

# Rural Health Workers

(Continued from Page A1)

farmers with disabilities.

Val Schott, president-elect of the National Rural Health Association, said that advocacy for improving rural health care is not a matter of asking for handouts, but for rural communities to receive "equitable" access to medical attention, similar to that offered in urban areas.

"Equity is what we're asking for," Schott said.

Equity does not mean a downsized version of the urban system, he said, but one that meets the unique needs of rural people.

Schott pointed out the large contribution the health field makes to rural economies, citing a nationwide survey that showed 10 to 15 percent of all employees in rural areas work in the health field.

Furthermore, since their salaries are higher than average, health care workers in rural communities receive 15 to 20 percent of the total income in those areas.

Nevertheless, according to Schott, much still needs to be done to increase the supply of medical workers in many sparsely populated regions.

"One of the saddest things we see is people who grew up in a rural community who have to leave because they don't have health care," he said.

One obstacle to hiring doctors



**Val Schott, president-elect of the National Rural Health Association, addresses rural health care providers from across Pennsylvania. The medical field makes an enormous contribution to rural economies, he said.**

and nurses in rural areas is that they need to be able to handle many different kinds of cases. But it is those highly skilled in one field of medicine who receive the largest salaries and are in demand in the cities.

As "generalists" in low-population areas, rural doctors and nurses tend to be well-known figures in the community.

"It takes a special type of person," Schott said.



**Dr. Neil Ellison of the Geisinger Medical Center explains a new palliative medicine program that pairs kids with older patients to help improve their quality of life.**

Lisa Davis, director of the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, said that Pennsylvania has the highest rural population of any state in the country.

While rural hospitals tend to provide a "more personalized type of care," nurses and physician's assistants are often called on to do doctor's work, she said.

One initiative of the NRHA in Pennsylvania is the Medicare rural hospital flexibility program, which provides cost-share assistance to hospitals that have no more than 15 acute care beds. Schott said that the one of the services the program offers is easier referral to larger facilities in the region that perform specialized procedures, such as heart surgery.

**AgrAbility Program**  
One program aimed at helping Pennsylvania farmers with

disabilities is the AgrAbility program.

A statewide project with USDA backing, AgrAbility provides resources to individuals who want to continue farming but are struggling with a physical or mental handicap.

Services provided by the program include on-farm visits by rehabilitation personnel, information on assistive technology and modifications (such as adapting tractors to make them easier to mount and operate), and identifying possible funding sources to help farmers afford modifications.

According to PDA extension educator Dr. Connie Baggett, AgrAbility "can't do all things for all people, but we can make a good start."

Baggett said that a primary goal of the program is to prevent farmers from doing further harm to themselves as they go about their work.

AgrAbility services are available to hobby farmers as well as to those who farm fulltime.

Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and Easter Seals are partners in the AgrAbility program. People interested in learning more about AgrAbility should contact project outreach coordinator Linda Fetzer at (814) 863-7868 or e-mail [lmf8@psu.edu](mailto:lmf8@psu.edu).

**Palliative Medicine**  
Dr. Neil Ellison of the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville explained how his palliative

medicine program strives to help suffering patients achieve maximum quality in life and in death.

The palliative medicine approach focuses on providing meaningful experiences for patients or family members experiencing grief and pain.

One key part of the program at Geisinger is pairing up kids with older people for various activities to help create a sense of home for patients.

"Many of us at this time have been removed geographically from where are roots are," Ellison said. Intergenerational activities aim to alleviate the stress this separation can cause.

Examples of intergenerational activities are an older person who teaches kids how to make quilts and, reversing roles, kids teaching older people how to use computers.


According to Ellison, the sense of purpose created by such activities can actually decrease the need for more conventional medical practices and drug therapies.

"I do believe we save money (by using palliative medicine)," he said.

Even so, Ellison said it is often hard to convince doctors of the value of palliative medicine, because many think they are already good at managing pain and death simply because they treat large numbers of terminally ill patients.

