



Beef Bytes
September 25, 2012

Dear friends,

Both the House and Senate are back in Harrisburg for two days this week and will be returning next week for three days, ending the active fall session on October 17. They will return November 13 & 14 for leadership elections and housekeeping.

Congratulations to the PA No-Till Alliance secretary/treasurer Jeff Frey and his family for being named one of four outstanding [environmental stewards](#) in the nation by the National Pork Council.

Clients that are completing the USDA Value-added grant applications are reminded that the due date for submitting them is October 15. Please call the office for assistance with your application.

Sincerely,
MeeCee

Articles of Interest

Pennsylvania News:

[Keystone International Livestock Exposition](#)

The 2012 KILE will run from September 29-October 7 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. The event will feature horse and livestock shows and sales as well as vendor displays, a barbeque contest and more.

National News:

['Pink Slime' Lawsuit](#)

Beef Products, Inc. is suing ABC news for defamation, claiming that the damages associated with news stories on 'pink slime' cost the company both money and jobs. The term spread rapidly over the internet and social media, leading several companies to search for alternative products to avoid controversy.

[Estate Tax Lobbying](#)

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association hosted a session on the effects of the estate tax on farm families as a part of the Beef 101 series. The discussion was intended to educate legislators and encourage a long-term decision on the tax.

[Food Security](#)

The USDA Economic Research Service released a report on food insecurity across the country. Surveys show that the levels of food insecurity have not changed much since 2008, but 15 percent of US households indicated some level of food insecurity in 2011.

[Drought Concerns](#)

Some people fear the the US is facing another Dust Bowl scenario, following the high temperatures and low rainfall in 2012. However, the drought severity is still mild when compared to the 1930s and increased precipitation in the next year could easily allow crops to recover.

[Blending Drought Stressed Corn](#)

Corn containing high levels of aflatoxin was approved to be blended with normal corn for livestock feed. The approval by the Food and Drug Administration gives producers a marketing opportunity for corn that was stressed by the summer weather.

[Organic Food Discussion](#)

A recent Stanford University research review showed that there are no health benefits to organic foods. However, most consumers are still attracted by misconceptions and misunderstandings about modern agriculture.

Global News:

[Documenting Disease Eradication](#)

A paper published in Science contains an analysis of how the international community worked to eradicate the disease rinderpest from cattle herds. The project involved vaccinations and tracing disease outbreaks. The same protocol could help to address other livestock disease in the future.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Managing Low Feed Inventories](#)

Cow-calf producers may be facing forage shortages this winter following drought across the corn producing states. This means that minimizing hay wastage through limit feeding or using appropriate feeders is especially important, and some producers may consider alternative feeds.

[Preventing Herd Problems](#)

There are many problems that can hit a cattle producer, but being prepared and preventing issues ahead of time will help to minimize damages. This means working to prevent diseases, managing financial risk and caring for resources well.

[E. coli Vaccine](#)

A study from Kansas State University found that a vaccine used in feedlot cattle can reduce shedding of E. coli by 50%. The study also tested a microbial feed additive, but the results were minimal. The study used a commercial feedlot and standard industry practices to test products.

[Grazing Cornstalks](#)

Corn residue is a good option for winter grazing when hay prices are high. Stocking rate for the fields is important, in order to allow cows enough nutrients to maintain their body condition. Well managed cows will stay healthy on corn and there are benefits for future harvests as well.

[Importance of Cow Nutrition](#)

Several research studies suggest that how cows are fed during pregnancy will influence the performance of the calf throughout its life. Providing the right energy and protein through appropriate supplements may reduce long term herd costs.

[Dairy Farmer's Boys Have Close Call With Manure Gas](http://www.lancasterfarming.com/-Dairy-Farmer-s-Boys-Have-Close-Call-With-Manure-Gas-)
<http://www.lancasterfarming.com/-Dairy-Farmer-s-Boys-Have-Close-Call-With-Manure-Gas->

