



Beef Bytes
August 13, 2012

Dear Friends,

As PSU College of Ag Sciences Alums and others look toward the fall season and football, we will see a new look to the traditional Penn State jerseys. Read more about Coach O'Brien's [changes](#).

We look forward to seeing you at Ag Progress Days this week. Over 400 [exhibitors](#) will be present and the [events](#) are set. Business owners may be interested in the one-on-one business consulting activity.

Just in case, better bring a raincoat if you plan to participate in the event. Rain is predicted for Tuesday.

Sincerely,
MeeCee

Articles of Interest

CBE News:

The Center for Beef Excellence will have a display at Penn State Ag Progress days August 14-16. Stop by to catch up on all the latest events and programs designed to promote Pennsylvania beef producers.

Pennsylvania News:

[Gas Drilling Jobs](#)

Research shows that development of natural gas resources in Pennsylvania has had a positive impact on jobs in Pennsylvania. Adding a job due to drilling adds two more jobs across the state for support industries, and many jobs are filled by Pennsylvania residents.

National News:

[Economic Effects of Drought](#)

The hot, dry weather has led to cutbacks in ethanol production in addition to cost concerns for livestock producers. Land values continue to rise and producers are taking out more loans to stay in business, but the confidence index fell sharply this summer.

[Drought Relief Efforts](#)

The USDA and President Obama are working to provide emergency assistance to farmers by allowing extra access to federal grazing lands, providing financial assistance to buy feed and temporarily removing caps to loans for farmers. However, the most important part of disaster relief is for Congress to return in September and pass a farm bill.

[BSE Investigation](#)

The Food and Drug Administration recently finished an investigation into the feed manufacturers and suppliers in the most recent BSE case. The investigation found excellent compliance with regulations and concluded that the BSE case was atypical, and not due to negligence.

[Opportunities for Packers](#)

A new program will allow state inspected meat packing facilities to ship meat across state lines. Ohio is the first state to participate in the program, which was designed to promote small businesses and increase marketing opportunities.

Global News:

[Japanese Trade Changes](#)

The US will begin importing beef from Japan again following a 2 year ban due to concerns over foot and mouth disease. Japan is also expected to ease restrictions on US beef in order to facilitate Pacific trade discussions.

[Biosecurity in Canada](#)

Canada has released a national biosecurity standard for the beef industry to document best practices and help prevent the spread of diseases. The standards cover the movement of animals and people/equipment as well as animal health practices and employee training.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Finding Hay](#)

Producers across the country are searching for hay or other forage alternatives to feed cows through the winter. High fiber byproduct feeds can be used to supplement protein or energy, but diets must be compared on the basis of the most limiting nutrient.

[Drought Stressed Corn](#)

Feeding drought stressed corn requires careful management, as high nitrate levels can be toxic to cattle. Testing corn before harvesting is important, as corn with high nitrates can be diluted using other forages or feedstuffs.

[Deworming Considerations](#)

Strategic deworming requires producers to have a knowledge of parasite life cycles as well as the impact of stage of production and pasture conditions on how cows handle parasites. Deworming in summer can be highly effective, as worms are less likely to survive the hot, dry conditions.

[Drought Management Strategies](#)

Producers have a few options to maintain productivity during the drought. Early weaning calves will reduce nutrient requirements on cows, and low quality forages can be fed right after weaning when needs are lowest. Culling cows early may also help producers get the highest prices.

[Pregnancy Losses](#)

Cows can lose a pregnancy for many reasons- disease, heat stress, nutritional deficiencies, transportation or other human errors. Monitoring cows to make sure they are cycling and pregnancy checking early in the season will help producers manage cows well.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: REORGANIZATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Executive Board approved a reorganization of the Department of Agriculture effective July 16, 2012. An updated organizational chart is published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.
<http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol42/42-32/1520.html>

