



**Center for Beef Excellence**  
**Beef Bytes**  
**July 2, 2012**

Friends,

The Pennsylvania Senate and House gave final approval to the FY 2012-2013 General Fund Budget - Senate Bill 1466 - a day early touting the 27.67 billion spending plan as another no-tax, on-time budget. Governor Corbett held off on his signature while continuing to negotiate other budget related bills until finally signing it into passage with fifteen minutes to spare before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The overall spending of \$27,656,381 is an increase of \$470,728,000 over FY 2011-2012 and approximately \$500,000 over the \$27.1 billion budget Governor Corbett proposed in February. Click [here](#) for a synopsis of the new budget.

One of many additional pieces of legislation sent to the Governor would allow a state government authority to enter into contracts with private companies to assist in financing transportation-related projects – something that could help the commonwealth address its \$3.7 billion in annual transportation needs. The bill would create a seven-member board - Public-Private Transportation Partnership Board - to enter into agreements with private corporations.

Additional legislation also tied to the budget passage included an expansion of Educational Improvement Tax Credits for businesses as well as a new tax credit for businesses that provide [Scholarship Credits](#) which would facilitate the transfer of eligible students from underperforming school districts to other school districts or non public schools.

Pennsylvania farm families finally received a reprieve from significant inheritance taxes when passing along a working family farm to surviving adult children or siblings through legislation that eliminates the [Inheritance Tax](#).

Got a good recipe for barbecue ribs that could win a contest? Farmers who planted at least 250 acres of corn in the 2012 growing season from various states (including Pennsylvania) can enter this contest. See the attachment for details!

And while we're all thinking of barbecued ribs and summer picnics, have a great Fourth of July and celebrate the birth of the USA!

John

**Articles of Interest**

**CBE News:**

New CBE Intern

The Center for Beef Excellence has hired a summer intern to learn about coordinating events and programs for the beef industry. Angela Scaramuzzino is a senior at Delaware Valley College and has a background in Angus cattle.

### **Pennsylvania News:**

#### [Crop Insurance Reporting](#)

Pennsylvania producers who have suffered crop damage must report their findings to the insurance agency and the Farm Service Agency within 72 hours. It is also important to keep track of what measures were taken to prevent and control the damage.

### **National News:**

#### [Health Care Legislation](#)

The Supreme Court upheld the controversial health care legislation, arguing that Congress has the power to tax individuals over a certain income level that do not purchase health insurance. However, this could have unfortunate long term impacts, as it sets a precedent for government oversight in private affairs.

#### [Supreme Court on Immigration](#)

The Supreme Court issued a ruling on an Arizona law designed to reduce illegal immigrants in the state. The court upheld a mandate for state officers to check immigration status of anyone they stop, but overturned requirements to carry immigration papers at all times, restrictions on getting work, and permission to arrest immigrants without a warrant in some cases.

#### [Farm Bill Update](#)

House agricultural committee leader Frank Lucas warned that the passage of the 2012 farm bill could be delayed due to congressional work on other issues. However, the House will begin to consider the bill and revise the version that was recently passed by the Senate.

#### [Market Competition](#)

The Department of Justice has reviewed comments from past forums to summarize important themes in maintaining competition in livestock markets. There may be further actions to enforce antitrust laws, despite weak regulations from the final GIPSA rule.

#### [Corn Prices](#)

Investors have noted increasing volatility in the commodity markets as poor global economic conditions must be weighed against weather issues that are leading to concerns over yields. Dry weather throughout the midwest is taking a toll on the US corn crop.

### **Global News:**

#### [Korea Relaxes Inspections](#)

South Korea chose to inspect half of all US beef products following the spring's BSE case but has now decided to reduce inspections to a standard 3% of imports. The change is a response to concerns over hot weather product handling and the higher workload for government employees.

### **Cattle Management Articles:**

#### [Heat Stress](#)

Producers should be monitoring cattle closely for signs of heat stress to provide early intervention if needed. Keeping plenty of water available, providing shade if possible, not working cattle during the day and feeding in the afternoon can minimize stress.

#### [Managing the Bull](#)

During the breeding season, observation is critical to ensure that bulls are getting cows bred. Grouping bulls according to maturity and putting in the right number of bulls for the cow herd size and pasture size will help to increase conception rates early in the breeding season.

### [Herd Minerals](#)

Keeping high quality minerals available for cows will help to maximize productivity. It is important to consider mineral sources, as this influences bioavailability. Vitamins should also be provided in the supplement mix.

### [Marketing Quality Beef](#)

Consistently providing a quality product is the key to maintaining a local beef market. Operations may differ in how they arrive at their final product, but many local beef suppliers will provide grain fed, dry aged beef out of proven performance genetics.

