



Beef Bytes
December 9 ,2013

Dear Friends,

We hope you had a restful Thanksgiving and, for the hunters in the crowd, a successful hunting expedition. Please send us photos of your trophy buck to share in subsequent newsletters.

Everyone is welcome to attend the PA Preferred reception at the 2014 PA Farm Show on FRIDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 3 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the VIP Banquet Hall. Tickets are \$35. Reservations and sponsorships can be made online [here](#).

There are two weeks remaining in the 2013 session calendar. We will keep you abreast of significant happenings in the State General Assembly. Until then, have a great week!

MeeCee

Articles of Interest

CBE News:

[New Directors](#)

The Center for Beef Excellence named the 5 directors for the next three year term. The team includes cattle industry members from across the state- with expertise in breeding, marketing, cattle processing, grazing and management of farm minerals. Thanks to all who give their time and talents to improve the beef industry in Pennsylvania through serving as a director!

Pennsylvania News:

[Beef Promotions in PA](#)

The Pennsylvania Beef Council attended a meeting of nurse practitioners in Lancaster to promote the benefits of beef in the diet. The session hosted 450 nurse practitioners from across the state. Beef was highlighted in a nutrition segment and the attendees were sent home with recipes and information about lean beef.

National News:

[Changing Food Prices](#)

Although food prices continued to rise in 2013, the increases were lower than they have been in previous years. The Economic Research Service predicts only modest increases in 2014. The slowed growth can be seen across all food classes, including beef. Poultry is expected to rise fastest in the year to come, with possible 3-4 percent increases.

[Demand for Beef](#)

Low cattle numbers lead to reduced beef production and limited supplies. This encourages higher prices for beef products, but at some point demand will be reduced due to these high prices. However, decreased demand can be impacted by factors such as rising prices for pork and poultry and the availability of foreign beef.

[Farm Bill Discussions](#)

Congress is not expected to pass a new Farm Bill by the end of the year, but experts predict that legislation could be in place in January. Democrats and Republicans continue to argue over cuts in food stamps and how to minimize costs of the program. Other issues that are causing problems include crop subsidy programs and dairy industry policies.

Global News:

[Exports to China](#)

Trade discussions have resumed between China and the US in an attempt to regain access for US beef in the Chinese market. Imports of US beef were banned as a result of BSE and attempts to reopen trade in the region have been blocked due to policy issues. However, it is likely that an agreement will be reached soon to allow for legal imports of US beef.

[TB Research](#)

The United Kingdom and India are both pursuing research to improve diagnosis and vaccination for bovine tuberculosis. The disease causes huge losses in countries that are affected and can also have implications for human health. One major goal of the program is to develop a test that will not show an infection in animals that have merely been vaccinated for the disease.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Heifer Efficiency](#)

Researchers have studied the effect of feed efficiency when selecting replacement heifers as a means of selecting for improved production and lower input needs. Heifers that show a greater feed efficiency go on to wean heavier calves without showing negative impacts in body condition and rebreeding rates.

[Winter Feeding Options](#)

Depending on the cost of hay and grains in the local markets, beef producers could benefit from limit feeding corn instead of providing free choice hay to cows. Limited diets should be based on analysis of the actual feedstuffs and will not satisfy the cows' appetites, but can meet their nutritional needs when properly balanced.

[Cutting Feed Costs](#)

Winter feed costs can be substantial for a beef herd but there are ways to reduce feed waste and the cost of feeding. This includes storing bales inside to minimize wastage, feeding lower quality feeds first to encourage intake, utilizing hay feeders to reduce trampling and feeding in areas with good drainage and footing for cows.

[Cow-Calf Quality Assurance](#)

Producers in the cow-calf sector are responsible for using best practices when handling animals that will be a part of the food chain. This includes giving injections in the proper places (neck) and minimizing lesions by using subcutaneous injections when possible. Cattle should be handled calmly and selected for disposition as well as conformation.

