



**Center for Beef Excellence  
News You Can Use  
June 12, 2012**

Friends,

Negotiations are continuing on the Commonwealth's FY 2012/13 budget and claims that passage will occur before the budget deadline of June 30 still seem plausible, although the early boast of a budget by June 13<sup>th</sup> no longer holds promise. Last week saw closed door negotiations between the Governor and the Senate and House Republican leaders in an attempt to find an acceptable compromise. The proposed \$500 million spending increase over the Governor's proposed budget is based on better than anticipated state revenues in previous months and would restore a large portion of the Governor's cuts to education without using funds from accounts that the Governor has proposed using, i.e. money from conservation projects and horse racing revenues. Budget negotiations will resume this week.

In addition to budget work, discussions on privatization (with more than 205 proposed amendments to House Bill 11) prevailing wage legislation, public school funding, unemployment compensation debt, and a second stab at a redistricting map, the Capital will be a abuzz with activity this week!

Debbie

***Articles of Interest***

**Pennsylvania News:**

[Farmers Respond to Drilling](#)

Western Pennsylvania is beginning to see the effects of money from leasing land for drilling, as farmers are improving or updating their operations. A group of PA Farm Bureau members toured well sites to understand the construction and environmental protections that are involved.

**National News:**

[Legislating Animal Care](#)

A bill introduced to Congress last month would seek to specify how poultry producers raise their laying hens. The bill is based on the agreement between the United Egg Producers and the Humane Society of the United States. Industry groups oppose the move, arguing that legislation is not the best way to ensure top animal care in an ever-changing industry.

[Farm Bill Update](#)

Agricultural economist Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh of Kansas State University warns that passing a farm bill will be difficult. There is still a need to ensure that there is some kind of safety net in place for farmers because current high prices will not last forever.

[Animal Disease Lab](#)

Construction on the controversial National Bio and Agro-Defense Center in Kansas is currently on hold due to budget cutbacks and concerns over human and animal safety in case of natural disasters. Two research reports at the end of the month may determine the future of the project.

#### [Debate over EPA Monitoring](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has been using aerial photographs of feedlots in Iowa and Nebraska to monitor compliance with the Clean Water Act. Some groups argue that this is a sign of government overreach, but the agency claims that there is precedent and legal grounds for using flyovers to monitor practices at animal feeding sites.

#### [Trans-fats in Beef](#)

Research has shown that the naturally occurring trans-fats found in beef are not harmful to human health, and may actually be beneficial. This is in direct contrast to the manufactured trans-fats found in many processed products.

#### [Futures Funding Cuts](#)

A congressional subcommittee approved a 12% cut to the budget for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, claiming that the group did a poor job in dealing with recent financial collapses. The move must still be approved by the full committee and added to the budget.

### **Global News:**

#### [JBS Supply Concerns](#)

Greenpeace International has accused JBS of breaking an agreement to stop procuring cattle from farms that engage in destructive logging in the Amazon or use underpaid labor. JBS has denied the accusations and is seeking compensation for damages to the company's reputation.

#### [Japanese Marketing Campaign](#)

A new marketing strategy will target Twitter users in Japan, encouraging them to comment when they eat US beef. Prizes are available for the users who have the most influence. Campaign organizers hope the effort will reach young adults with a positive message about US beef.

### **Cattle Management Articles:**

#### [Baling Hay](#)

Consistent rain makes it difficult to get hay baled, and many people are choosing to bale at higher moisture levels to prevent losing the crop. However, hay baled when wetter than advised should be closely monitored as it is more likely to combust.

#### [Designing a Mineral Program](#)

Understanding what minerals a cow needs and how to supplement properly can be difficult. Needs are dependent on the cow's diet as well as her stage of production. However, a simple program focused on calcium, phosphorous, and any limiting micronutrients can be effective.

#### [Dealing with Open Cows](#)

Determining how to handle open cows can greatly impact the profitability of an operation. It usually makes the most economic sense to cull these animals, although the calculations should be run to determine if selling at low cyclical prices in the fall, or high prices in the spring, is better.

## [Deworming Strategies](#)

The cost of dewormer is worth paying when it means extra gain for calves. Mid-summer is the best time to deworm calves, and replacement heifers and stocker calves can be dewormed when turned out on grass. Following label directions is important to get the best return.

