



Beef Bytes
August 6, 2012

Dear Friends,

We look forward to seeing you at [Ag Progress Days](#) next week. A schedule of events can help you plan your visit.

The swine flu has made an appearance this summer. The Washington Post [article](#) summarizes the outbreaks and also gives cautions regarding livestock at county fairs.

Congratulations to the Center for Beef Excellence President Darwin Nissley for his recent appointment to the Governor's Ag Advisory Board.

Have a nice week.

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. Look for us in the Livestock Tents between West 12th & West 13th Streets.

Pennsylvania News:

[Bull Test Nominations](#)

Cattle breeders can nominate their bulls for the Pennsylvania Livestock Evaluation Center Performance Bull Testing Program in order to track performance and carcass traits and possibly sell animals at the bull sale in March. There is also room for some heifers in the heifer development program, designed to help producers with the special needs of replacement females.

National News:

[Emergency Relief Options](#)

Several tax options have been introduced for producers forced to sell livestock due to drought. This includes the chance to delay or even avoid paying taxes on the sale of breeding livestock, if the producer is in a specified drought zone.

[Disaster Relief Bill](#)

The US House approved a disaster relief bill that would provide financial support for farmers and ranchers who lose cattle or must feed extra hay because of drought conditions. This followed a delay on the vote for the 2012 farm bill or even a one year extension.

[US Drought Status](#)

Over half of the counties in the US have been declared disaster areas due to drought. The drains on production mean that food prices will likely rise in the months to come, and producers are looking to disaster relief programs to help them pay the bills.

[Cattle Market Signals](#)

Widespread drought has led to increased culling and cowherd liquidation. This means that cattle prices have fallen somewhat. However, so long as demand remains strong long term price expectations are good as beef supplies will be tight.

[Quality Assurance Audit](#)

The 2011 National Beef Quality Audit shows that consumers are concerned about food safety and humane animal treatment. Meanwhile, producers have improved on animal identification and more carcasses are grading choice or prime.

Global News:

[World Bank Responds to Drought](#)

The World Bank is looking for ways to assist those in poverty as they deal with effects of high prices for corn, wheat and soybeans following poor harvests. Policy advice and financing are available to help countries deal with these concerns.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Early Weaning Calves](#)

Producers may choose to wean calves early in order to reduce nutrient demands on cows and keep them in a higher body condition. Calves should be started on a high concentrate ration slowly and given plenty of space for each animal at the feed bunk.

[Feedlot Placements](#)

Low cow herd numbers have led to the smallest calf crop in decades, and feedlots are struggling to place cattle at profitable levels. This has led to some consolidation along the supply chain and in the future staying in business will require high productivity and investment in technology.

[Benefits of Eared Cattle](#)

Producers in warm weather areas are finding that bos indicus cattle can have high performance and produce a high quality carcass. Gathering data on cattle and tracking steers through the feedlot allows for selection of the best bloodlines to improve the herd.

[Ranch Profitability](#)

Considering 'profit per acre' helps producers focus on whole-farm profitability when considering new management or investment choices. Determining the return on an investment means counting all of the costs and accurately predicting expected returns.

[Early Calving](#)

Heat stress is leading to premature calves from cows bred for fall calving. Producers should watch cows closely, as early calves may need extra colostrum, protection from the heat and assistance to nurse or get up.

08-06-2012 [Governor Corbett Announces Nominations, Appointments](#)
(Press Release)

08-03-2012 [Inside PDA for August 3, 2012](#)

(Press Release)

08-03-2012 [**CBF Calls on Senator Casey to Continue Steadfast Support for PA Farmers and...**](#)

(Press Release)

08-03-2012 [**House passes livestock disaster relief bill**](#)

WASHINGTON -- The House on Thursday extended disaster assistance to livestock producers reeling from rising feed prices caused by the drought that has scorched much of the nation... - [AP](#)

08-03-2012 [**Livestock auctions, car show, music on tap at West End Fair**](#)