Sheep farmers have used dogs for centuries to protect their flocks from predators. But in recent years, another animal has joined the effort: the llama. "All of a sudden that seems to be taking off. That seems to be the new marketing area for them," said Tracey Gaul of Mountain Jam Llamas in... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

- 12-08-2013 [**Sugar protections prove easy to swallow for lawmakers across political spectrum**](#)
Washington politicians facing a year-end deadline to cut billions in agriculture spending are feuding over the future of food aid for the poor and crop subsidies for farmers. There is, however, one area of agreement in the contentious negotiations: sugar. Lawmakers decided to preserve the decades-old government safety net that... - [Washington Post](#)
- 12-06-2013 [**Inside PDA for December 6, 2013**](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-06-2013 [**Bipartisan farm bill could avert \\$7 milk threat by Christmas**](#)
Despite worries that food prices could skyrocket and cripple the nation's agriculture industry, U.S. Rep. Glenn Thompson said Thursday he expects Congress to pass a bipartisan farm bill just in time for Christmas. Thompson, who sits on the House Agriculture Committee and serves on the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 12-05-2013 [**State of the Chesapeake \[Editorial\]**](#)
To view the latest measure of the state of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed, the Chesapeake Bay Program's "Bay Barometer," is not unlike receiving the interim report card of a chronically underachieving student. Whatever modest progress is reported, it's difficult to get past the... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 12-04-2013 [**Center for Rural PA: Rural Perspectives Newsletter for November/December 2013**](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-04-2013 [**Farmers reminded of regulatory change**](#)
WAYNESBURG – With winter approaching, the Greene County Conservation District is reminding farmers and livestock owners about the importance of animal management in light of recent changes to Pennsylvania's Chapter 102 regulations. Nearly three years ago, in November 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 12-03-2013 [**PDA: PA's 98th Farm Show Offers New Attractions, Time-Honored Favorites**](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-03-2013 [**Schwartz Announces Plan to Lift Ban on Sunday Hunting, Bolster Deer-Harvest...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-03-2013 [**Immigration reform contingent on pro-business and hawk factions of GOP finding common ground: column**](#)
If there's a prototypical political impasse in Congress it's the debate concerning the overhaul of the nation's immigration laws. What's at stake economically are complex employment issues, not least of which involve lucrative industries that rely on vital migrant and immigrant... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 12-03-2013 [Farm bill talks continue with deadline approaching](#)
House and Senate negotiators plan to meet again this week in hopes of finishing another complicated piece of legislation before a critical, fast-approaching deadline. In this case it is the farm bill, an omnibus measure that sets federal agricultural policy and spending on food aid. The legislation is one of... - [Washington Post](#)
- 11-26-2013 [USDA - Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup for the Week Ending November 24, 2013](#)
(Press Release)

Legislative Activity

[HB 920](#) [Sonney, Curt](#) (PN 1059) Amends the Agricultural Area Security Law defining "wind power generation system" and adding that an agricultural conservation easement shall not prevent the granting of rights-of-way by the owner of the subject land in and through the land for the installation of or use of a wind power generation system, if certain enumerated conditions apply. Effective in 60 days.

Companions: [HCO1339](#) Sonney, Curt (M)
2-26-13 H Filed

Printer Number(s): [P1059](#)

Bill History: 12-04-13 S Set on the Senate Calendar
12-04-13 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[HB 1523](#) [Toepel, Marcy](#) (PN 2030) Amends "An act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local government units thereof to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space uses" adding that revenue from the tax levy may be used for expenses necessary to prepare the resource, recreation or land use plan; and for costs associated with design, engineering, improvement and development of the real property consistent with the approved resource, recreation or land use plan. Effective immediately.