### [Winter Feed Concerns](#)

Low yields of first cutting hay combined with current dry conditions are leaving many producers concerned about getting hay for the winter. Pulling cows off pastures until they are growing again, baling or grazing crop residues and early weaning calves can help to provide the needed forages.

- 07-02-2012     [\*\*Pa. Equine Coalition Applauds Legislature, Governor for Maintaining...\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 07-02-2012     [\*\*Dept. of Ag.: Governor Ends Burden for Farmers by Eliminating Inheritance Tax\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 07-02-2012     [\*\*Meat and 'superbugs'\*\*](#)  
THE FOOD and Drug Administration (FDA) announced in 1977 that it would begin prohibiting the use of some antibiotics in agriculture, but Congress objected and nothing happened. Since then, the need for restraint has grown. The wonder drugs of the 20th century have been so widely used... - [\*Washington Post\*](#)
- 06-30-2012     [\*\*PA Farm Bureau: State Budget Retains Funding for Vital Agriculture Programs\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-30-2012     [\*\*Keystone Fund & Farmland Preservation Programs Will Survive to See 20th Anniv.\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-27-2012     [\*\*Central Pennsylvania farmers can apply for crop-damage loans\*\*](#)  
Farmers in 21 Pennsylvania counties are eligible for aid, mostly emergency low-interest loans, to cover losses from this spring's unusual weather. Farmers in Dauphin and Lebanon counties are among those who qualify for the aid. according to U.S. Sen. Bob Casey Jr., D-Pa.... - [\*Harrisburg Patriot-News\*](#)
- 06-27-2012     [\*\*Cumberland gives nod to farm restrictions\*\*](#)  
Amendment would block concentrated animal farms from much of the township. Efforts to block concentrated animal farms from much of Cumberland Township progressed Tuesday evening when the supervisors moved forward with plans to

amend zoning laws. The township supervisors voted by majority to advertise a zoning change... - [Hanover Evening Sun](#)

## Legislative Activity

[HB 761](#) [Cutler](#) Amends Tax Reform Code, in sales & use tax, for defs., exclusions from tax, etc.; in corporate net income tax; in insurance premiums tax; in EITC; in tax credits; community-based services tax credit; tax credit for new jobs; related repeals.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0784](#) [P2590](#) [P3345](#) [P3559](#) [P3883](#) [P3894](#)

**Bill History:** 06-27-12 S Meeting set for Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Ro ...Senate Appropriations  
06-27-12 S Passed over in committee Senate Appropriations  
06-28-12 S Meeting set for Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Ro ...Senate Appropriations  
06-28-12 S Passed over in committee Senate Appropriations  
06-29-12 S Meeting set for Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conference Ro ...Senate Appropriations  
06-29-12 S Reported as amended Senate Appropriations  
06-29-12 S Laid out for discussion  
06-29-12 S Third consideration  
06-29-12 S Over in Senate  
06-29-12 S Laid out for discussion  
06-29-12 S Motion to reconsider third consideration  
06-29-12 S Third consideration  
06-29-12 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 43/N: 6)  
06-29-12 H Received as amended in House and rereferred House Rules  
06-29-12 H Meeting set for 9:10 p.m., Appropriations Conference Room ...House Rules  
06-29-12 H Re-reported on concurrence as committed House Rules  
06-30-12 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-30-12 H Recommitted to House Rules  
06-30-12 H Meeting set for 2nd Off the Floor, Appropriations Conference ...House Rules  
06-30-12 H Reported as amended House Rules  
06-30-12 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-30-12 H Laid out for discussion  
06-30-12 H Rep. Turzai motion to proceed with vote  
06-30-12 H House concurred in Senate amendment as amended by the House  
06-30-12 S Received as amended in Senate and rereferred Senate Rules and Executive Nomination  
06-30-12 S Meeting set for 2nd Off the Floor, Rules Committee Conferenc ns ...Senate Rules and Executive Nominations  
06-30-12 S Re-reported on concurrence as committed Senate Rules and Executive Nominations  
06-30-12 S Laid out for discussion  
06-30-12 S Senate concurred in House amendments (Vote: Y: 48/N: 1)

06-30-12 H Signed in the House  
06-30-12 S Signed in the Senate  
07-02-12 G In the hands of the Governor  
07-12-12 G Last day for Governor's action  
07-02-12 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 85 )

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[SB 1298](#) [Smucker](#) Amends the Pennsylvania Farmland and Forest Land Assessment Act further providing for definitions and for appeals.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1685](#) [P1864](#)

**Bill History:** 06-29-12 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room G-50, Irvis Office Build ...House Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
06-29-12 H Voted favorably from committee on House Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
06-29-12 H Reported as committed from House Agriculture and Rural Affairs  
06-29-12 H First consideration  
06-29-12 H Laid on the table  
09-24-12 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

