

## **Dr. David E. Starling**

Dr. Starling created and is the President of Aqueterinary Services<sup>®</sup>, PC. The professional corporation established in 2002 has a trade name registered internationally for the three areas of clinical practice, research, and teaching. This year Aqueterinary Services<sup>®</sup>, PC tendered the successful contract for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia virus surveillance in Iowa waters as part of USDA's efforts to define the extent of the virus in the nation's fisheries.

Involvement in invasive species has been part of Dr. Starling's work since graduating from veterinary school at Iowa State University in 1975 with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. The constant awareness of what is native and what is foreign is, of course, a large part of successful animal disease and pest control. The nearly three year's time spent working with the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries brought a greater focus on invasive species since the island-nation enjoys one of the most isolated and pristine environments and eco-systems in the world. Their extraordinary effort actively maintains their isolation and keeps any potential invaders offshore.

From 1983 until retirement in 2005, Dr. Starling worked in numerous capacities in USDA. He fully understands the cost and consequences of foreign diseases and pests as he served on several emergency task forces to eradicate foreign animal diseases; and, worked as part of the nation's regulatory veterinary force to control and/or eradicate the unwanted diseases of brucellosis, tuberculosis, scrapie, pseudorabies, screwworm and other undesirables from our nation's animal populations. In his 23 years of service in USDA, he gained national and international working experience in regulating the production of biologics and diagnostic test kits for protecting our animals from pathogens, parasites, and other pests.

Dr. Starling welcomes opportunities to consult in areas of animal health improvement through biosecurity and preventative medicine and custom vaccines for livestock and wildlife. The aquatic animal health course jointly produced by the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Natural Resource Management at Iowa State University has been rewarding for Dr. Starling from his request to create it in 1998. His recent membership on American Veterinary Medical Association's leadership committees for Aquatic Veterinary Medicine and Environmental Issues has made him familiar with a broad range of issues surrounding livestock health and wildlife preservation. He is a founding member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medicine Association and Advisor to the Aquatic Livestock Alliance. He welcomes the applications of HACCP concepts to prevention and control of invasive species since he has seen them successfully applied to many areas for increased uniformity, better predictability, and defect detection or prevention.

In his seldom-acquired spare time, there is a fascination with traveling to less developed countries as was done in Kazakhstan for six weeks this year to offer his expertise in public health, animal disease control and sanitary certificates surrounding translocation and commerce of animals and their products. He and his wife, Judy, currently take residence in Ames, Iowa. They have somehow accomplished all of the above while raising four children, which have now provided four delightful grandchildren. Dr. Starling has come to understand that life is what happens while making plans.