### **Additional articles**

- 06-12-2012     [State has a role in protecting health](#)  
TO THE EDITORS: New York City Mayor Bloomberg's decision to ban supersized sugary sodas has resurrected the age-old debate over the role of the state in protecting the public health. In recent years, this debate involved bicycle helmets, car seat belts, tobacco, trans fats, saturated fats in meat and dairy products, and sugar...  
- [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 06-11-2012     [USDA - Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup for the Week Ending June 10, 2012](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-11-2012     [Farmers encounter strange start to the growing season](#)  
By Ann Belser / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Above average temperatures and below average rainfall this spring brightened the days of homeowners who didn't have to mow the lawn much, but farmers who grow hay saw no silver lining in the lack of clouds. "When something's going on with your lawn, think of the farmer out there,"...  
- [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 06-11-2012     [Fertile ground for change](#)  
WHO SAYS that the Senate can't get anything done? On Thursday, it voted 90-8 to open debate on a bill that could actually cut projected spending on Agriculture Department programs — the vast majority of which goes for food stamps — from \$992.6 billion to \$969 million over the next decade.... - [Washington Post](#)
- 06-11-2012     [Dairy farmers contribute to state economy](#)  
Editor, As a dairy farmer in Pennsylvania over the past 30 years, I've lived through the ups and downs of this extremely volatile industry. Over the past decade, dairy farmers have experienced the highs of 2008 and 2010 and the extreme lows of 2003, 2006 and 2009, which was the worst year in the... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 06-08-2012     [PA Farm Bureau: Farm Transportation Bills Unanimously Approved by State House](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-08-2012     [Inside PDA for June 8, 2012](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-08-2012     [Chicken and egg debate heating up](#)  
With Congress launching debate on a new farm bill, there's no better time for Pennsylvania's congressional delegation to bring some sizzle to a major reform affecting one of the state's biggest farming sectors. As the nation's third-largest egg producer, Pennsylvania has a major stake... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 06-08-2012     [Pfizer to spin off animal health unit](#)  
Pfizer Inc. said Thursday that it would spin off its animal health unit and call the stand-alone company Zoetis. However, Pfizer will maintain control, so it was unclear how independent the new entity will be or how the differentiation will help Pfizer

overall.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 06-08-2012 [Senate Advances Farm Bill](#)  
WASHINGTON — The Senate on Thursday voted to advance a farm bill that will set the nation's nutrition and agriculture policy for the next five years. Multimedia Interactive Map Geography of the Vote Related Crop Insurance Proposal Could Cost U.S. Billions (June 7, 2012)... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-07-2012 [Senate begins debate on slimmed-down farm bill](#)  
By Ed O'Keefe, It's as if the cows have come home. The farm bill was once regarded as one of the main legislative vehicles by which members of Congress could deliver pork- barrel spending to their constituents. 1 Comments Weigh In Corrections? Personal Post... - [Washington Post](#)
- 06-07-2012 [Crop Insurance Proposal Could Cost U.S. Billions](#)  
WASHINGTON — At the same time that high crop prices are prompting farmers to expand into millions of acres of land once considered unsuitable for farming, Congress is considering expanding a federal insurance program that reimburses farmers for most losses or drops in prices.... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-06-2012 [Judge orders FDA to revisit decision not to ban some antibiotics in animal feed](#)  
**By Dina ElBoghdady, Published: June 5 A federal court has ordered the Food and Drug Administration to revisit its decision not to ban the use of certain antibiotics in animal feed and criticized the agency for relying on industry to voluntarily limit the use... - [Washington Post](#)**
- 06-06-2012 [USDA - Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup for the Week Ending June 3, 2012](#)  
(Press Release)

### [EPA's Phantom Science](#)

"EPA's regulatory agenda is a perilous pipe-dream precluded by the laws of math and physics." This conclusion by the former Chairman and Commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Kathleen White is a must read for any person interested in the environment and truthfulness from EPA. The Texas Public Policy Foundation published a report by White entitled "EPA's Pretense of Science: Regulating Phantom Risks". It is a devastating critique of EPA's misuse of data and science to reach a preconceived policy goal. The paper demonstrates that science in the hands of political operatives is easily compromised in determining a policy outcome. And, the objective is clear: That EPA policy is to supplant fossil fuels.