## Capitol Review

Ladies and gentlemen, we give you The Budget. After restoring some \$600 million that was absent in Governor Corbett's original proposal, the General Assembly passed and sent to the governor a \$27.7 billion spending plan that at once was hailed as The Best Budget Ever and The Big Corporate Giveaway. It features:

- A spending increase of less than 2 percent over the 2011-12 budget, with no new taxes.
- Level funding for public universities and most school districts, as well as some extra dough for financially struggling schools such as Harrisburg, which apparently will be able to keep half-day kindergarten in place.
- A 10 percent cut in county-provided human service programs and elimination of a \$200 per month grant that in the past has helped about 70,000 poor and disabled people per year.
- Related legislation that includes a 25-year, \$1.7 billion tax credit to lure an ethane refinery to western PA.

Although Democrats railed against it, a few of them went along with it anyway, and as the end of the fiscal year approached, well folks, it was time to just mellow out and enjoy a summer vacation. Now that there seems to be legislative agreement on Governor Corbett's \$1.65 billion tax credit lure to bring the Shell ethane cracker plant to Pennsylvania, the administration seems to be backpedaling on job creation claims. Initially, administration sources set the number of new direct, spinoff and "induced" jobs at 20,000. An oil industry analysis put the figure at 17,000 new jobs. [Now three Corbett cabinet members have issued a news release putting the actual estimate at 10,000 new jobs.](#) But, hey, that's nothing to sneeze at. In fact, it's about twice the population of our own Sullivan County. Sure, you've heard of Sullivan County ... DuShore? LaPorte? Eagles Mere? Never mind.

So, with all this excitement in Harrisburg, probably nothing else worth noting happened anywhere. Oh, except maybe for the [U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Obamacare](#), which at

once was hailed as The Best Supreme Court Decision Ever and The Largest Miscarriage of Justice in the History of the World.

The decision upheld the most controversial aspect of what officially is called the Affordable Care Act – mandating that everyone have health insurance.

Although touted as a major political victory for the president, there's a be-careful-what-you-wish-for element. Also, if House Speaker John Boehner can't make good on his promise to hold a repealer vote in the House just after the Fourth of July, repealing the act is sure to be a centerpiece of the Republican platform in the fall presidential and congressional elections.

In other national news, it appears that after nine temporary extensions, Congress is poised to pass a federal transportation funding bill. It'll mean that Congress has spent 2½ years crafting a two-year funding measure. [The legislation makes it easier for states to spend the inadequate funds included in the bill.](#) Meanwhile, back here in Pennsylvania, the highway construction industry says the cost of fixing the transportation system grows by about \$1 million each day that the problem is not fixed. Hmm. Maybe we can temporarily fill potholes with a slurry made up of shredded copies of the 2,700-page Affordable Care Act.

From the "Let's Run Government Like a Business" Department comes word that the Department of Public Welfare took a page from the foreclosure departments of major banks and sent a somewhat premature letter to some [18,000 state General Assistance recipients telling them that they would no longer be receiving \\$205 monthly payments effective July 1.](#) On the one hand, you could call the action compassionate by giving these welfare recipients at least a week's notice that their tap was running dry. Technically, though, the General Assembly had not authorized the change in the welfare code nor completed work on the General Fund budget at the time the letters were mailed. And the letters were not of "it looks like the legislature is probably, sort of going to cut you off." It was more direct and blunt. A department spokesman called the premature mailing a mistake.

Hold on there, Buckaroos! You say there's gas? [Natural gas? In Bucks and Montgomery Counties? And you might want to drill for it?](#) Not so fast! That was the lightning reaction in Harrisburg to the report breaking on Friday, June 22, from the U.S. Geological Survey that the strata under upper Bucks and Montgomery Counties (the South Trenton Formation) could contain the third largest deposits of natural gas on the East Coast. A week later, language had been inserted into a routine state fiscal code bill in Harrisburg to declare a moratorium on drilling into the South Trenton Basin until studies could be conducted by local and state authorities.

In what could be a preview of coming events in Harrisburg, the [California city of Stockton filed for bankruptcy this week after failing to work out a deal with creditors to ease a \\$26 million budget deficit.](#) In Harrisburg, lawmakers say they're planning to extend the bankruptcy prohibition for Harrisburg through November. Although the city's debt is enormous, its operating budget deficit would amount to a relatively paltry \$3.8 million by year-end, if the [city makes a \\$3.9 million debt payment due in September.](#)

One of Saturday night's activities included a farewell speech as Senator John [Pippy exits Pa. Senate](#) to return to the private sector.

[Here's a breakdown of how the health-care law will affect you.](#) Here are the big takeaways from Thursday's historic Supreme Court decision on President Obama's 2010 health-care law: If you already have health insurance, your everyday life isn't expected to change much.

