



Center for Beef Excellence
Beef Bytes
June 19, 2012

Dear Friends:

Are you interested in transitioning your fleet to natural gas? The PA Department of Environmental Protection has a new web site that showcases workshops and **grants** relating to natural gas vehicles. Visit [Natural Gas Vehicle Program](#) to surf for opportunities that would match your needs.

USDA Rural Development has helped over 10,000 Pennsylvanians secure mortgages. To find out if you or someone you know may qualify, call the state office at: 717-237-2299. You may be surprised by the locations that qualify.

Have a good week,

MeeCee

Articles of Interest

CBE News:

[CBE Programs](#)

The Center for Beef Excellence has a variety of ongoing programs designed to improve beef quality and profitability in Pennsylvania. Portable cattle handling facilities are available for producers to use and education programs target both state, national and international audiences with messages about top beef production practices in place in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania News:

[Pennsylvania Gas Pipeline](#)

A ruling by a federal court will allow for the construction of a natural gas pipeline across northern Pennsylvania. Environmental groups were attempting to stall the project but the court decision will allow the pipeline to begin operations within the next month.

National News:

[Horse Slaughter Reopens](#)

A facility in Missouri will soon begin to slaughter horses again, following the lifting of a ban on horse slaughter in the US. The plant will have video surveillance to ensure humane handling as well as a system to prevent stolen horses from being processed.

[Opposition to Animal ID](#)

A group of farm organizations is opposing the proposed USDA animal identification program. The groups claim that the research underestimated the cost of compliance, and that the program will harm small operations.

[Farm Bill Discussions](#)

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack covered several of his priorities for the 2012 Farm Bill- including the need for agricultural research funding, financial assistance for farmers and animal disease programs.

[Changing Wheat Prices](#)

Tyson Foods, Inc. announced that it will stop using wheat in poultry diets due to rising prices in comparison to corn. However, the additional demand for corn could cause changes to the price ratios. Some experts say that the use of wheat for feed will not stop anytime soon.

[New EPA Legislation](#)

Senator Mike Johanns of Nebraska has proposed a bill that would ban the Environmental Protection Agency from performing aerial surveillance by farm flyovers following several weeks of discussion and concern about the program.

Global News:

[US Beef Concerns in Taiwan](#)

Consumers in Taiwan worry that consuming US beef containing ractopamine could lead to illness. The country's health minister is proposing that the government will pay for health care for anyone who gets sick from the beef, and that Taiwan will ban imports of US beef if illness occurs. These proposals are part of an attempt to pass a bill covering US imports.

[Russian Beef Production](#)

Prime Minister of Russia Vladimir Putin is working to allow the country to produce 85% of their own beef by 2020. A rancher from Oklahoma was hired to oversee the country's largest operation and Angus cattle were selected as the basis for the herd due to their adaptability.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Creep Feeding Analysis](#)

Feed efficiency is generally poor for calves consuming creep feed, with the best ratios showing about 5 pounds of feed to one pound of gain. The cost of the feed and feeders/equipment must be compared to the value of additional weaning weight when deciding whether to feed.

[Making Good Hay](#)

The time and money invested in putting up hay is significant, so management decisions should be made carefully to ensure that the product is as good as it can be. Tradeoffs between yield and nutritional value mean that decisions such as when to cut and desired moisture level at baling call for educated choices.

[Monitoring Stocker Heifers](#)

A stocker operation should have a plan in place to avoid sending pregnant heifers to the feedlot. These heifers can cause problems and loss of efficiency in the feedlot and damage the reputation of the stocker. Ultrasound, blood tests and palpation are options to determine pregnancy.