*Farm Futures* <http://www.farmfutures.com/blogs.aspx?fcb=23>

### [Milk Ingredient Does a Waistline Good](#)

A natural ingredient found in milk can protect against obesity even as mice continue to enjoy diets that are high in fat. The researchers who report their findings in the June Cell Metabolism liken this milk ingredient to a new kind of vitamin.

*Science Daily* <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/06/120605130748.htm>

### **GAME COMMISSION: PROPOSED RULEMAKING: SPECIAL PERMITS; APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURE DEER CONTROL PERMITS**

The Game Commission proposes to amend § 147.552 (relating to application) to replace the reference to "wildlife management units 5C and 5D" with the more appropriate reference to "the southeast special regulations areas." For more information contact Richard R. Palmer, Director, Bureau of Wildlife Protection, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797, (717) 783-6526. Comments can be directed to Director, Bureau of Information and Education, Game Commission, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

<http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol42/42-23/1048.html>

## Legislative Activity

[HB 761](#) [Cutler](#) Amends Tax Reform Code, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income & tax returns; in realty transfer tax, further providing for definitions, excluded transactions, etc. & further providing for transfers not subject to tax.

**Bill History:** 06-12-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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[HB 2371](#) [Maher](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) further providing for width of vehicles.

**Bill History:** 06-06-12 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room 140 Main Capitol ...House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-06-12 H Laid out for discussion  
06-06-12 H Third consideration  
06-06-12 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:194/N: 0)

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[HB 2372](#) [Hickernell](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) further providing for width of vehicles.

**Bill History:** 06-06-12 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room 140 Main Capitol ...House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-06-12 H Laid out for discussion  
06-06-12 H Third consideration  
06-06-12 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:194/N: 0)

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[HB 2373](#) [Brooks](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions, further providing for definitions; and in registration of vehicles, further providing for vehicles exempt from registration.

**Bill History:** 06-06-12 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room 140 Main Capitol ...House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-06-12 H Laid out for discussion  
06-06-12 H Third consideration  
06-06-12 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:194/N: 0)

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[HB 2374](#) [Marshall](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions,

further providing for definitions; further providing for vehicles exempt from registration; further providing for farm vehicles, inspection, operation without official inspection certificate.

**Bill History:** 06-06-12 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room 140 Main Capitol ...House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations  
06-06-12 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-06-12 H Laid out for discussion  
06-06-12 H Third consideration  
06-06-12 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:194/N: 0)

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[SB 155](#) [Folmer](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) further providing for securing loads in vehicles.

**Companions:** [HB 875](#) Cutler (Refiled from 09R Session)  
[SB 926](#) Folmer (Refiled from 09R Session)  
[HB 1067](#) Cutler (Identical)  
3-15-11 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

**Bill History:** 06-06-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
06-06-12 S Laid out for discussion  
06-06-12 S Third consideration  
06-06-12 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 47/N: 0)  
06-07-12 H Received in the House and referred to House Transportation

## Capitol Review

Author Robert Fulghum is best known for his collection of essays titled ["All I Really Need to Know I Learned In Kindergarten"](#), published in the late '80s. But what if there was no kindergarten? Would people ever learn that you should wash your hands before you eat, and that you should put things back where you found them?

Sadly, we may soon find out the hard way, beginning in Harrisburg and maybe spreading eventually to a school district near you. In order to address a \$6.6 million budget deficit next school year, and having already cut everything else to the bone, the [Harrisburg School District has proposed to cut all programs that are not state-mandated](#). That means kindergarten, along with athletics, band and all other extracurricular activities. It's the latest installment in the hot new reality show, "Extreme Takeover, City Edition," where residents are forced to endure increasingly more discouraging developments until they are bludgeoned into begging for bankruptcy.

A few blocks away, [House and Senate leaders met several times with Governor Corbett to discuss their differences regarding the proposed state budget](#), and Senate Appropriations Chair Jake Corman said it appears that his earlier prediction of a budget by June 13 may have been a bit optimistic. Meetings will resume this week. Corman noted that "no one has really landed on a spend number." Hmmm, sounds like things are a bit jammed up. Is \$27.1 billion enough? Is \$27.6 billion too much? [It all reminds us of – retro alert – this old TV ad...](#)

Sure, it's gentle.