- 08-12-2012 **[Drought Forces Reductions in U.S. Crop Forecasts](#)**
WASHINGTON — With the nation's worst drought in a half-century continuing to decimate crops, the government on Friday slashed its estimate of the soybean yield, made only a month ago, to the lowest level since 2003 and its estimate of the corn yield to the lowest level since 1995.... - [New York Times](#)
- 08-12-2012 **[Redirecting Fresh Water Raises Fears for Farmers](#)**
COURTLAND, Calif. — On the last Sunday of July, this small town in the Sacramento River's delta takes a pause from the peak of the pear harvest season by holding its annual pear fair. A pear run, a pear parade, a pear pie eating contest and a pear fair queen are as much a part of... - [New York Times](#)
- 08-12-2012 **[U.S. drought pushing corn prices toward record highs](#)**
The nation's punishing drought is pushing corn prices to record levels as the government predicted Friday that this season's yield will fall 15.5% to its lowest since 1995. In cutting its estimate for the corn crop, the U.S. Department of Agriculture raised the upper end of its price forecast by 39% to \$8.90 a... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 08-12-2012 **[Erie region's dairy farms face uncertainty](#)**
EDINBORO, Pa. — Steven Woods has a bachelor's degree in agriculture on his wall and memories of his dairy farmer dad to guide him. But the 24-year-old Edinboro man isn't sure what to do next. The uncertain world of the dairy business is more uncertain than usual... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-10-2012 **[Environmental panel sees farm practices as threat to creeks, Chesapeake Bay](#)**
The Bethel Township Environmental Advisory Council has agreed to contact the Chesapeake Bay Foundation for advice on maintaining riparian buffers around creeks in the township. Although nearly all streams in Berks County eventually empty into the Delaware Bay, creeks in Bethel flow to the Chesapeake Bay via the Swatara... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 08-10-2012 **[Dairy judge knows what to look for when rating cows at the fair](#)**
Full sized. Balanced. Youthfulness. Nice ribs. Teet placement. Those are some of the winning qualities first-place winners in the Open Class Dairy Show and Judging exhibited at the Warren County Fair on Thursday. And judge Matt Lawrence from Mercer, Pa., knows what he's talking about.... - [Warren Times Observer](#)
- 08-09-2012 **[What Cornfields Show, Data Now Confirm: July Set Mark as U.S.'s Hottest Month](#)**
It may come as little surprise to the nation's corn farmers or resort operators, but the official statistics are in: July was the hottest month in the lower 48 states since the government began keeping temperature records in 1895. The average temperature last month was 77.6 degrees — 3.3 degrees above... - [New York Times](#)
- 08-09-2012 **[Crop insurance, cover crops help farmers cope in drought](#)**
Dave Black thought this year was going to be a great year for farming. Planting conditions were favorable in the spring, there was adequate moisture, and he was even able to start planting a little earlier than usual at his farm in Orient near the

Franklin-Pickaway county line.... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)

- 08-08-2012 [Impact of corn prices on food? Not what you think](#)
NEW YORK Cornflakes won't necessarily be more expensive as a result of rising corn prices, but the milk you pour over them might be... - [AP](#)
- 08-08-2012 [Your comments: Are leaders going too far by proposing bans on urban farming?](#)
Lewisberry Borough Council is considering a zoning amendment dubbed the "chicken amendment" that would make it illegal for residents to own livestock or fowl and would not have a grandfather clause, meaning a local family that has a coop with six chickens would have to get rid of them.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 08-08-2012 [Erie region's dairy farms face uncertainty](#)
EDINBORO -- Steven Woods has a bachelor's degree in agriculture on his wall and memories of his dairy farmer dad to guide him. But the 24-year-old Edinboro man isn't sure what to do next. The uncertain world of the dairy business is more uncertain than usual... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 08-08-2012 [Emergency haying and grazing approved by USDA](#)
Lycoming County landowners have been allowed emergency haying and grazing on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP, according to Michael Sherman, county executive director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. The authorization, which applies only to this year and is through the USDA,... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 08-07-2012 [USDA - Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup for the Week Ending August 5, 2012](#)
(Press Release)

Legislative Activity

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

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

Bill History: 09-24-12 H Set on the Tabled Calendar

Capitol Review

Last Sunday night, NASA plunked the rover Curiosity smack down onto the ol' Red Planet. Although initially thought to be a smooth landing, [we now have video indicating otherwise](#). The [event left Mars with no choice but to retaliate](#).

Closer to home, there was big news in State College. After 125 years, the Penn State football team will feature player names on the backs of its jerseys, along with [a blue ribbon to express support for victims of child abuse](#). Nittany Nation received the news with a predictable combination of joy and angst. Despite this and the Martian attack, Earth appears to be secure on its axis, at least for the time being.

In Philly, [dredging of an 11-mile stretch of the Delaware River will begin in about a month](#), thanks to a contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Deepening the river from 40 to 45 feet – a five-year project – will allow larger ships to traverse the river and increase the port’s capacity. Hmmm, think we might also need to improve the ground transportation infrastructure to facilitate the movement of materials into and away from the port?

