



**Center for Beef Excellence
News You Can Use
February 13, 2012**

Dear Friends,

Agriculture Future of America has an academic scholarship program that awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors enrolling in agriculture-related, four-year degree programs across the nation. Qualifying recipients will be entered into the AFA's leader development program and will be eligible to receive an academic scholarship for the freshman year of college. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is March 15, 2012. For award details, eligibility criteria and to apply, visit:

www.agfuture.org/scholarships.

Budget hearings begin this week in the Senate and next week in the House of Representatives and conclude in the first week of March. Regular session is suspended during budget hearings but will resume at their conclusion.

If you think all of the political activity in Harrisburg is for the birds, you may be interested in watching DEP's live falcon webcam which provides a bird's eye view of a resident falcon couple whose nest resides on top of the Rachel Carson Office Building (DEP's main location). Falcons have nested at the building for 12 years. To date, the nest has produced 53 eggs and 45 hatchlings. Of these, 29 falcons survived; 13 males and 16 females. The first eggs of the 2012 breeding season will be laid in late March. The eggs should begin to hatch around mid-May and the young falcons, or "eyases," will begin to take their first flights, or "fledge" in mid-June. Follow the falcons by visiting www.dep.state.pa.us and clicking on the live stream button.

Next Monday is Presidents Day and state offices are closed. We will not be sending out a newsletter next week but will resume sending the News You Can Use the week of February 27.

Have a great week!

Debbie

Articles of Interest

Pennsylvania News:

[National Stewardship Award](#)

The Masonic Village of Elizabethtown, PA was the winner of the National Cattlemen's Foundation Environmental Steward Award for conservation efforts to improve sustainability of their cow-calf and feedlot operation.

[Natural Gas Fees](#)

The Pennsylvania legislature succeeded in passing a bill that will impose an impact fee on natural gas wells drilled in the state. The fee will be based on gas prices and when the well

was drilled, with money going to local governments and environmental organizations across the state.

National News:

[Farm Bill Priorities](#)

As agricultural organizations work to promote the importance of funding for the 2012 farm bill, many are calling on legislators not to neglect funding for agricultural research. Bill Gates is pledging the support of his foundation to agricultural research affecting world food production.

[Labor Problems in Agriculture](#)

Several states are working on ways to deal with labor shortages due to new laws covering immigrants and migrant workers. Estimated losses from a shortage of workers is huge and some states, such as Kansas, are looking for ways to hire illegal immigrants to meet the needs.

[Preventing Bacterial Contamination](#)

Meat processors are considering ways to reduce E. coli contamination before animals reach slaughter. Possible techniques include feed additives that produce an unfavorable environment for the bacteria, vaccinations, dehairing and rinsing carcasses.

[New NCBA President](#)

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association has a new president, JD Alexander of Nebraska. Alexander runs a 1,500 head feedlot and crop farm. President elect is Scott George of Wyoming. Elections were held at the national convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

[Apple Technology and Agriculture](#)

The new Siri technology installed on the iPhone- a voice that responds to questions from the user- is intended to direct customers to local restaurants and shopping. However, when asked questions concerning agriculture and food production the answers are unhelpful.

Global News:

[US Beef in Korea](#)

A Korean magazine featured US beef as a luxury item in South Korea. Dry-aged beef is in high demand from restaurants across the country, and per capita beef consumption is up considerably with reduced restrictions on US beef.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Frostbite in Calves](#)

Young calves that are born during freezing weather may be susceptible to frostbite, especially in the ears, tail and rear legs. If signs of frostbite are noticed it is important to quickly warm the affected area to minimize damage.

[Utilizing Forages](#)

High corn prices are driving cattle producer to make greater use of forages, driving up costs of range and pasture. Feedlots are interested in feeding heavier calves and cow-calf producers must work to keep production costs under control before marketing cattle.

[Colostrum for Calves](#)

There are many factors than influence the amount of immunity a calf receives from colostrum. Cow body condition score and breed influence the concentration of antibodies, while timing and amount of colostrum as well as environmental stress affect the calf's ability to absorb antibodies.

[Pasture Management](#)

Spring is when producers should begin to make plans for best using forages throughout the year. Taking soil samples, apply nitrogen and frost seeding when necessary will prepare plants for the summer. Rotational grazing can start at 6-8 inches of growth to prevent over-mature plants.

[Tax Tips](#)

Livestock owners should be prepared in case of an IRS audit, as many operations show losses for several years. Producers should keep careful records of costs and income, have a business plan for the operation and be able to show that they are intending to make a profit in the industry.

[Preventing Respiratory Problems](#)

Death of older calves (more than 3 weeks) is often due to respiratory diseases. The incidence of disease can be minimized by ensuring that calves get enough colostrum, keeping the cows in good body condition and vaccinated, avoiding cold stress and preventing pathogens from entering the herd.