LAURELTON — August isn't August until you've ridden some rides and cheered on a tractor pull. Lucky you, you can meet your August needs at the Union County West End Fair, which starts Sunday at Lincoln Park. Now in its 87th year, this annual event runs through Aug. 11 and features... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

08-03-2012 [**Farmers ask legislators for help on variety of issues they face**](#)

PARKWOOD -- Indiana County farmers Wednesday asked local elected officials for help in getting more freedom in moving their farm equipment over public roads and more protection from liability when other people break laws while on their farm property. The requests for assistance came during the Indiana County Farm Bureau's... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

08-01-2012 [**CBF Issues Statement Opposing House Farm Legislation**](#)

(Press Release)

08-01-2012 [**Dairy myths**](#)

Kudos to the Post-Gazette's Mackenzie Carpenter for piercing the pervasive myths about the healthfulness of dairy products ("City Family in D.C. Anti-Dairy Ad," July 28). God, Mother Nature or whatever term you prefer has made it crystal clear that we're supposed to stop consuming dairy after infancy. Why else would... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

08-01-2012 [**No Meatless Mondays at the U.S.D.A.**](#)

A trade organization exists to promote the interest of its members; at least some of its work involves lobbying the government for preferential treatment, though most trade organizations would label this "fair." It's a clear mission and an unconflicted one; whether the interests of... - [New York Times](#)

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

Harrisburg mayor Linda Thompson and city council have agreed on a fiscal recovery plan and submitted it to the Department of Community and Economic Development. The plan would [tap commuters and nonprofit organizations, as well as increase property taxes by 33 percent during the next three years](#).

In another Act 47 venue, the three-month clock has not yet started, because the [firm hired in June to create the recovery plan has not yet signed a contract](#). Not to worry, according to DCED; the firm is already hard at work and is simply hammering out the contract details in anticipation of signing it early next month.

In brighter transportation news, the [American Public Transit Association named a certain Pennsylvania public transit system as the best transit agency in North America](#). Spoiler alert. It was among dozens of other transit agencies considered and was selected as a model for the public-transit industry for improving customer service and outreach, increasing sustainability with hybrid buses and achieving its highest ridership since 1989. The recognition is particularly impressive in light of the commonwealth's lack of support, not only for public transit but for the state's transportation system as a whole.

Turning now to jurisprudence, lawyers on both sides of [Pennsylvania's controversial voter ID law wrapped up their arguments this week in Commonwealth Court](#). Although lawyers for the state said the commonwealth is making strenuous efforts to ensure that voters will not be disenfranchised by lacking photo IDs, the ACLU's legal director said it's impossible for the state to provide assurances that masses of voters won't be turned away at the polls "because they just don't know." There is no surprise to spoil here, since Judge Robert Simpson isn't expected to hand down a decision until the week of Aug. 13, and he acknowledged his decision would likely be little more than a prelude to an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

In other jurisprudence news, Dauphin County State Sen. Jeff Piccola drew the ire of the state Supreme Court Office of Disciplinary Counsel, which charged him with "conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit and misrepresentation" in his [dealings with a Utah-based heir-hunting enterprise](#). Piccola said he is innocent.

Hope you are all enjoying the Olympics and are taking a break from the heat outdoors to stay inside and relax while the world's best athletes are sweating it out for the gold!

In Other News

08-06-2012 [Stateline: Pennsylvania Ends its General Assistance Program](#)
(Press Release)

08-05-2012 [Consumers want 'natural' food, but labels often confuse](#)
For some people, summer is the season when consumers choose from local farm-fresh produce and shy away from the tables of large commercial growers. "I think the consumers are starting to differentiate industrial food — processed boxed food — from fresh, healthy food," said Greg... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

08-03-2012 [PDA: Emerald Ash Borer Found in Six More Counties; Public Urged Not to...](#)
(Press Release)

08-02-2012 [Impact of corn prices on food not what you would 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. .. / A drought covering two-thirds of the country has damaged much of the country's corn crops and pushed grain prices to record levels,... - [AP](#)

08-01-2012

[**DCNR: Camping at a PA State Park is a Great Way to Bring Summer to a Close**](#)
(Press Release)