

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — A survey of hospital consent forms was found to be too complicated for many patients to understand, and not enough information was provided to patients about the planned procedure.

"You need at least a high school education to understand most of the forms. For about 25 percent of the forms you would need several years of college to properly comprehend them," says Kenneth Hopper, M.D., professor of radiology at Penn State's College of Medicine and a physician with the Penn State Geisinger Health System. "Additionally with nine percent of the forms, you need education beyond college to fully under-

stand the form.

"When people are sick and under stress, they tend to remember less than they normally would when healthy," he adds. "These forms are to help educate them about the procedure they are going to undergo along with the risks and complications of the procedure. We found many of these forms to be needlessly complex."

Hopper and his colleagues evaluated 616 consent forms from hospitals around the country. The forms were judged on a number of different criteria including: general and specific information on the procedure, benefits and risks, alternatives and possible complications.

Their article, "The Readability Of Currently Used Surgical/Procedure Consent Form In The United States," is published in the May issue of the journal Surgery.

"The forms were not just too complicated, but many simply did not provide enough specific information for patients. The best kind of form did require some work on part of the physician to complete. Those forms listed the condition, treatment alternatives, complications and other for each individual patient," adds Hopper.

While about 93 percent of the forms stated a general description of the procedure, only six percent listed the specific benefits of the procedure. Approximately five

percent listed any specific alternatives to the planned procedure. In addition, just over 30 percent listed specific risks and only 21 percent listed risks of not having the procedure at all.

Hopper also says the forms should be seen as an educational tool to complement the verbal consultation from the physician.

"Consent forms for the use of anesthesia and blood transfusion should be separate from general consent forms. These two things have their own set of complications," says the Penn State researcher.

While 87 percent of the forms asked for permission for anesthesia, only 47 percent of those stated that there were additional risks

from the anesthesia itself and only 14 percent discussed the risks of anesthesia. Only 28 percent of the forms requested permission to transfuse blood should it become necessary.

Hopper says that all hospitals should routinely reevaluate their consent forms that are used. He believes the use of lay people to evaluate these forms for understanding and comprehension could be helpful for many facilities. It would take only a small amount of time and very little cost to make significant changes with consent forms. Patients and families would be better served with specific forms tailored to discuss their individual procedures, he notes.

## what's new in hay

NEW in '98

NEW in '98



Vermeer 605L - Gives you the "big round" advantage when hauling commercial hay. **Bale sizes:** 4 feet wide; 3 to 6 feet in diameter. **Bale weights:** up to 1900 lbs\*



Vermeer 605L - The big round advantage for serious hay producers. **Bale sizes:** 5 feet wide; 3 to 6 feet in diameter. **Bale weights:** up to 2400 lbs\*

Vermeer 505L - Maximize your bale size, even with smaller hp tractors. **Bale sizes:** 5 feet wide; 3 to 5 feet in diameter. **Bale weights:** up to 1400 lbs\*.



NEW in '98



Vermeer 504L - Bale wet or dry with the same baler and take the weather out of making hay! **Bale sizes:** 4 feet wide, 3 to 5 feet in diameter. **Bale weights:** up to 1900 lbs\*

NEW in '98



Vermeer CommandRAM - State-of-the-art hydraulic ram "on command", 38"H x 46"W bales, up to 9 feet in length, weights up to 1600 lbs\*, capacities up to 45 tons/hr and the ability to transport up to 33% more bales on a standard flatbed trailer vs 4 x 4s!

\* Bale weight depends on moisture conditions

... from the people who specialize in hay!

### PENNSYLVANIA

**AVELLA**  
Craig R. Sweger  
724-587-5701

**BLOOMSBURG**  
W.F. Welliver  
717-437-2430

**CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS**  
Greenhill Farms Equip.  
814-967-3223

**CARLISLE**  
Ponderosa Enterprises  
717-245-2820

**DAMASCUS**  
Rutledge Repair  
717-224-4319

**FRANKLIN**  
Oakland Products  
814-678-1101, 800-836-4261

**FREEBURG**  
Glenn Beidler  
800-774-0796

**KITTANNING**  
W.C. Crytzer  
Equipment Inc.  
412-543-2441

**LIBERTY**  
Bohnert Sales & Service  
717-324-2431

**MT. PLEASANT**  
C.W. Neiderhiser Sales  
724-423-4076, 800-715-5586

**PEACH BOTTOM**  
Triple H Equipment Inc.  
717-548-3775,  
800-675-2019  
(Fax) 717-548-4079,  
tripleh@epix.net

**PUNXSUTAWNEY**  
London Farm Supply  
814-938-7444

**SAXTON**  
Bob Wilkins  
814-635-3392

**WYALUSING**  
William Beebe  
717-746-3435

### WEST VIRGINIA

**AUGUSTA**  
D & G Equipment  
Sales Inc.  
304-496-8685

**MORGANTOWN**  
King & Sons Equipment  
304-296-0180



The Hay Specialist.

## MILK

Where's your mustache?™

### MILLER DIESEL, INC.

FUEL INJECTION & TURBO SPECIALIST

6030 JONESTOWN ROAD, HARRISBURG, PA 17112  
(717) 545-5931 • 1 (800) 296-5931

Since 1957



Specializing in:

**FARMING & AGRICULTURAL**  
Factory Authorized Diesel Fuel Injection  
Sales, Service & Parts

Miller Diesel, Inc. offers:

- \* Diesel Fuel Injection Pumps, Injectors, Turbochargers
- \* Factory Trained & Authorized for complete services on: Stanadyne (Roosa Master), Lucas CAV, Simms, Robert Bosch, Ambac (American Bosch), etc
- \* Instant Exchange or Rebuild (Fast Turn Around Time)
- \* Feed Pumps (John Deere & Most All Applications)
- \* Quality Workmanship, Experience, Troubleshooting
- \* Free Pick Up & Delivery (100 mile radius of Hbg) Daily UPS Shipping

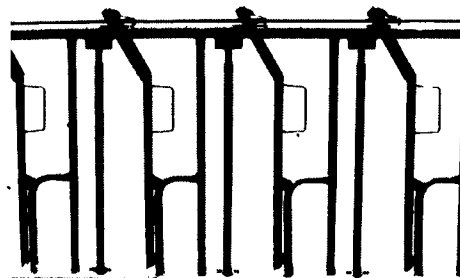
### MILLER DIESEL, INC.

WE WANT TO BE YOUR FUEL INJECTION SPECIALIST

## Paul B. Zimmerman INC.

### Heavy Duty Headlocks

Finished with TGIC Polyester Powder Coating...Superior to Epoxy!



3 Sizes Available  
To Meet Your Cattle  
Handling Needs

- CA Series:  
7 locks per 10'
- HE Series:  
6 locks per 10'
- CO Series:  
4 or 5 locks per 10'

- Extra Heavy Construction
- yokes lock on individual catches
- Yoke stabilizer on large sizes
- Designed for easy entry & exit
- Removable neck bar



### Paul B. Zimmerman, Inc.

295 Woodcorner Rd. • Lititz, PA 17543 • 717/738-7365  
1 mile West of Ephrata

Call or write for additional information  
and the name of your nearest dealer

Hours:  
Mon.- Fri.: 7-5  
Sat.: 7-11