

George E. Staples

George E. Staples (born November 2, 1918 in [Kanosh, Utah](#)) was a [veterinary](#) researcher in animal nutrition and diarrheal treatment, and the author of three publications of the [Cooperative Extension Service, North Dakota State University](#). This particular research contributed to the improvement of the livestock industry in the area from the early 1970s to mid-1980s.

Early life

He was the great-grandson of English immigrant George Staples (1834-1890), the adopted Sioux who is widely credited for making south central Utah hospitable for settlers by befriending many tribes in the area, including Pahvant Ute [Chief Kanosh](#), for whom the town was named.

Like so many others of his generation, Staples joined the military shortly after the [Pearl Harbor Attack](#) in December 1941 and, after failing to get into the Naval Air Corps, was accepted in Officer Candidate School and assigned to the [USS *Muliphen*](#) as communications officer until the end of the [Pacific War](#).

Following his discharge, he graduated from [Utah State Agricultural College](#) at [Logan, Utah](#) with a B.S. in Animal Science, went on to [South Dakota State College of Agricultural & Mechanical Arts](#) at [Brookings, South Dakota](#) for his Master's Degree and finally to [Colorado A&M](#) at [Boulder, Colorado](#) for his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine.

He worked in private practice at [Afton, Wyoming](#) for a few years before landing a field position with the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) where he was able to work out of his hometown of Kanosh during the peak of the atomic testing in the late 1950s, by which time his family had grown to four sons and a daughter. However, by the end of that decade, some people in that area begin to show symptoms of [radiation poisoning](#) and Staples felt it prudent to move his family out in the summer of 1960. The fifth Staples son was born shortly after that move, but died in infancy.

His sixth and last son was born in [Topeka, Kansas](#) in 1962, where the family had relocated for his employment with Morris Research Laboratories, pioneers in pet nutrition and now part of the [Hill's Pet Nutrition](#) Group. Staples' work in the relatively new field attracted the attention of North Dakota State University. He was hired and made the move there December 29, 1964.

His unique experience in private practice, USDA field work with livestock diseases and pioneering research in pet nutrition was used to improve the livestock industry in North Dakota. At least one notorious trafficker in diseased cattle was put out of business by the techniques Staples shared in early disease detection and treatment of livestock diseases, particularly calf scours.

A major breakthrough to treatment of the disease was put on the market through Staples research shortly after publication of his 1982 publication *Calf scours: Causes, prevention, treatment*. However, the ingredients were so simple and inexpensive that none of the major pharmaceutical companies felt it profitable.

Illness and death

Shortly before his retirement from the university, Staples was diagnosed with [myelofibrosis](#) from radiation exposure during his USDA field work more than a quarter century earlier. His eldest son died at age 32 in 1983, Staples died in 1993 and his second son died from the same type of illness in 2003 at age 51.