



Beef Bytes
June 25, 2012

Dear Friends,

Yesterday marked the 40th anniversary of the enactment of Title IX. This was a great victory for a little farm girl who desperately wanted to play Little League so she could be a pro ball player like her Dad. We can be grateful for the opportunities afforded to all our children today.

We are entering the last week of June and expect the budget to be passed in the next few days. Look for email updates from Versant.

Attached is a media advisory sent out this week to the ag news outlets.

If you plan to vacation in Pennsylvania this summer, use this planning guide to help: <http://www.visitpa.com/>.

Enjoy the long days of June.

MeeCee

Articles of Interest

CBE News:

CBE on Facebook!

The Center for Beef Excellence has a new fan page on Facebook! Check out the latest in events and updates at <http://www.facebook.com/PennsylvaniaCenterForBeefExcellence>. Be sure to like our page and stop in often.

Pennsylvania News:

[Direct Marketing for Pennsylvania Teen](#)

Matt McNany of Harrisville, Pennsylvania found a market for his beef at the local Grove City College cafeteria. Despite having to work through issues such as farm insurance, finding calf suppliers and a USDA inspected packing plant, and improving farm facilities, he has a market for 80-90 cattle/year for the next 10 years.

National News:

[Senate Passes Farm Bill](#)

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association voiced their approval of the version of the 2012 farm bill passed by the Senate. Two controversial amendments- one involving animal welfare legislation and the other involving packer ownership of cattle- were not included in the bill.

[Dust Regulation Proposal](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a standard for dust regulation, and agricultural groups are pleased that the proposal will retain the current protection levels. However, the rule could easily change before it is approved in the fall.

[Cattle Prices Falling](#)

Concerns about drought across the country are leading to falling cattle prices and rising corn prices. Prices for lightweight calves have been hit especially hard, and cow slaughter levels are also above average- though lower than 2011 levels.

Global News:

[New Trade Alliance](#)

US trade representatives are negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership which would remove tariff and non-tariff trade barriers among participating countries. Mexico was most recently offered a place in the negotiations. The deal would be good for the beef industry, as it would remove many of the restrictions on beef that are based on non-scientific information.

[Land Development](#)

Foreign investment in agricultural land is a strong trend. With expectations for high future food needs, many investors are buying land in Africa or Asia to build large farms. However, foreign businesses must take care to interact well with local communities to have a solid foundation for future development.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Grazing in Dry Periods](#)

When facing drought or low rainfall seasons it is important to slow down grazing rotations, but not to overgraze the fields. This allows more rest periods for forages to regrow after grazing and allow for faster recovery when rain comes.

[Starting Calves on Feed](#)

Some producers are considering weaning calves early due to drought concerns. Calves should be started on grain slowly, with plenty of good hay offered at first. Eventually a 50% grain, 50% forage diet will work well to keep calves growing and healthy.

[Varying Profit Margins](#)

The feedlot sector is seeing huge losses, as cost of gain exceeds the value of gain when cattle are sold. However, there is an indication that stocker cattle have the potential to be profitable despite high calve prices.

[Local Marketing Challenges](#)

For producers interested in marketing beef directly to consumers, the lack of meat processing facilities near the farm can be a concern. In order to develop a market, producers need access to inspected plants, but these plants will not be built without a consistent, long term demand.

[Reproduction in Heifers](#)

Heifers that fail to become pregnant are excellent candidates for culling, in order to ensure long term reproductive success in the herd. Prices for open heifers are high and the financial value is an added incentive to keep only the highest performing females.

06-26-2012

[PA Farm Bureau and Game Commission Agree on Plan to Step Up Enforcement of...](#)

(Press Release)

- 06-25-2012 [Dairy farmers seek new safety net](#)
By ALFRED WANNER JR., In My Opinion It's hard to overstate how important dairy cows are to Lancaster County's economy. According to one authoritative estimate, dairy farming here generates more than \$400 million in revenue annually. Eighty-five percent of that stays in the community, changing hands 2 1/2 times and generating... - [Lancaster Sunday News](#)
- 06-25-2012 [ShopRite recalls meat](#)
The ShopRite grocery store in Hatfield is recalling all store-made ground beef products produced and sold Friday, according to store officials. The store, at 170 Forty Food Road in Hatfield, discovered that some pieces of black liner from the tray used in packaging the meet may be in the... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)
- 06-22-2012 [Inside PDA for June 22, 2012](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-22-2012 [USDA - Red Meat Production in Pennsylvania Up 3 Percent in May](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-21-2012 [Sen. Casey Statement on Senate Passage of the Farm Bill](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-20-2012 [Where have all the stink bugs gone?](#)
By Emily Dobler / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette What's bugging entomologists as summer begins? Stink bugs, but not in the way you would think. Tim Nagy, 45, of South Fayette, was "dive-bombed" by stink bugs all over his home last year -- so bad that his dog began eating them for fun. This... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 06-20-2012 [What's in the farm bill? Some issues unrelated to farms.](#)
The U.S. Senate is scheduled Wednesday to continue voting on 73 amendments to the farm bill, a five-year, bipartisan measure expected to pass later this week. Aides said Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.) whittled down a list of 300 proposed amendments to the 73 slated for votes in hopes of... - [Washington Post](#)
- 06-20-2012 [Farm Bureau supports labeling](#)
This responds to a letter ("We should know what we're eating") published in the June 15 edition of the Press Enterprise, which inaccurately portrays my earlier comments on behalf of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau related to Lean Finely Textured Beef (LFTB) or what many have referred to as "pink slime"... - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)