Among those who believe that more would be better, [United Way of the Capital Region stepped forward this week with a Terry Madonna-commissioned poll](#) concluding that a large majority of Pennsylvania voters believe previous human service cuts have gone far enough, if not too far. The survey showed that 72 percent of central PA voters believe that spending on programs and services that help the poor should be increased or kept the same, while only 22 percent believe spending should be decreased. The numbers become even stronger when respondents are confronted with the likely consequences of further cuts, such as increased homelessness and more emergency room visits.

In Harrisburg and across the commonwealth, public transit agencies have begun to sound warnings about imminent reductions and eliminations of bus routes due to declining resources and increased costs. Pittsburgh, in particular, is facing draconian service cuts, including the loss of more than 60 morning rush hour bus trips come September. [Such cuts would worsen congestion in the region](#), where a three-mile portion of Parkway West already ranks ninth-worst in the nation for congestion. This provides a spot-on illustration for how highways and public transit, along with freight and passenger rail, air and sea ports and bicycle paths and pedestrian corridors, constitute an interdependent, fully integrated transportation system.

For those who tend to believe that the legislature has trouble getting things done, the truth is that it can when lawmakers put their minds to it. We saw an excellent example this week in speedy legislative passage of a plan to repay the [commonwealth's \\$4.5 billion debt to the federal government to cover unemployment compensation payments during the recent recession](#). Was it a perfect plan? Perhaps House resident liberal Mark Cohen put it best when he said, "It could have been worse." The key point is that here is one crisis addressed, thank you ma'am. Next?

[The Jerry Sandusky sexual assault trial began this week as lawyers successfully seated a jury](#), with opening arguments expected to begin on Monday in Bellefonte. With constant coverage of every detail being broadcast through radio, TV, the U.S. Mail, newspapers and gabby neighbors, it's somewhat miraculous that a jury could be seated so quickly.

[Penn Vet Dean Joan Hendricks continued to make the rounds in and around Harrisburg](#) to apprise the public and the news media of the vast array of benefits shining upon all Pennsylvanians as a result of the commonwealth's only school of veterinary medicine. Among them, safer food, healthier livestock, a vibrant agribusiness sector and advances in medical research that benefit humans as well as animals. And in case you thought for a moment that we might refrain from playing the warm and cuddly puppies and kittens card again, nuh-uh.

[Butler County's own Miss Pennsylvania USA, Sheena Monnin, got into a kerfuffle with none other than Donald Trump](#) after she resigned her title and complained that the Miss USA pageant was rigged. The Donald, whose empire includes the Miss USA organization, responded by threatening to sue her, thus endangering the vast fortune that 27-year-old beauty queens so often amass.

And that wraps it up until next week. Keep your fingers crossed for a budget resolution!