- 09-24-2012 [**No farm bill at all might be better than a bad bill.**](#)
The Post's View No farm bill at all might be better than a bad bill. Smaller Text Larger Text Text Size Print E-mail Reprints By Editorial Board, - [Washington Post](#)
- 09-24-2012 [**People want organic food because of what isn't on it, local producers say**](#)
Practically everyone, it seems, has an opinion about organic versus nonorganic food. Farmer Greg Hoak said he wasn't upset about a Stanford University study early this month in the Annals of Internal Medicine regarding organic and nonorganic food. Among other findings, the study found there isn't much difference... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 09-24-2012 [**With manure management plans newly required for even 1 animal, workshop set for Wilson College in Chambersburg**](#)
CHAMBERSBURG - If you keep any manure-producing animals - even one horse in your backyard - you are now required to have a manure management plan in Pennsylvania. It doesn't have to be a difficult task. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay will conduct a Whine, Cheese and Mud: Horse Owners' Social from 10:30 a.m.... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)
- 09-21-2012 [**PENNVEST, DEP Announce Results of Forward Nutrient Credit Trading Auction**](#)
(Press Release)
- 09-21-2012 [**Dickinson College farmer will be in her element even amid crop of Farm Aid music stars**](#)
In organic farm circles, Jenn Halpin is a bit of a celebrity. She and partner Matt Steiman run Dickinson College's farm. They've garnered organic and food alliance certification for vegetables grown there. And they are considered by many other schools to be go-to experts on... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 09-20-2012 [**FDA urged to establish arsenic standard for rice**](#)
WASHINGTON -- The Food and Drug Administration may consider new standards for levels of arsenic in rice, as consumer groups are calling for federal guidance on how much of the carcinogen can be present in food... - [AP](#)
- 09-20-2012 [**Official: Too much regulation bad for farms**](#)
LEWISBURG - Over-regulation is the biggest hurdle Pennsylvania farmers have to overcome to be successful. That is according to state Agriculture Secretary George Greig, who spoke Wednesday during a legislative breakfast hosted by state Sen. E. Eugene Yaw, R-Loyalsock Township.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 09-20-2012 [**Foes of Modified Corn Find Support in a Study**](#)
Rats fed either genetically engineered corn or the herbicide Roundup had an increased risk of developing tumors, suffering organ damage and dying prematurely, according to a new study that was immediately swept up into the furor surrounding crop biotechnology when it was released Wednesday.... - [New York Times](#)
- 09-18-2012 [**PDA: 2012 49th All-American Dairy Show**](#)

(Press Release)

- 09-18-2012 [Though local harvest looks solid, Midwest drought affects farmers, consumers](#)
By JD Malone, Of The Morning Call 11:45 p.m. EDT, September 17, 2012 Beneath a banner of blue sky Monday afternoon, the split-level homes lining Donna Drive in North Whitehall Township gave way to a rolling field of orange-brown soybeans. A dry spell in early July left the plants shorter than usual, but last... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-18-2012 [Cumberland County agritourism connects people with their food](#)
As technology advances, people seem to be losing touch with their food and where it comes from. But agritourism offers seeks to reconnect people with their food. "Oh, there is definitely a disconnect between people and their food," said Amy Paulus, one of the owners of Paulus Farm Market in... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

Legislative Activity

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

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

Bill History: 09-25-12 S Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing ...Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
09-25-12 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
09-25-12 S Reported as committed from Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs
09-25-12 S First consideration

[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
09-24-12 H Removed from the table
09-25-12 H Set on the House Calendar
09-25-12 H Laid out for discussion
09-25-12 H 1 Floor amendment(s) adopted
09-25-12 H Second consideration
09-25-12 H Over in House
09-25-12 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

Capitol Review

"Good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite." As mere babies, we thought this kids' rhyme was just a piece of fiction. Our moms assured us of it. But noooo. Not only are the darn things real, they – along with fleas – have [infested the state government's Labor & Industry Building](#). According to this supposedly Emmy-winning [seven-minute documentary](#), bed bugs have made a comeback because modern pesticides are merely a mild discouragement rather than a lethal concoction. Although our fact-checkers were not

immediately able to confirm that the thing actually garnered an Emmy, horror-genre fans will enjoy the video's creepiness factor.

The State Supreme Court punted the voter ID law back to Commonwealth Court, asking, in essence, "Are you REALLY, REALLY sure?" The Supremes asked the lower court to decide by Oct. 2 whether the six-month-old law would disenfranchise any voters, [now that it can assess steps that the state has taken to provide IDs](#). If the judge finds no voter disenfranchisement, and that IDs are easily obtained, then the law can stand. While the Department of State said it believes any legal voter who wishes to obtain an ID may do so, lead counsel for the challengers expressed optimism that the Supreme Court had set a tougher legal standard than invoked earlier by the lower court. Commonwealth Court Judge Robert Simpson has set a hearing for Tuesday morning.

Auditor General Jack Wagner, consolidating several regional media events across the state, again [urged legislators and the Corbett administration to get busy with solving the transportation funding problem](#). His pitch included a [video with excerpts from the TV coverage his efforts attracted](#).