- 02-13-2012 [**PSU: Budget proposal provides level funding for ag research and extension**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-13-2012 [**Judge stops farmer's sale of raw milk to Maryland**](#)
By JON RUTTER Staff Writer A federal District Court judge has ordered a Kinzers farmer to stop selling raw milk to customers in Maryland. Judge Lawrence Stengel issued a permanent injunction Feb. 2 barring Amish dairyman Daniel Allgyer from sending the unpasteurized beverage across... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 02-10-2012 [**Inside PDA for February 10, 2012**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-10-2012 [**Environmental Charter School tests out looming lunch regulations**](#)
Regent Square school gets with the Michelle Obama program. Kids comply. Thursday, February 09, 2012 By Taryn Luna, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Shawn Carlson and Drew Danver, right, from Cafe Phipps serve the White House's suggested school lunch Wednesday to Peyton Walker and Jacy Willis,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-10-2012 [**Proposed state Department of Agriculture slammed**](#)
Farming is costly. Fuel, insurance and other costs never seem to stay down - and in fact only increase at times as milk prices remain depressed, said Paul Manning, a third generation dairy farmer and owner of Manning Dairy Farm in North Abington Township. Farmers, he said, have in part survived by finding savings by using new... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 02-09-2012 [**Governor Proposes Commonwealth Funding for Penn Vet for 2012-13**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-09-2012 [**Pittsburgh school tests out looming lunch regulations**](#)
Shawn Carlson and Drew Danver, right, from Cafe Phipps serve the White House's suggested school lunch Wednesday to Peyton Walker and Jacy Willis, left, at The Environmental Charter School in Regent Square. A crisp romaine salad with chicken or tofu and Kraft Creamy Italian... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 02-08-2012 [**Corbett calls fiscal plan 'lean and demanding'**](#)
\$27.14 billion proposal would slash millions from universities across state Wednesday, February 08, 2012 By Laura Olson and Karen Langley, Post-Gazette Harrisburg Bureau HARRISBURG -- Facing a budget deficit that is a half-billion dollars and growing, Republican Gov. Tom Corbett on Tuesday proposed an austere... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-08-2012 [**Walmart to Label Healthy Foods**](#)
By STEPHANIE STROM As part of its promise last year to improve the nutritional quality of the food it sells, Walmart said on Tuesday that it had devised standards to determine what is healthy and would label the foods that meet those standards. The new label, bright green with the words Great for You, will first appear... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-08-2012 [**Raw milk sales to resume Tuesday morning**](#)
The Scotland area farm identified as the source of a campylobacter outbreak is making changes to the way it produces raw milk, according to Edwin Shank, owner of The Family Cow. The farm near Scotland resumed the sale of raw milk late Monday after approval from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)
- 02-07-2012 [**Dairy farm back to selling raw milk**](#)
A Franklin County dairy has resumed selling unpasteurized milk, after reports of a contaminated batch halted sales for nearly two weeks. The Family Cow in Chambersburg was cleared by the state Department of Agriculture on Monday afternoon to start bottling and selling its milk... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-07-2012 [**Number of people sickened after drinking raw milk from Franklin County farm climbs to 43**](#)
The Pennsylvania Department of Health confirmed today the number of people who drank raw milk from a Chambersburg-area farm and became sick with an intestinal infection has jumped to 43. The agency said 36 Pennsylvania residents have been sickened after drinking... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-07-2012 [**Final Marcellus Shale drilling impact fee bill clears first vote**](#)
HARRISBURG - A bill that establishes a county-option Marcellus Shale drilling impact fee and provides some revenue for statewide environmental programs cleared a hurdle Monday with approval from a special legislative committee. The action by the House-Senate conference committee on a 4-2 party-line... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 02-07-2012 [**Wilson College to host energy forum Saturday**](#)
Chambersburg, Pa. — “Energy and You 2012 — Individual Choices, Global Impact,” a day-long workshop for home and business owners who want to learn how to reduce energy consumption and costs, will be held at Wilson College on Saturday, Feb. 11. The workshop, which will feature a keynote lecture,... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)

Legislative Activity

Capitol Review

[**Pa. Budget Secretary Charles Zogby finds he's a public figure**](#)

A rare episode of genuine political theater played out Tuesday in the state Capitol. Just prior to Gov. Tom Corbett's annual budget address, state Budget Secretary Charles Zogby briefed the news media on the plan. Zogby came to the media center through a private entrance but exited down a long, public hallway.

[Plan to reduce number of inmates in Pennsylvania faces critics](#)

State prison guards around Pennsylvania are casting a skeptical eye on Gov. Tom Corbett's budget.

[Uncertainly the only constant in political mapping debate](#)The only thing that's certain about the once-a-decade redrawing of Pennsylvania's 203 House and 50 state Senate districts is uncertainty.

[County: State budget has positive aspects](#)

Delaware County Councilman John McBlain said Wednesday he was encouraged by an aspect of Gov. Tom Corbett's budget proposal that would allow counties more flexibility in the area of human services.

[Corbett OKs money for Specter library that he bashed](#)

Gov. Tom Corbett signed off on a state grant this week for the Arlen Specter library that he singled out during his gubernatorial campaign as an example of wasteful spending after determining he lacked legal grounds to reverse the commitment, a spokesman said.

[Former governor gets job at biofuels firm](#)

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Mark S. Schweiker will join biochemical company Renmatix, based in King of Prussia near Philadelphia.

[Webinar to examine Marcellus Shale gas development impacts on transportation](#)

A Web-based seminar sponsored by Penn State Extension will examine how Marcellus shale natural gas development in Pennsylvania is affecting transportation patterns in the state.

[Sunoco, ConocoPhillips promise to maintain surveillance at idled refineries](#)

Sunoco and ConocoPhillips have assured county and state officials that they will continue to maintain surveillance and emergency services at their idled Delaware County plants.

[Leaving 'No Child' law: Obama lets 10 states flee](#)

It could be the beginning of the end for No Child Left Behind. The goal was lofty: Get all children up to par in math and reading by 2014. But the nation isn't getting there, and now some states are getting out.

[Harrisburg Receiver David Unkovic's plan holds no commuter tax threat](#)

If you work in Harrisburg, don't worry, the city is not considering any type of commuter tax levy.

In Other News

- 02-13-2012 [AG Wagner Reminds Homeowners that March 1 is Deadline for Property Tax Relief](#)
(Press Release)

- 02-09-2012 [Senator Pileggi's Legislation Strengthening KOZ Program Sent to Governor Corbett](#)
(Press Release)

- 02-07-2012 [Text of Governor Corbett's 2012-13 Budget Address](#)
(Press Release)