

# Nurses being prepared to face future health care needs

This fall 60 freshmen entered Sandhills Community College to pursue their Associate Degree in nursing, a curriculum that combines nursing education and general education courses on campus with supervised learning experiences at hospitals and other health care agencies.

In the next two years, each of these students will be prepared for nursing.

Each will be qualified to take the

Registered Nurse Examination - an exam on which the ADN nurse traditionally does as well or better than the four-year baccalaureate nurse or the three-year diploma nurse trained in a hospital school.

After passing the exam, each of these students will move into the health care world as a beginning level practitioner giving patient-related nursing care.

Since its inception, the Sandhills Community College Associate

Degree in Nursing Program has sent professionals out to deliver health care of for hundreds in our area and the nation.

Nationwide, associate degree nursing programs in 1984 supplied 52% of all the nation's registered nurses; that same year, 90% of the ADN's passed the state board exams and, in the past ten years, 20% of all ADN graduates have gone on to become head nurses.

More minorities, women, and adults over twenty-one enter ADN programs than enter either the baccalaureate or diploma nursing programs.

Emphasizing the high level of technical skills and the professional competence of the ADN graduate, the Liaison Committee of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges/National League for Nursing notes that "registered nurses

holding the Associate Degree in Nursing are prepared as accountable nursing care providers and have demonstrated this accountability since the advent of the Associate Degree Nursing Program thirty years ago...The competency of the associate degree nurse is assured by the fact that he or she must complete the same requirement for licensure as all other nursing graduates eligible for licensure as registered nurses and as

described within state practice acts throughout this nation."

Commenting on the Sandhills Community College Nursing Program, College President Raymond Stone recently observed that "the combination of solid education with nurse training well prepares the prospective nurse for professional service. Sandhills is proud of its exemplary nurse and other health-related service programs."

## Local farmers benefit from irrigation system

By Donnie Harris  
Hoke Soil Conservationist

"Two for the price of one." That's what farmers in eastern North Carolina are saying about drainage systems known as subirrigation that not only drain fields, but irrigate them too.

Basic tile and open drainage systems keep the ditch's water level just below the drain tiles. These systems improve conditions for seedbed preparation, planting, and harvesting. They also prevent plant stress from too much moisture during the growing season.

But on some soils you can reverse from drainage to irrigation by installing a water control structure such as a flashboard riser at key locations in the outlet ditch. This new concept, subirrigation, applies water beneath the soil surface. It raises the water table and maintains it within reach of the crop's root system.

Due to cost, subirrigation is recommended only for soils requiring drainage. The cost for installing a combination drainage and subirrigation system is only slightly higher than installing the basic drainage system alone. The initial investment could be recovered in 4-6 years with good management.

Irrigation will increase corn yields as much as 30-60 bushels per

acre. Subirrigation, however, offers many benefits over conventional center pivot systems including:

(1) Water needs are reduced since runoff water is stored in the soil profile;

(2) Labor requirements and annual maintenance costs are low;

(3) Water requirements are supplied on a uniform daily basis;

(4) Operating costs and energy requirements are lowered by pumps operating on low head and utilizing gravity flow in open ditches;

(5) All fields including the corners can be irrigated

(6) Water losses from evaporation are decreased.

There are 1 to 1.5 million acres of agricultural land in the coastal plains of North Carolina with a potential for subirrigation.

However, certain conditions must exist before it is practical.

Soil types, availability of a dependable water supply and height of water table all effect the suitability of a field for subirrigation.

Many cropland fields in the Southern part of Hoke County are suitable for subirrigation through drain tile installed to reduce wetness problems on cropland.



**Bonus system**

Agricultural Drain Tile being installed in a Hoke County field reduces wetness problems on croplands.

Local farmers have installed over 200,000 feet of drain tile and realize the importance of being able to control wetness conditions during planting and harvesting of their crops.

Many landusers do not realize

that tile installed to drain cropland fields can also be used to irrigate during dry seasons.

By installing flash board risers in field ditches and having an available water supply, local ditches may be filled with water and as the water moves through the tile line water is provided to the

growing crops.

If you are interested on information on subirrigation, contact the Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District office. We will provide assistance in planning and designing a water management system that will serve both drainage and irrigation needs.

## 4-H week celebrated

Hoke County 4-H members and leaders will join with others across the state and nation to celebrate National 4-H Week October 6-12 and the 76th anniversary of 4-H work in North Carolina.

The national theme is "4-H for Youth for America," according to Sandra Kelly, Hoke County 4-H Agent.

What we do for our youth today, we do for America tomorrow.

Through 4-H, young people use their experiences and expertise to acquire practical skills. They learn good health habits, develop respect for themselves and others, explore career and leisure time opportunities, share responsibility for preserving the environment, learn how to use technology, and develop leadership and citizenship skills.

The 4-H program has a proud tradition, according to Kelly.

The first clubs were organized in North Carolina in 1909.

During National 4-H Week, Sandra pointed out that special events will be held to:

--Encourage more youth to join 4-H.

--Urge more men, women and older teens to volunteer as 4-H leaders.

--Acknowledge support for the 4-H program.

--Recognize important contributions of parents.

--Consider future needs and plans.

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