Companions: [HCO594](#) Toepel, Marcy (M)
1-10-13 H Filed

Printer Number(s): [P2030](#)

Bill History: 12-04-13 S Set on the Senate Calendar
12-04-13 S Second consideration
12-04-13 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations
12-09-13 S Meeting set for Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Ro ...Senate Appropriations

[SB 491](#) [Folmer, Mike](#) (PN 1599) Amends The Local Tax Enabling Act providing for the definition of "farming" and allows taxpayers to use the Annual Local Earned Income Tax

Return form available from the department's website to file the final return. Provides a taxpayer will be considered to have met the requirements for declaration and minimum payment of estimated tax for any year in which the taxpayer timely declares and makes quarterly payments of estimated tax in amounts that equal at least one-fourth of the total incomes and net profits tax due and not withheld under section 512 in the previous year, provided that the taxpayer can show through the taxpayer's annual earned income tax return that tax liability was incurred. Further allows a taxpayer to use a prescribed formula for determining quarterly tax payments. Allows farmers to file only one tax return per year, avoiding the quarterly requirement. Allows employers to file quarterly returns in certain circumstances. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 454)

Companions: [SCO 230](#) Folmer, Mike (M)
12-13-12 S Filed

Printer Number(s): [P0454](#) [P1599](#)

Bill History: 12-09-13 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 638](#) [Vogel, Jr., Elder](#) (PN 1604) Amends The General County Assessment Law providing no high tunnel shall be assessed or taxed as real estate regardless of whether the structure has become affixed to the real estate. Provides a definition of "high tunnel". Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 693, 996, 1309)

Companions: [SCO 604](#) Vogel, Jr., (M)
Elder
1-29-13 S Filed

Printer Number(s): [P0693](#) [P0996](#) [P1309](#) [P1604](#)

Bill History: 12-09-13 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room 140 Main Capitol ...House Appropriations
12-09-13 H Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations
12-09-13 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations
12-09-13 H Set on the House Calendar
12-09-13 H Laid out for discussion
12-09-13 H Third consideration
12-09-13 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:195/N: 0)

Capitol Review

It is not often that the death of one man is mourned by billions of people across the globe. But then again, [there was only one Nelson Mandela](#). May he rest in peace.

If you had a jones for some chicken McNuggets or a frosty from Wendy's on Thursday morning, man, were you in for a rude awakening! Millions of fast food workers across the country temporarily [walked off the job this week](#), shining a pretty harsh spotlight on the debate over raising the federal minimum wage. \$7.25 an hour just doesn't buy what it used to. In fact, it doesn't even buy \$6.25. Interesting tidbit: there are as many fast food workers in New York City as there are residents of your Capitol City, Harrisburg.

The Affordable Care Act web site is starting to actually work like a web site, we found out this week, as the Obama Administration announced [it had fixed nearly 400 problems](#) with the site. Read that again. 400. That means the original web designer programmed 400 errors into the site. How does one screw up that epically? Who was the designer, Ted Cruz' brother?

Ever get one of those snazzy, glossy newsletters from your state representative, telling you his/her office hours and when deer season starts? Well, one lawmaker would like all of those mailings to prominently display ["Paid for by YOU!"](#) on them. Lest you think the newsletter fairy paid for it.

In related news, another lawmaker would like to see the same sort of disclaimer [on all advertisements by the LCB](#). While we don't see a problem with that, we also don't think people who are out shopping for some booze are gonna really give a hoot.

A report came out this week [analyzing the staffing needs of the Department of Public Welfare](#). It was not a pretty picture. Years of budget slashing have left the front-line folks who deliver services to the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians feeling awfully overworked. Here is a bit of irony for the folks who like to complain about "welfare fraud." You know which folks are in the best position to identify that fraud? The same people who keep losing their jobs due to budget cuts. It's like complaining about headaches while you hit yourself on the head repeatedly with a ball peen hammer.

In other DPW news, Governor Tom Corbett is ready to move forward [with his plan to expand/not expand Medicaid](#) by using federal dollars to allow Pennsylvanians to purchase private insurance, something the feds may or may not allow depending on what day it is. The plan is now open for 30 days of public comment, then it goes off to the Federal City. Don't bother asking us our read on what happens at that point. We'd have a better shot at trying to read War and Peace written in Farsi.