Legislative Activity

[HB 858](#) [Metcalfe](#) Act prohibiting employment of illegal aliens; requiring participation in E-verify Program as a condition for Commonwealth contracts or grants; prohibiting business tax deductions for certain compensation; & authorizing private cause of action.

Companions: [HB 2033](#) Metcalfe (Refiled from 09R Session)

Printer Number(s): [P0896](#)

Bill History: 06-20-12 H Press conference held

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

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

Bill History: 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: 06-19-12 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
06-19-12 S First consideration
06-20-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar
06-20-12 S Second consideration
06-20-12 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[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: 06-19-12 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
06-19-12 S First consideration
06-20-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar
06-20-12 S Second consideration
06-20-12 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[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: 06-19-12 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
06-19-12 S First consideration
06-20-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar
06-20-12 S Second consideration
06-20-12 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 947](#) [Rafferty](#) Act prohibiting employment of illegal aliens; for Basic Pilot Program participation as contract condition; prohibiting business tax deductions for certain compensation; for license suspension & authorizing a private cause of action.

Companions: [SB 744](#) Rafferty (Refiled from 09R Session)

Printer Number(s): [P1020](#)

Bill History: 06-20-12 S Press conference held

Capitol Review

“One word,” he said. “Plastics.”

Was it Mr. McGuire’s advice to Benjamin Braddock in the 1967 film classic, *The Graduate*? No, it was Governor Corbett unveiling plans for a natural gas refinery in Beaver County, to be built by Netherlands-based oil and gas giant Royal Dutch Shell PLC. The plant could serve as the anchor for an entire petrochemical and plastics industry.

[The announcement was met at once with loud voices of bipartisan support and loud voices of bipartisan derision](#), owing to the idea that while it reportedly would create tens of thousands of J-O-B-S jobs, jobs, jobs, Shell would receive a 25-year \$1.7 billion tax credit as incentive to build the plant. Never mind that the credits would come from revenue that hasn’t yet been generated, or that the amount of the credits would be tied to the number of jobs created, or that it could jump-start an entire industry. Once it was stained with the “corporate welfare” label – the political rhetoric equivalent of “pink slime” – the poor-mouthing began, especially from those living outside of western PA.

However, it appears that the governor and legislative leaders may have given the tax credit plan the boost it needs by tying it to the impending state budget (there’s a surprise). This would force fiscally conservative Republicans into the dicey dilemma of voting against the Republican-crafted budget in order to vote against the tax credits, and perhaps even induce some [pro-labor western PA Democrats to vote for the budget in order to take credit for creating jobs for their constituents](#).

Speaking of the ol’ budget, there appears to be agreement among [House and Senate Republican leaders and the administration on something approaching \\$27.7 billion](#), which was pretty much what the Senate Republicans said they wanted a couple of weeks back. It would restore half of the originally proposed 20 percent cuts for county-run social services. Aid for public schools and for the 18 state-supported universities would remain flat, while the state would eliminate a \$150 million cash benefit called General Assistance for disabled adults.

Turning to your seven-day forecast: increasing grumpiness developing early next week, with periods of carping and complaining, possibly heavy at times. This will give way to sunnier skies as we roll into the weekend. Home by the 4th of July two years in a row!!

[Do rocks really have snot? Yes, boys and girls, sometimes they do](#), and you must admit, it would be boring to call this river algae by its other name, didymo. Rock snot is already invading our favorite whitewater rafting venue, the Youghiogheny River, and it may be coming soon to a waterway near you. U.S. Sen. Bob Casey called on federal officials to step up their assistance as the commonwealth battles this invasive species, which can coat a river bottom and crowd out native plant and animal species in the food chain that supports fisheries. If we're lucky, maybe we can make ethane out of didymo.

When we reported recently that Harrisburg school officials were considering the elimination of kindergarten to avert a budget deficit next year, some may have been surprised to learn that kindergarten is not mandatory in Pennsylvania. Now we bring you this factoid: Pennsylvania is one of only five states where kindergarten is not mandated. Can you show us how many fingers that is, boys and girls? If so, you've probably been to kindergarten. [State Rep. Patrick Harkins of Erie says he wants to fix that with legislation that would amend the 63-year-old Public School Code to require that all school districts offer kindergarten](#), and also would change the compulsory age to start school from 8 to 6. We think the Amish might be looking for a lobbyist to fight this one.