General Wagner was a busy dude last week, as he later called for the [consolidation of Pennsylvania's 3,200 municipal pension plans](#) following the unveiling of his report showing that more than a third of local plans are financially distressed. At least one local political leader, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski, immediately climbed aboard and urged the General Assembly to make it so.

In other pension news blues, Public School Employees' Retirement System Executive Director Jeffrey Clay sat down with the Scranton Times-Tribune editorial board and noted that [investment returns for the pension fund were half of what was budgeted for the fiscal year ending in June](#). The lower rate of return means that the pension system's unfunded liability increases. Yes, folks, as we intimated a couple of weeks ago, any light you think you may see near the end of the tunnel is nothing but a big ol' freight train coming back the other way.

An analysis by the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity said more than 200 coal-fired electric generating units – the equivalent of the entire electricity supply in Ohio – are scheduled to be shut down, [at least partly due to regulations issued by the Environmental Protection Agency](#). Of those, 22 will be in Pennsylvania and represent 20 percent of the Commonwealth's coal-fired electric capacity. Some analysts warn that retail electric costs will increase as these plants are shut and the cost of building new plants is factored into energy pricing.

Ah, but there is happier kismet to report, too. Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Alan Walker, speaking at a Marcellus Shale conference in Philly, said Pennsylvania is at the center of an "energy revolution," and the [state is attracting companies related to natural gas drilling](#).

Also in Philly, [business, labor and political luminaries gathered to launch a new oil refining enterprise called Philadelphia Energy Solutions](#). A year ago, the 330,000-barrel-per-day refinery and its 850-employee work force were in jeopardy after Sunoco announced it was exiting the refining biz and would close the refinery if no new owner was found. Up stepped the Carlyle Group, a global alternative asset management firm, as majority owner and operator. Big sigh of relief!

Have a great week!

In Other News

- 09-23-2012 **[Boomers face rocky road to retirement](#)**
People used to say "I'll never retire" because they loved their work. These days, the line usually means they have no choice but to work later in life. Battered by the recession and a portfolio-piercing market plunge in 2008 and 2009, baby boomers are facing a retirement bind: Nest eggs that once... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-23-2012 **[Are Chesapeake Bay polluters getting off easy?](#)**
Would putting more polluters behind bars help restore the Chesapeake Bay? The Center for Progressive Reform believes it would. In a new report, the a pro-regulatory think tank argues that both state and federal authorities prosecute water polluters too rarely in Maryland and that the state... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 09-21-2012 **[Hearing set on Pennsylvania voter ID law](#)**
HARRISBURG — A legal challenge to Pennsylvania's tough new law requiring voters to show photo identification will reappear in court next week before the judge who initially refused to halt the law, even as registered voters claim they are being stymied in their attempts to get a... - [AP](#)
- 09-21-2012 **[PPL to hire thousands, spend billions](#)**
CEO Spence tells chamber members the company needs linemen, engineers and more. Allentown energy company PPL Corp. will hire thousands of workers to replace retirees and spend billions of dollars to upgrade aging power grids and reduce emissions from coal-fired plants over the next several years,... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-20-2012 **[EPA: Rachel Carson's Silent Spring Turns 50!](#)**
(Press Release)
- 09-20-2012 **[Panel to advocate for military bases in Pa.](#)**
Pennsylvania is joining the move by states to defend their military installations from the possibility of Defense Department cutbacks after Gov. Tom Corbett on Monday signed an order setting up a commission to advocate for the state's bases. Mr. Corbett appointed Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley to lead it.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-20-2012 **[One state worker placed on leave because of bedbug battle](#)**
A state employee who self-reported bedbugs at his home has been placed on administrative leave as state Department of General Services officials try to tighten the noose on pests plaguing the Labor & Industry Building. The worker, who was not identified, continues to be paid, according to... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 09-20-2012 **[6 million projected to owe health-care tax in 2016](#)**
WASHINGTON — U.S. budget experts raised their forecast yesterday of how many Americans will probably have to pay a penalty in 2016 for not buying health insurance to 6 million from 4 million. The 50 percent increase likely will draw fire from Republicans on the... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 09-19-2012 **[FDA working on plan to limit arsenic levels in rice](#)**
The Food and Drug Administration plans to announce Wednesday that it is working toward a proposal that would limit the amount of arsenic in rice, a staple of the

American diet that has long been identified as a leading dietary source of the toxin. The announcement is set to coincide with the release of a Consumer Reports... - [Washington Post](#)

09-18-2012

[**DDR Expands Set Up Shop -- Small Business Incubation Program Launches in NY & PA**](#)

(Press Release)