(Turn to Page A36)

**MRI - At Affordable Rates \$475.00**



**LEBANON OPEN MRI**

1033 Quentin Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042  
717-228-2600  
800-298-1558  
Call 8 AM - 5 PM M-F

Most Insurances Accepted

- New state-of-the-art Open MRI
- Most experienced Radiologists in the area
- Friendly professional staff
- Reports to your doctor within 24 hours
- We accept \$475.00 cash or credit card as full payment for a normal study, including doctors reading fee

*It's Worth The Drive Ask For Us Today!*

**FREE Report Reveals the Facts you Should Know About Selling Timber!**

Are you a Private Land Owner in PA who owns 10 acres or more of woodland? If YES, you are eligible for the FREE REPORT: "15 Secrets Revealed That Will GUARANTEE a Successful Timber Sale!" and a FREE, No Obligation Consultation from TimberLeads. If you are thinking about selling your standing timber - DON'T - until you read this free timber sales report that could be worth thousands of dollars to you! For your free report or to schedule your free consultation, call TimberLeads, in Juniata County, toll-free 1-877-386-7695.

**Power Washing  
Painting - Sandblasting  
Specializing In Farm  
Buildings, Fences, Roofs,  
Feed Mills, Etc.  
Aerial Equipment**



**AMOS FISHER**

5269 Paes Rd., New Holland, PA 17557  
717-354-9856 717-951-2527 Mobile

**automatic farm systems**

608 E. Evergreen Road, Lebanon, PA 17042  
Phone: 717-274-5333  
e-mail: [afs@nbn.com](mailto:afs@nbn.com)

**HAMMER MILLS  
for Grinding  
High Moisture & Dry  
Grains**



**Master MILL**

Grinds  
Finer  
than  
Roller Mills.

Call Us For Your Nearest Dealer!

**CUSTOM MADE  
AUGERS**

Custom made to the length you need! Heavy Duty Construction

Galvanized • Carbon • Stainless

U-TROUGHS

**AUGER INSTALLATIONS**

- ✓ In feedlots
- ✓ In drying systems
- ✓ Commercial applications
- ✓ At feedmills or elevators
- ✓ Around poultry & dairy barns
- ✓ At your grain bins or bulk tanks
- ✓ Replacement Augers for feed mixers and farm equipment

**Standard Auger Specifications**

	4"	6"	8"	10"
Tube Gauge	16	14	14	12
Flight Thickness	3/16"	3/16"	3/16"	1/4"
Bu./Hr	250	850	2000	3000
RPM	431	431	431	431

Call Us For Custom Specifications

**FORT DODGE® DAYS**

**Instant Rebates**

**Cydectin Rebates**

10 Liter.....	\$50
5 Liter.....	\$30
2.5 Liter.....	\$15
1 Liter.....	\$6

- Fill Out the form & receive your rebate off the invoice. No need to pay postage & wait!

Today & Tomorrow  
Buy 12 Boxes  
Get \$1 Off Each Box

**June 14, 15, 16 Only**

**FORT DODGE®**


★ Plus up to 5% Off Vaccines ★

**KEY+AID**

**ACE HARDWARE**

1739 West Main Street, Ephrata, PA 17522  
(717) 738-4241 1-800-453-9243

Store Hours:  
Mon.-Fri. 7:00 am to 9:00 pm  
Sat. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm



**FOR SALE**

- Good Used - 10 Hp., 3 ph., 1750 RPM Centrifugal drying Fans w/ controls \$850 each
- New GSI 18 ft x 8 Ring, 45 Hopper Tank with Ladder 5400 bu Capacity
- New 9 dia x 6 Ring 45 Hopper Tank w/Ladder 23 Ton - 927 Bu Assembled Price - \$2,200

**WE CUSTOM MANUFACTURE**

Painted, Galvanized and Stainless Steel  
Fabrication, Feed Bins, Feeders, Hoppers,  
Covers, Dump Pits, Augers, and Control Systems  
to Automate Your Operation