Additional articles

06-19-2012

[PFB Fundraiser Celebrates 20 Years of Supporting Agriculture Education Programs](#)

(Press Release)

- 06-19-2012 [**USDA - Milk Production in PA Down 2.1 Percent in May**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-19-2012 [**Application Deadline is July 16 for SBA Working Capital Loans Due to 2011...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-19-2012 [**There are alternatives to testing on animals**](#)
In the United States, approximately 1.13 million animals are used for research each year. About 76,000 of those animals are subject to pain without pain relief. Some of those animals are cats and dogs from pounds or other places. There are also an estimated 100 million mice and rats... - [*Harrisburg Patriot-News*](#)
- 06-18-2012 [**PENNVEST, DEP Announce Results of Forward Nutrient Credit Trading Auction**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-18-2012 [**Manure pits, gas they give off claim lives**](#)
By JON RUTTER Staff Writer On the afternoon of May 23, a quiet 14-year-old Peach Bottom boy named Cleason Nolt somehow slipped into a liquid manure pit where he was working on a large Kennedyville, Md., dairy farm and died. Cleason's 18-year-old brother, Kelvin, and 48-year-old father, Glenn, also... - [*Lancaster Sunday News*](#)
- 06-18-2012 [**Armyworms destroying area farm crops, moths coming next**](#)
MANSFIELD - Dairy farmer Terry Wilson said his corn, hay and oat crops were coming up like they should until a week ago when he noticed one field full of young corn that looked like it was only half there. Closer examination revealed it had been eaten down to the ground by pseudaleta unipuncta, or... - [*Williamsport Sun-Gazette*](#)
- 06-17-2012 [**Big, small farms are battling for money**](#)
Advantages in the 2012 farm bill have teeter-tottered between big agriculture and small farms, and as of now, the small farms are winning. The Senate passed a \$969 billion farm bill last week 90-8, and the House could vote on the measure this week. The bill cuts mandatory agricultural... - [*Columbus Dispatch*](#)
- 06-17-2012 [**Raw milk use increases, but debate churns over its benefits, dangers**](#)
Just a year after Mike Hardler started selling raw milk, 44 retail locations carry his product. "Raw milk has been one of the best things I ever did," Mr. Hardler, 42, said as small herds of goats and sheep and a few miniature horses grazed in a field on his 100-acre farm about nine miles north of Honesdale. "It sells... - [*Scranton Times*](#)
- 06-15-2012 [**Inside PDA for June 15, 2012**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-14-2012 [**Casey Urges Congress to Quickly Pass Farm Bill to Help PA Farmers Create Jobs**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-14-2012 [**Planting corn is misguided, professor says**](#)
After corn prices hit a record in 2011 -- averaging out to \$6 a bushel nationwide -- farmers are hoping to cash in this year by planting even more. It's a bad strategy,

said Mike Orzolek, a horticulture professor at State College-based Penn State University's College of Agricultural Sciences.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 06-14-2012 [Farm areas brace for fed scrutiny over Chesapeake pollution mandate](#)
Originally Published Jun 13, 2012 22:16 By AD CRABLE Staff Writer To head off a possible crackdown by federal regulators, Manor and Brecknock townships have asked the Lancaster County Conservation District to make sure their farmers have soil and manure controls in place.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 06-13-2012 [Center for Dairy Excellence: "Cow Power" Discussed at Stakeholder Meeting](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-13-2012 [USDA: Pennsylvania Winter Wheat Production](#)
(Press Release)

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.

Printer Number(s): [P0784](#) [P2590](#) [P3345](#) [P3559](#)

Bill History: 06-18-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar
06-18-12 S Recommitted to Senate Appropriations

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

Printer Number(s): [P3532](#) [P3664](#)

Bill History: 06-12-12 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol ...Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Passed over in committee Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs

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

Printer Number(s): [P3533](#) [P3665](#)

Bill History: 06-12-12 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol ...Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Reported as committed from Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs

[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.

Printer Number(s): [P3534](#)

Bill History: 06-12-12 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol ...Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Reported as committed from Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs

[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.