***In Other News***

- 06-11-2012 [\*\*Progress Being Made On a Final Budget Agreement, Godshall Says\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-11-2012 [\*\*SBA Offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans in PA Following Sec. of Agriculture...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-11-2012 [\*\*Deadline in Pennsylvania to Apply for SBA Working Capital Loans Due to 2011...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-11-2012 [\*\*Pennsylvania budget: Main proposals pitched by Corbett, Senate are \\$500 million apart\*\*](#)  
It's not going to be as early a state budget as top Republican lawmakers had hoped, but Pennsylvania's second on-time spending plan in the past decade still looks like a solid bet. The GOP majorities in each chamber are working with the governor's office to bridge a \$500 million gap between their plans for next year's spending,... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 06-11-2012 [\*\*Aquaponic farming takes root in urban food desert\*\*](#)  
When Chester police raided a former drugstore in May 2011, what they found gave new meaning to the term high tech. In the basement was a hydroponic marijuana farm of serious sophistication. Nearly 100 pot plants, from seedlings to lush, 4-foot bushes, flourished in... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)
- 06-11-2012 [\*\*More Debit Card Follies and Abuses\*\*](#)  
The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau needs to bring transparency to debit card banking. The Federal Reserve made a good regulatory start in 2010, when it required banks to get account holders' consent before enrolling them in overdraft "protection" programs that could cost them \$35 each time they used... - [\*New York Times\*](#)
- 06-10-2012 [\*\*Panel trots out 2nd try at redistricting map\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG -- A special legislative panel took a second swing at redrawing the state's Senate districts, but one of the lawmakers on the panel said the plan approved on Friday contains many of the flaws that led the Supreme Court to reject the first one. "The final map is the product of a broken and bewildering process in which... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 06-10-2012 [\*\*C. Alan Walker: Shell tax credit is about more jobs\*\*](#)  
One of the current strategies to obstruct Gov. Tom Corbett has taken on an air of pure bloody mindedness: the manufactured controversy over proposed tax credits to lure Shell Chemical to construct a \$4 billion ethane-processing plant in the state's southwest.... - [\*Harrisburg Patriot-News\*](#)
- 06-08-2012 [\*\*Horse owners hope fund not raided\*\*](#)  
By Jeremy Boren Tribune-Review Published: Thursday, June 7, 2012, 8:50 p.m. Updated 4 hours ago Horse owners say they are cautiously optimistic that Gov. Tom Corbett is backing away from a proposal to raid a racehorse development fund fueled by gambling revenues.... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 06-08-2012 [\*\*Panel to meet again on Pa. redistricting plan\*\*](#)

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The five-member panel that's trying its hand at the once-a-decade task of redrawing the boundaries of Pennsylvania's legislative districts will meet again in hopes of finalizing a plan... - [AP](#)

- 06-08-2012 [\*\*House passes 'pay day' loans bill with high interest rates\*\*](#)  
Pennsylvania is one step closer to authorizing short-term "pay day loans" with interest rates and charges as high as 300 percent for some borrowers. Several state lawmakers from Bucks and Montgomery counties voted Wednesday in support of HB2191, which would allow such loans to be offered... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 06-08-2012 [\*\*6.6 million young adults on parents' health plans, survey says\*\*](#)  
By Noam Levey, Washington Bureau June 8, 2012, 5:05 a.m. WASHINGTON — President Obama's healthcare law helped as many as 6.6 million young adults stay on or get on their parents' health plans in the first year and a half after the law was signed, a new survey indicates.... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 06-07-2012 [\*\*Bentley Systems Makes \\$300,000 Commitment to Habitat for Humanity of Chester...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-07-2012 [\*\*Mayor Nutter's Soda Summit Address\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-07-2012 [\*\*Mosquito Coast\*\*](#)  
A warm winter and wet spring. Fading memories of the last frost, whenever that was. The sun rising early and setting late, throwing shadows over steaming pavement puddles, murky birdbaths, brimming gutters and stagnant storm drains. Related Times Topic: Mosquitoes... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-07-2012 [\*\*How Do You Live Knowing You Might Have the Alzheimer's Gene?\*\*](#)  
It seemed as if it would be a perfectly ordinary occasion, that hot August day in 1959. Three generations of a large Oklahoma family gathered at a studio in nearby Perryton, Tex., to have a photo taken of the elders, 14 siblings ranging in age from 29 to 52. Afterward, everyone went to a nearby... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-06-2012 [\*\*Miss Pennsylvania quits, calling Miss USA pageant rigged\*\*](#)  
Miss Pennsylvania has stepped down from her position, citing dishonesty in last weekend's Miss USA pageant in Las Vegas, a claim the event's parent organization says is bogus. Sheena Monnin, 27, called the Miss Universe Organization "fraudulent, lacking in morals, inconsistent, and in many ways trashy" in a post on her... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 06-06-2012 [\*\*Moderation as the Sweet Spot for Exercise\*\*](#)  
For people who exercise but fret that they really should be working out more, new studies may be soothing. The amount of exercise needed to improve health and longevity, this new science shows, is modest, and more is not necessarily better. Phys Ed Phys Ed Gretchen Reynolds on the science of fitness.... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-06-2012 [\*\*Disney Takes On Obesity\*\*](#)  
The Walt Disney Company deserves applause for its plan to impose strict standards on food advertising aimed at young children on Disney-owned television channels, radio stations and Web sites. The standards, based on federal guidelines, should eliminate

junk-food ads on children's... - [New York Times](#)