An interesting piece also crossed the transom this week explaining why the expansion of Medicaid would [likely lower the prison population](#), as more ex-cons would be getting drug, alcohol and mental health services, thereby reducing the chances of recidivism. Golly, is there anything Medicaid can't do? Perhaps it could also shop for our Christmas gifts!

Revenue estimates for the year are [running \\$42 million ahead of schedule](#). Before you pop the champagne, keep in mind that a number like that in a budget of \$28 billion is sometimes known as a "rounding error."

One of the state's largest labor unions is signaling that they might kinda, sorta be alright with Governor Corbett's plan to [hire an outside firm to manage the state lottery](#), as long as union jobs are protected. This is the sort of cooperation that we rarely see around these parts, regardless of

the merits of the plan. This news will not sit well with some lawmakers who sit around all day dreaming up new ways to destroy organized labor, however. So, yeah, you've been warned.

U.S. Senator Bob Casey is leading the charge to get a subway line from the SEPTA main line [straight into the Philadelphia Naval Yard](#), now the home to some 130 different businesses and a whole lot of employees. See what a little transportation funding can do, folks? Get you to work.

A top state senate GOP honcho is pushing a study of the state's gaming industry, we learned this week. His plan is [find out what is the next frontier of gaming](#), lest Pennsylvania casinos begin looking like Atlantic City's - empty. Fasten your seat belts, kiddies, when lawmakers open up the state's gaming act, its usually more fun than the original barrel of monkeys!

Soon to be minted Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto [wants some city employees to take an early retirement](#) so that he can get some fresh faces and new ideas injected into the Steel City government. But hold on, along come the killjoys saying that it may not be kosher unless the Pittsburgh oversight overlords say so. So begins the first test for the new mayor.

Boeing, Inc. is looking for a place to [build their next enormous plane, the 777X](#). Pennsylvania and almost every other state are now jockeying for position in the "let's put together an incentive package" game. We like big planes, so good luck to DCED. Seriously, check out the size of the 777X. It's the size of Rhode Island.

We learned early this morning (because we read stuff at ungodly hours so you don't have to) that state Auditor General Eugene DePasquale will be watching VERY closely to see that the new windfall of [transportation loot is spent wisely on critical needs](#), and not on...well, he didn't really say, so we are going to go with riotous living. Hear that, PennDOT? He's watching, mind your p's and q's.

This has little to do with Pennsylvania, but we did get a kick out of a story we read this week that the defense industry is getting ready for [an all-out blitz to reverse the sequestration cuts](#) that Congress fumbled into place last year. Really, we thought some of those folks liked austere budgets? Oh, except when it means less money for them? Got it, now we understand. Cut THEE, not ME!