Printer Number(s): [P3535](#) [P3579](#)

Bill History: 06-12-12 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol ...Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
06-19-12 S Reported as committed from Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Capitol Review

We had nearly forgotten what a fun guy he is, but former [Governor Rendell returned to Harrisburg this week as part of his “Nation of Wusses” book tour](#) and regaled us with war stories and observations about the current state and national political landscape. We’re sure that Governor Corbett breathed a sigh of relief to be commended by Rendell as “definitely a non-wuss.” What, you ask, is a wuss, exactly? The Urban Dictionary, the unquestioned authority on what the cool kids are all saying, defines wuss as “a person who is physically weak and ineffectual. Often a male person with low courage factor.” We wonder how “courage factor” differs from just plain “courage,” but hey, we’ll play along.

Even though the state Senate has unveiled its own vastly different liquor privatization proposal, and even though debate on the House version stalled this week, House Majority Leader Mike Turzai assured reporters that his quest to get the state out of the liquor business isn’t dead yet. The Senate version, sponsored by Sen. Chuck McIlhinney and backed by President Pro Tem Joe Scarnati, would [expand the sale of liquor by the bottle for off-premises consumption through taverns, restaurants and other establishments but would keep the 620 state stores open](#). A later amendment would also enable beer distributors to obtain a special license to sell liquor and wine

by the bottle and anything by the glass – if they opened a bar on premises. You’re keeping this all straight, right? We’re working on an erasable scorecard so you can follow along at home.

[June 13 came and went without a state budget, and legislative leaders said there appeared to be a difference of about \\$233 million between what they’d like to spend and what Corbett will support.](#) The governor reportedly wants to keep a larger reserve. You know, in case the economy gets stinky and the state would otherwise be faced with cutting education and human services and stuff like that. This approach follows the now somewhat discredited proposal to mandate the sale of socks in sets of three – so that when you lose one in the dryer, you’ll still have a pair.

Meanwhile, the chorus of collective concerns over Corbett’s proposed budget cuts for education and human services and stuff like that continued as [public education aficionados filled the Capitol Rotunda to voice opposition to cuts in basic education.](#)

The final budget number likely will depend on the work of the relatively new Independent Fiscal Office, which [projected this week that the final revenue number for the current fiscal year will be \\$27.54 billion, just a shade under the Senate-passed spending plan of \\$27.6 billion.](#)

The House Finance Committee, by a 13-11 tally, [tabled the proposed Property Tax Independence Act until it can be further reviewed by the aforementioned Independent Fiscal Office.](#) Several of those who voted to table it indicated they could still support the measure if the numbers add up right. (Heh heh – makes you kind of worry about the folks who would support the measure even if the numbers add up wrong.)

On the municipal insolvency front, Harrisburg residents pondered the potential impact on their personal finances. Meanwhile, a [forensic audit detailed how Harrisburg and Dauphin County officials crashed through a series of “bridge out” signs and landed at the bottom of a cliff.](#) (We believe our friends at the Harrisburg Patriot News are smiling because they are now confident that they will have something to write about even after the Jerry Sandusky trial concludes. Reporter’s notebook: “Harrisburg muni finance – the gift that keeps on giving.”)

Last week we reported that a three-mile stretch of Parkway West in Pittsburgh ranks ninth-worst in the nation for traffic congestion. Now our friends at the [Pennsylvania Highway Information Association](#) note that by taking an additional 9 minutes to traverse that three-mile stretch, commuters who travel the route twice daily, five days per week, might be wasting 4.5 gallons of gas per week at a total additional cost of around \$15. PHIA Managing Director Jason Wagner says it’s just a microcosm of the cost of not addressing the transportation funding issue. I guess you could use the old “pay me now or pay me later” argument.