On the national scene, President Obama and Mitt Romney distinguished themselves with a name-calling exchange, Obama referring to Romney’s tax policy as “Romney-hood” and Romney describing Obama’s description as “Obama-loney.” We guess you just had to be there.

[Former U.S. Senator Rick Santorum will speak at the Republican National Convention](#). In dog-trick parlance, no word on whether he’ll also sit, lie down and – of greatest interest to the presumptive party nominee – roll over.

[Weis Markets](#) of Sunbury, Northumberland County, will pay the state \$750,000 during the next five years to have the large [event venue in the Farm Show complex referred to as Weis Exposition Hall](#).

So what’s the Vegas line on the voter ID decision expected next week from Commonwealth Court? Although state and national legal experts say they have no clue how this might turn out, we’re [taking the commonwealth and giving the points](#).

Finally, on the crisis communications front, the founder of the [Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation announced she is stepping aside as CEO](#), and the foundation’s president will depart as well. Earlier this year, the organization announced it was cutting off grants to Planned Parenthood for breast cancer screening, touching off a furious public backlash. Although the foundation rescinded the decision three days later, fundraising and event participation have suffered. Many remain skeptical that the shakeup will help.

That’s the news from Harrisburg this week. Have a good one!

In Other News

- 08-13-2012 [Problems Riddle Moves to Collect Credit Card Debt](#)
The same problems that plagued the foreclosure process - and prompted a multibillion-dollar settlement with big banks - are now emerging in the debt collection practices of credit card companies. As they work through a glut of bad loans, companies like American Express,... - [New York Times](#)
- 08-12-2012 [Summer’s record heat, drought point to longer-term climate issues](#)
In OTTUMWA, IOWA — Driving by a boat ramp one Saturday morning last month, a local man noticed some white spots on the Des Moines River. He stopped to have a look. Turns out the spots were fish bellies. The undersides of dead sturgeon formed glistening constellations in the muddy brown water.... - [Washington Post](#)
- 08-12-2012 [Weis Markets adds name to state farm show](#)
HARRISBURG -- A Central Pennsylvania grocery chain has bought local, and it's not just in their produce aisle. Weis Markets of Sunbury has signed a five-year, \$750,000 contract with the state for the naming rights to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 08-12-2012 [**Farm shows on alert for swine flu; none found in Pennsylvania**](#)
A new, milder strain of swine flu is sweeping through Indiana and Ohio, though not Pennsylvania, according to the state Health Department. But with a number of farm shows and county fairs scheduled during the next few weeks with hundreds of pigs, organizers said they're taking... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-12-2012 [**House group to explore property tax 'solutions'**](#)
HARRISBURG - The summer lull at the state Capitol is being punctuated by the appointment of House lawmakers to sit on the Property Tax Solution Committee. This committee has a mandate to investigate school property taxes and address the whole welter of issues that affect them, including other local... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 08-10-2012 [**Highway funding to drop under 12-year plan; even fewer deficient bridges will be repaired**](#)
The State Transportation Commission on Thursday approved a \$41.6 billion plan to improve Pennsylvania's roads, transit systems, airports and railroads over the next 12 years, a 19 percent decrease from a long-term plan OK'd two years ago. The state is required to approve a 12-year plan for transportation... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-10-2012 [**Firms expect cost increase from health care law**](#)
More than 60 percent of employers in a new survey anticipate some increase in their health benefit costs because of the federal Affordable Care Act. The survey of 1,203 employers by the Mercer consulting firm found that 20 percent of those businesses expect an increase of 5 percent or more.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-09-2012 [**Government mandates keep ethanol use growing despite lack of consumer demand**](#)
Ethanol never caught on with the American public as an alternative to gasoline, yet production of the corn-derived fuel has increased by nearly 600 percent since 2000. Though producers hailed it as cheaper and cleaner than gasoline in the mid-2000s, experts said most drivers rejected E85 — an 85 percent... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 08-07-2012 [**App is here for Pennsylvania State Game Lands**](#)
New mobile feature, which sells for \$9.99, helps hunters, trappers find their way around state game lands. Gary Blockus August 7, 2012 If the 1.4 million acres of Pennsylvania state game lands have been a mystery for you, it's time to join the 21st century. With fewer and fewer private lands being made available to hunters and... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)