[Gas prices will have an impact on Fourth of July travel](#) – a positive one, in fact. With gas prices 50 cents/gallon lower than the peak price reached in April, the American Automobile

Association expects a uptick in holiday travel for this week's celebration. And while we're on the subject, have a safe and happy Fourth of July celebration yourself!

## ***In Other News***

- 07-02-2012     [\*\*DEP Offers Tips to Residents on Wetland, Stream Projects\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 07-02-2012     [\*\*PA Chamber: P3s important piece of transportation funding puzzle\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 07-02-2012     [\*\*DCNR issues state forest, park advisories\*\*](#)  
The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry has issued the following advisories for state parks and forests in the area : All parks  
Firewood advisory - Invasive beetles found in firewood are threatening forests.  
Firewood may contain non-native insects and plant diseases. Bringing... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 07-02-2012     [\*\*State Game Commission amends lists of endangered and threatened species\*\*](#)  
The state Board of Game Commissioners on Tuesday amended the list of state endangered and threatened species and updated scientific nomenclature for a species of warbler. The upland sandpiper, a grassland nesting bird long-classified as threatened, has been moved to the endangered species list because it has... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 07-02-2012     [\*\*Small Farmers Creating a New Business Model as Agriculture Goes Local\*\*](#)  
SEATTLE — The cultivated rusticity of a farmers' market, where dirt-dusted beets are status symbols and earnest entrepreneurs preside over chunks of cheese, is a part of weekend life in cities across the nation as the high days of the summer harvest approach.... - [New York Times](#)
- 07-01-2012     [\*\*Corbett signs ethane cracker tax bill\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG - Gov. Tom Corbett signed legislation late Saturday establishing an unlimited tax credit to encourage petrochemical companies to move to Pennsylvania in hopes that it will create a "new industrial revolution" in the state. Corbett, who asked the Legislature for the measure, is negotiating with... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 06-30-2012     [\*\*Rep. Geist's P3 Legislation On Its Way to the Governor's Desk\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-28-2012     [\*\*PaSDC: Population Estimates Released for PA Cities, Boroughs and Townships\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-28-2012     [\*\*Governor Corbett Comments on U.S. Supreme Court Healthcare Decision\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-28-2012     [\*\*Senate Bill No. 8 passes, setting up Pennsylvania health data exchange\*\*](#)  
A bill that would establish the framework of Pennsylvania's first statewide health information exchange was approved by the state House this week, and is on its way to the governor's desk. Republican Gov. Tom Corbett intends to sign it, according to a

spokeswoman.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 06-28-2012 [Act 47 fund gets \\$11 million infusion](#)  
HARRISBURG - A state program to help financially distressed cities under Act 47 is getting an \$11 million infusion under the state budget awaiting final passage. The Municipalities Financial Recovery Fund will receive \$12.1 million in fiscal 2012-13 in recognition of a growing need to help municipalities... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 06-27-2012 [House approves bill on drilling at state colleges](#)  
HARRISBURG -- The state House of Representatives approved a measure tonight that could expand drilling on state-owned lands, including on the campuses of the State System of Higher Education colleges. The chamber voted 131-68 on the legislation, which will allow the state... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 06-27-2012 [US gasoline prices cheapest since January](#)  
NEW YORK - The price of gasoline has dropped to a five-month low, giving drivers some relief ahead of the July 4 holiday... - [AP](#)
- 06-27-2012 [Court Backs E.P.A. Over Emissions Limits Intended to Reduce Global Warming](#)  
WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld a finding by the Environmental Protection Agency that heat-trapping gases from industry and vehicles endanger public health, dealing a decisive blow to companies and states that had sued to block agency rules.... - [New York Times](#)
- 06-26-2012 [Three Weeks to Apply for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans in Pennsylvania](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-26-2012 [PHMC: PA Civil War Road Show to Stop at State Museum](#)  
(Press Release)
- 06-26-2012 [Impending fiscal cliff has financial planners reviewing their options](#)  
America's so-called fiscal cliff is making it hard for investors to plan ahead. The fiscal cliff is the paradox that Congress and the White House now face: If they pass measures to slice the country's massive budget deficit — potentially raising taxes and cutting spending — the very austerity... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 06-26-2012 [Dems pounce on Pa. voter ID law link to Romney win](#)  
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Democrats are pouncing on a Republican lawmaker's statement that Pennsylvania's new voter identification law will allow Mitt Romney to win the state in November's presidential election... - [AP](#)
- 06-26-2012 [Supreme Court upholds key part of Arizona law for now, strikes down other provisions](#)  
By Robert Barnes, Published: June 25 The Supreme Court on Monday struck down several key parts of Arizona's tough law on illegal immigrants, but it left standing a controversial provision requiring police to check the immigration status of people they detain and suspect to be in the country illegally.... - [Washington Post](#)