[House Majority Leader Mike Turzai acknowledged that he hasn't been able to line up enough votes to pass his liquor-store privatization bill](#). He and Governor Corbett agreed that fall would probably be a better time. Because, as you know, when the leaves begin to turn, labor won't be quite as opposed to the idea of losing union jobs, and the moralists won't be quite as concerned about the horrible atrocities that easier access to booze will visit upon the populace.

The most uplifting news of the week comes from the Bowl Championship Series commissioners, who announced that they have finally solved the dilemma that has torn the college football nation asunder for all these years. [The BCS is advancing the idea of a four-team playoff that would settle, once and for all, the World's Most Important Question, which college football team is No. 1](#). Aw, they'll probably find a way to screw Penn State out of the national title anyway.

Another inspiring story – one about how politics encourages innovation – comes this week from the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). If you've been following along, week to week, you know that voters will have to show some sort of photo ID to cast a ballot in this year's Presidential election in Pennsylvania. PASSHE students are all issued photo IDs. That's good, says the Department of State, our elections police force. But wait! The IDs don't carry expiration dates. That makes them invalid. All those PhDs at PASSHE went to work and, voila! ["Let's put stickers with expiration dates on the photo IDs!"](#) The question now is how long before someone figures out a way to forge student ID expiration date stickers to bollix up our voting system (even though this might be a new form of free market capitalism).

In Other News

06-25-2012

[Like big soft drinks? Check out this calorie count](#)

The problem of obesity is pulling on our waistlines and increasingly on our pockets. The annual cost of health care related to obesity issues is estimated at \$190 billion

per year, according to a Cornell University study. In Pittsburgh, the town that invented the Big Mac, the situation is... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 06-25-2012 [**Capitol insiders predict Gov. Tom Corbett will deliver an on-time budget**](#)
Although state budget negotiators spent the weekend trying to work through unresolved issues in the 2012-13 budget agreement, many Capitol insiders predict that Gov. Tom Corbett will be able to deliver an on-time budget for the second consecutive year. Tom Corbett.jpgView full size CHRIS KNIGHT, The Patriot-News, 2012Gov. Tom... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 06-24-2012 [**Aither Chemicals teams with Bayer to market proposed cracker plant in W.Va.**](#)
The cracker competition in Appalachia is still going, with a potential rival to Royal Dutch Shell plc formalizing a long-awaited deal in West Virginia this week. Aither Chemicals LLC announced on Thursday that it is formally scouting deals to sell products from its its proposed cracker, an ethane processing... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 06-21-2012 [**Legislature and Governor Announce Agreement on Budget Spending Figure**](#)
(Press Release)
- 06-21-2012 [**Senate bill brings some big changes to farm policy**](#)
(AP) Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow is fond of saying that the five-year farm policy bill is "not your father's farm bill.".. - [AP](#)
- 06-21-2012 [**Department of Agriculture reminds dog owners of license requirement**](#)
Department of Agriculture reminds dog owners of license requirement The Department of Agriculture is reminding all dog owners to purchase a 2012 dog license as required by Pennsylvania law. Failure to license a dog is a summary offense and could result in a maximum... - [Towanda Daily Review](#)
- 06-21-2012 [**Health Groups Criticize Allergy Drug Promotion**](#)
Public health advocates on Wednesday accused the drug company Merck of improperly marketing an over-the-counter allergy medicine directly to children using animated characters from the movie "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted." Enlarge This Image Advocacy groups worry that children may confuse the Merck medicine with... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-21-2012 [**Wary of Plastic, and Waste, Some Consumers Turn to Glass**](#)
Glass water bottles, so yesterday. Plastic, so convenient; metal, so hip. Steve Ruark for The New York Times A shatter-resistant glass water bottle product developed by Walt Himmelstein. But now, in back to the future fashion, glass is making a bit of a comeback. And it is being helped in a small way by an entrepreneur who is... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-20-2012 [**Pennsylvania Senate approves financial recovery bill that could lead to takeover of Harrisburg and other fiscally distressed school districts**](#)
The Senate today passed legislation that would provide financially struggling school districts with extra funding, but also could lead to the state takeover of the same school districts. Rally Against Proposed Harrisburg School District Funding CutsStudents,... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 06-20-2012 [**Turzai: No #PaLiquor bill until the fall at the earliest.**](#)

Stick A Cork In It. A bill that would privatize Pennsylvania's more than 600 state liquor stores is on hold until the fall, House Wine_bottles-920 Majority Leader Mike Turzai, R-Allegheny, said this morning. Preoccupied by the debate over the state budget, the suburban Pittsburgh... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)