In Other News

- 12-08-2013 [Weis Markets issues milk recall](#)
Weis Markets has issued a recall for Weis Quality Milk because of antibiotic residue that might be in the milk. The recall includes whole, 2 percent, 1 percent and skim milk with a sell-by date of Dec. 5. Weis Markets' 1 percent chocolate milk with a sell-by date of Dec. 2 has also been recalled.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 12-06-2013 [Stateline Daily: White House Makes Case for Extending Unemployment Benefits](#)
(Press Release)
- 12-06-2013 [Corbett will ask U.S. to approve Pa. Medicaid proposal](#)
HARRISBURG The Corbett administration said Thursday it will submit a waiver to the federal government sometime after mid-January seeking to use billions of dollars in Medicaid funds to provide health insurance for hundreds of thousands of uninsured Pennsylvanians.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 12-06-2013 [**135 Million People Worldwide Will Have Dementia by 2050: Report**](#)
The number of people worldwide living with dementia could more than triple by 2050, a new report reveals. Currently, an estimated 44 million people worldwide have dementia. That number is expected to reach 76 million in 2030 and 135 million by 2050. Those estimates come from an Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) policy... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 12-05-2013 [**Energy drinks, alcohol don't mix, study finds**](#)
STATE COLLEGE — Vodka Red Bulls and Jäger Bombs, enjoying a recent spurt in popularity, can cause strokes, alcohol poisoning and other health problems, experts at Penn State and the University of Michigan found. Manufacturing highly caffeinated alcoholic beverages is banned in the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 12-05-2013 [**Large Companies Prepared to Pay Price on Carbon**](#)
WASHINGTON — More than two dozen of the nation's biggest corporations, including the five major oil companies, are planning their future growth on the expectation that the government will force them to pay a price for carbon pollution as a way to control global warming. The... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-05-2013 [**Bill takes aim at DEP's cameras**](#)
State Sen. Scott Hutchinson has introduced two bills to stop the state Department of Environmental Protection from using remote surveillance equipment and unmarked vehicles to enforce laws at oil and gas sites throughout Pennsylvania. Hutchinson said the bills are "very targeted at the conventional oil and... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 12-05-2013 [**Pa. bill would expand carbon monoxide alarm law**](#)
A bill that would require many apartment owners and landlords in Pennsylvania to install carbon monoxide alarms is on its way to Gov. Tom Corbett.... - [AP](#)
- 12-05-2013 [**A shocking choice for utility customers? State Senate proposal would auction off consumers who have refused to change electricity providers: John L. Micek**](#)
If you're among the roughly 3.6 million Pennsylvanians who have resisted the siren call to change your electrical supplier, you might soon be out of luck. As they search for a way to close an estimated \$1.4 billion, year-end deficit, the Corbett administration's collective eyes have been lit up... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 12-04-2013 [**Pennsylvanians will see up front benefits from transportation funding law: William Adolph**](#)
By William F. Adolph The recently adopted transportation funding package was a critically needed and long overdue investment in our state's transportation network. The decision to adopt the funding package was not easy nor was it a politically expedient decision, but it was a decision to govern and one that will yield... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 12-04-2013 [**Dietary Advice for the Gluttony Season**](#)
Now that the gluttony season is upon us, you may be re-re-re-evaluating your diet; or perhaps you'll be stewing on it four weeks from today, making commitments to do better before summer. We are confused. Many people have the gnawing feeling that "nothing" is fit, safe, wise... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-03-2013 [**Stateline Daily: Delivery by Drone Must Clear State Hurdles**](#)
(Press Release)

- 12-03-2013 [**Avoiding tax on Internet? Bad news...**](#)
WASHINGTON — On perhaps the busiest online shopping day of the year, the Supreme Court refused to wade into a dispute over state sales taxes for purchases on websites like Amazon.com, an outcome likely to prompt more states to attempt to collect taxes on Internet sales... - [AP](#)
- 12-03-2013 [**8 tax breaks that expire at the end of 2013**](#)
A number of income tax provisions are slated to expire at the end of this year. Many of these tax breaks have been extended in the past, so it's possible Congress could extend them again over the next few months — but you never know. 1. Teachers' classroom expense deduction... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 12-02-2013 [**Bad Eating Habits Start in the Womb**](#)
THE solution to one of America's most vexing problems — our soaring rates of obesity and diet-related diseases — may have its roots in early childhood, and even in utero. Researchers at the Monell Chemical Senses Center, a nonprofit research organization in Philadelphia, have found that babies born to mothers who... - [New York Times](#)
- 12-02-2013 [**Activist wants state legislators to do away with automatic pay hikes**](#)
It's the same story every year. Members of the General Assembly, the governor, judges and a select group of executive branch employees get an annual cost-of-living adjustment to their paychecks. Voters get upset. Lawmakers return the money to the state or donate it to... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 11-26-2013 [**PDA: Pennsylvania Hunters Encouraged to Donate Venison to Help Feed Hungry**](#)
(Press Release)