In Other News

06-18-2012

[Pennsylvania restricts access to millions of court records](#)

BY MICHAEL MACAGNONE, For The Patriot-News College indiscretions, traffic citations and small lawsuits have become easier to put behind you in Pennsylvania. The state has restricted access to millions of court records involving minor crimes, traffic offenses, landlord-tenant disputes and small suits.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

- 06-18-2012 [**Look for "Bait and Switch" on Soda Taxes**](#)
THIS PAST MONTH has seen a coordinated PR assault against "junk food" in the name of public health. The Institute of Medicine's 462-page report Accelerating Progress in Obesity Prevention: Solving the Weight of the Nation argues that wide-ranging changes are required, such as promoting physical activity and... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)
- 06-17-2012 [**Western Pa. Democrats to challenge voter ID law**](#)
PITTSBURGH — Democrats on Allegheny County's elections board have announced that they plan to challenge Pennsylvania's GOP-backed voter identification law... - [AP](#)
- 06-15-2012 [**Corbett wants speedy approval of \\$1.6 billion in petrochemical tax credits**](#)
The Corbett administration already has pitched Shell Oil Co. on a petrochemical cracker plant in Beaver County. Now it has to sell the deal to fellow Republicans, and perhaps more importantly Democrats, to get it done. At a news conference Thursday, members of the governor's Cabinet joined... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 06-14-2012 [**This one's on the House: Pa. legislators to mull booze bill again next week**](#)
HARRISBURG — With the clock ticking down toward the legislature's budget deadline and summer break, the top House Republican behind the push to privatize Pennsylvania's liquor stores vowed that debate on the measure would resume next week. Majority Leader Mike Turzai (R., Allegheny) said between negotiations on... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 06-13-2012 [**As Legislators Debate the Fate of the Keystone Fund, Concerned Citizens Build...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-13-2012 [**NAIC: Boomers in the Sandwich Generation Face Complex Insurance Decisions**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-13-2012 [**Rendell touts public service and laments cowardly politicians in 'Nation of Wusses'**](#)
While President Barack Obama was glad-handing Philly fat cats Tuesday to stuff his AP041104019645.jpgThe Associated Press re-election coffers, Ed Rendell, Pennsylvania's gregarious former governor, was hawking his new treatise "A Nation of Wusses: How America's Leaders... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 06-13-2012 [**US coal use falling fast; utilities switch to gas**](#)
NEW YORK — America is shoveling coal to the sidelines.... - [AP](#)
- 06-13-2012 [**Food Stamps and the Farm Bill**](#)
The version of the farm bill that emerged from the Senate Agriculture Committee contains \$4.5 billion in cuts to the food stamps program over 10 years. Related News Senate Advances Farm Bill (June 8, 2012) Times Topic: U.S. Farm Bill Opinion Twitter Logo.... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-13-2012 [**Unemployment reforms signed into state law**](#)
HARRISBURG — Legislation sponsored by state Sen. John Gordner to provide for the long-term solvency of the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund has been signed into law by Gov. Tom Corbett, a press release says. "This legislation will provide for solvency of the fund by 2019 and, more... - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)

- 06-12-2012 [**Rep. Sabatina: Property Tax/Rent Rebate deadline extended to Dec. 31**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-12-2012 [**Corbett mum on negotiations over Pennsylvania budget**](#)
HARRISBURG -- Gov. Tom Corbett revealed little Monday about his closed-door budget negotiations with his fellow Republicans who lead the state Legislature as he tried to score other victories for his agenda before lawmakers take their summer break from Harrisburg... - [*AP*](#)
- 06-12-2012 [**Obesity Ills That Won't Budge Fuel Soda Battle by Bloomberg**](#)
A hospital offers Zumba and cooking classes. Farmers markets dole out \$2 coupons for cantaloupe and broccoli. An adopt-a-bodega program nudges store owners to stock low-fat milk. And one apartment building even slowed down its elevator, and lined its stairwells with artwork, to entice occupants... - [*New York Times*](#)
- 06-12-2012 [**Rep. George receives high school diploma**](#)
"I told Edna I'd get a diploma someday," state Rep. Camille "Bud" George, D-74 of Houtzdale, quipped Friday night at the Moshannon Valley High School graduation after District Superintendent Tonya DeVecchis-Kerr presented him with an honorary high school diploma.... - [*Clearfield Progress*](#)