay by President Lacalle of Uruguay and the U.S. State Department from 1990-1996. For his exemplary international efforts, the American Veterinary Medical Assoc. awarded him the Twelfth International Veterinary Congress Prize for his outstanding service for contributions to international understanding of veterinary medicine. In 2012 Dr Diesch was recognized as one of the One Health Pioneers of the College of Veterinary Medicine in a Profiles issue recognizing his contributions to animal and human health.

## AWARDS

### Professor Emeritus Stanley L Diesch, BS, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

- 2010 Presented to: Dr. Stanley L Diesch  
Center to Study Human Animal Relationships and Environment  
College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health,  
University of Minnesota  
“Honoring Distinguished Service to CENSHARE, 2010
- 2002 Partners of the Americas, Washington, DC International Award  
2002 Dumond Peck Hill Lifetime Achievement Award  
TO STAN AND DARLENE DIESCH  
(Presented in Quito, Ecuador)
- 2000 Certificate:  
The Executive Board of the International Society for Animal Hygiene  
has decided to award  
Professor Dr. Stanley Diesch  
with the Honoring Membership of the ISAH  
Maastricht, The Netherlands, July 5, 2000  
Prof. Dr. Martin Tielen, President  
Prof. Dr. Francois Madec, Secretary
- 1998 American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA)  
The Twelfth International Veterinary Congress Prize  
To Dr. Stanley L Diesch  
To recognize outstanding service by a member of the association who has  
contributed to international understanding of veterinary medicine.
- 1998 American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
Emeritus Diplomate presented to Dr. Stanley L Diesch  
In recognition of your contribution to Veterinary Preventive Medicine
- 1996 Life Membership in the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association is herewith  
awarded to STANLEY L. DIESCH, DVM, MPH in recognition of  
membership and many years of faithful service.
- 1996 Distinguished Service Award of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical  
Association is herewith awarded to STANLEY L DIESCH, DVM in  
recognition of outstanding contributions, lifetime service and dedication to the  
welfare of the Livestock Industry and Veterinary Medical Science
- 1996 Dr. Stanley L. Diesch  
Consul Honorario de Uruguay en Minnesota 1990-1996  
Consulado General del Uruguay En Nueva York
- 1990-1996 Appointed Honorary Consul to Uruguay in Minnesota, by  
President of Uruguay, LaCalle, which was approved the U.S.  
Department of State. Continue as Honorary Consul, Ret. and  
Member of the Minnesota Consular Corp.



- 1995      Diploma: On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its foundation.  
The International Society for Animal Hygiene is presenting this Diploma  
To Prof. Dr. Stanley L. Diesch in Recognition of His Outstanding Scientific  
Activities of Many Decades  
Signed: Prof. Dr. Hannu Saloniemi, President  
Prof. Dr. Pal Rafai, President of the 8<sup>th</sup> In-between-symposium  
International Society for Animal Hygiene
- 1995      In Appreciation to  
Dr. Stanley L Diesch  
For your many years of Service to the University of Minnesota  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
1966-1995
- 1995      El H. Ayuntamiento de Culiacan  
En session de Cabildo,  
Acordo declarar al:  
Dr. Stanley Diesch  
Huesped Distinguido  
Exchange St. Pauly Culiacan  
Culiacan, Sin., Mexico, a 28 de Marzo 1995
- 1994      The American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
Presents the Certificate of Appreciation  
To Dr. Stanley L. Diesch  
In grateful recognition of time and efforts devoted to the advancement of  
organized veterinary preventive medicine while outstandingly serving as  
Chair, Continuing Education Committee  
July 1993-July, 1994  
George W. Beran, President
- 1993      STAN DIESCH  
With utmost appreciation for Leadership-Guidance-Devotion  
Minnesota Partners of the Americas  
Muchas Gracias Por Todo  
Presented  
December 7, 1993
- 1992      Certificate of Merit  
To Stanley & Darlene Diesch  
1992 Cooperators  
Chisago (County) S & WICD  
As Conservation Cooperator(s) for  
Leadership in the science and practice  
Of sound use, management and  
Conservation of resources  
US Agriculture

- 1988 To  
DR. STANLEY DIESCH  
As a testimony of gratitude for his  
Invaluable contribution on  
Behalf of the Veterinary Profession of Uruguay. SA  
Montevideo, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1988  
VETERINARY COMMITTEE  
URUGUAY PARTNERS
- 1987 The American Veterinary Medical Association  
Public Service Award  
Is herewith presented to  
DR. STANLEY L. DIESCH  
In recognition of his outstanding contributions  
To Public Health and regulatory Veterinary Medicine
- 1986 The American Veterinary Medical Association  
Presents this Certificate of Appreciation to  
Dr. Stanley L. Diesch  
In grateful recognition of time and effort devoted  
To advancing the veterinary medical profession from July 1975 to July 1986
- 1983 The University of California gratefully  
Presents this CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION  
To Stanley L. Diesch, DVM  
In recognition of valued assistance contributed to the Conference on the  
Human-Animal Bond  
California Program, June 17-18, 1983
- Jan. 18, 1977 United States Environmental Practice Agency  
Award for Services as Scientific Reviewer
- 1974 Livestock Environmental Science Committee  
Certificate of Achievement  
Stanley L Diesch  
Has been designated among the top ten percent  
Of the Researchers on Livestock and Environmental Relationships for 1974
- 1958 Iowa: Lions International Membership Program  
Officer Award
- May 22, 1951 ORDER OF SKI-U-MAH  
University of Minnesota for Devotion to and  
And Attainment of High Ideals in  
Student Leadership