

Obituary



Dr. Tevis Goldhaft

Dr. Tevis Goldhaft passed away on July 20, 2009, shortly after celebrating his 95th birthday. Dr. Goldhaft was a 1935 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. From 1928 onward, he worked with his father, Dr. Arthur Goldhaft, a pioneer poultry veterinarian located in Vineland, New Jersey, performing tube agglutination tests for Pullorum disease and providing service to the then emerging intensive egg industry of the state. In 1935 he established Vineland Laboratories to manufacture pox and laryngotracheitis vaccines developed by Dr. Fred Beaudette under a royalty agreement with the New Jersey College of Agriculture. Their company installed the first lyophilizing equipment for poultry vaccines and in 1939 pioneered commercial egg propagation including the first live attenuated Newcastle disease product incorporating the La Sota strain. In 1939 Dr. Goldhaft was joined by his sister, Dr. Helen Wernicoff and her husband, Dr. Nathan Wernicoff, both of whom graduated from Cornell in the mid-1930s. Vineland Laboratories was expanded in the early 1950s with plants in Mexico, Israel, and St. Croix. The plant in Israel eventually was acquired by ABIC, then a subsidiary of TEVA but is now part of Phibro Animal Health. In 1970 Vineland Laboratories was acquired by the Damon Corporation, but Dr. Goldhaft continued as Chief Operating Officer until his retirement in 1975. Vineland Laboratories was incorporated into Lohmann Animal Health in 2000.

He was an early contributor to the literature on the diagnosis and prevention of avian infections in the form of extension pamphlets and advisories, later being published in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Goldhaft was instrumental in advancing the health and productivity of the U.S. poultry industry and made considerable contributions to poultry production world-wide through his innovations in vaccine development. He was noted for his considerable contributions to the community and to education.