



***Beef Bytes***  
***October 15, 2012***

Dear Friends,

Today we mourn the loss of Pennsylvania's longest serving Senator: Arlen Specter. The former Senator passed away yesterday at the age of 82. Our condolences go to his family, friends, and the staffers who served him.

Also today both the state House and Senate convene for the last time before they break for the fall elections on November 6th. Versant will be closely monitoring this week's legislative activity.

Know of a college student who is interested in working in the dairy industry? The Center for Dairy Excellence is currently accepting applications for its 2013 intern program. Applications for the internships are due by December 15. Click [here](#) for more information about this opportunity and the application requirements.

Have questions? Let us know how we can assist you.

Sincerely,  
MeeCee

***Articles of Interest***

**CBE News:**

[New Intern](#)

The Center for Beef Excellence has a new intern as a member of the team. Devin Cunningham is in her senior year at Delaware Valley College and will work with Ann Nogan to learn about how opportunities to serve the beef industry.

**Pennsylvania News:**

[Keystone International Livestock Exposition](#)

The 2012 KILE took place September 29-October 7 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Congratulations to all the exhibitors who came out to promote their livestock and horses.

**National News:**

[Ethanol Mandate](#)

Congressional representatives continue to call for a waiver of the renewable fuels standard to reduce pressure on corn prices. Rising blend levels will lead to higher competition in the coming years. A recent analysis showed that the waiver would take a year to cause changes in the market and the Environmental Protection Agency will not decide on a policy until later this fall.

### [Traceability Laws](#)

Texas is the first state to issue state animal identification laws, even before the national laws are announced. Breeding animals over 18 months will need an official form of identification when moved. Moving animals directly from the farm to the processor will not require tagging and young animals and steers are exempt.

### [JBS Addresses Immigration](#)

JBS voluntarily signed an agreement with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to reduce the incidence of illegal immigrants employed in the US. The company will develop policies to reduce possibilities for illegal employment and strengthen the position of national, legal workers.

### [Future of Animal Science](#)

The American Society of Animal Science released a list of the biggest issues for agricultural science in the years to come. This includes raising livestock in sustainable and socially acceptable manners as well as increasing efficiency and reducing foodborne illnesses.

### **Global News:**

#### [Canadian Beef Recall](#)

The list of recalled products from Canada's XL Foods continues to grow as the plant addresses an outbreak of E. coli. The plant, along with supervisory agencies, has identified several areas of weakness in the processing system that contributed to contamination.

### **Cattle Management Articles:**

#### [Effects of Frost](#)

A frost will cause changes in plants that can be harmful to grazing animals. Sorghums can become toxic and cause prussic acid poisoning, while growing plants an alfalfa may have higher nitrate levels, leading to poor quality hay or bloat. Waiting a few days after frost will allow these toxins to disperse and leave the forages good for animals to consume.

#### [Post-Weaning Management](#)

Most preconditioning programs require calves to be weaned for at least 45 days before they come to the sale. This prevents respiratory problems and illness when the animals are moved and promotes healthier, better performing calves.

#### [Protein Supplements](#)

Non protein nitrogen sources, such as urea, can be used to supplement natural proteins in cattle diets. However, the producer must take care not to overfeed urea as the breakdown can cause excessive ammonia and be deadly to cattle. Urea should be fed with a diet high in energy in order to allow for maximum utilization.

#### [Shipping Calves](#)

Producers should plan ahead to make sure that the day calves are shipped is as low-stress as possible. This will prevent health problems and performance issues in the future. Weaning calves ahead of time, preconditioning, keeping calves fed and hydrated and selecting for docile animals while using low-stress handling techniques will pay off in the end.

#### [New Health Product](#)

Solid Tech Animal Health is working on developing herd-specific vaccines to address problems such as pinkeye and respiratory diseases. The treatment is given as a single dose implant containing both a primer and a booster vaccine.

## [Winter Grazing](#)

Keeping cows on stockpiled pastures through some or all of the winter can help to reduce feed costs. Subdividing fields and moving cows will increase grazing efficiency. Producers should plan ahead for need such as water and shelter.

- 10-14-2012     [My Dream Food Label](#)  
WHAT would an ideal food label look like? By "ideal," I mean from the perspective of consumers, not marketers. Right now, the labels required on food give us loads of information, much of it useful. What they don't do is tell us whether something is really beneficial, in every sense of the word. With a different set of criteria... - [New York Times](#) ( 248165/217123 )
- 10-12-2012     [Inside PDA for October 12, 2012](#)  
(Press Release)
- 10-12-2012     [Giant removes from sale packages of Tyson chicken for food allergy risk](#)  
York, PA - After a recall issued by Tyson Foods Inc., Giant Food Stores removed from sale two varieties of boneless chicken wings. Tyson did not declare on the ingredient label that the products contain milk, egg and soy. Online \$7 Trades! Click to find out more!... - [York Daily Record](#)
- 10-12-2012     [Corn soars on prediction of smallest harvest in 6 years; other commodities mostly higher](#)  
The price of corn soared 5 percent Thursday after the government predicted that this year's harvest could be the smallest in six years... - [AP](#)
- 10-12-2012     [Farm loans available for socially disadvantaged groups, beginning farmers](#)  
MILL HALL - Mildred Turner, Farm Loan Manager for USDA's Farm Service Agency in Pennsylvania, has reminded producers FSA offers specially targeted farm loans known as Socially Disadvantaged (SDA) and Beginning Farmer loans. These loan programs are designed to help farmers purchase and operate... - [Lock Haven Express](#)
- 10-12-2012     [Wegmans recalls brownie mix because of milk concerns](#)  
Wegmans Food Markets Inc. said today it is voluntarily recalling all code dates of Wegmans Gluten Free Double Chocolate Brownie Mix, 17.2 oz. (UPC 77890 28336) because the product may contain undeclared milk. People who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to milk run risk of serious or... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 10-11-2012     [USDA: Pennsylvania's Crop Production](#)  
(Press Release)
- 10-11-2012     [PDA: First Case of Chronic Wasting Disease Found in Pennsylvania Deer](#)  
(Press Release)
- 10-10-2012     [Westmoreland farmers tell state senator about burden of ever-increasing federal and Pa. regulations](#)  
The ever-increasing number of federal and state conservation regulations is hurting the livelihoods of Westmoreland County farmers, state Sen. Kim Ward was told on Tuesday. Ward, a Hempfield Township Republican, traveled to Rick Ebert's 400-acre farm along Livermore Road in Derry Township to listen to... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 10-10-2012     [Fuel prices a growing problem for Calif. farmers](#)

FRESNO, Calif. - Farmers in California's agricultural heartland say record-high gas and diesel prices are putting pressure on their bottom lines, but economists say it is unlikely that will translate into significantly higher food prices across the nation... - [AP](#)

## Legislative Activity

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

**Printer Number(s):** [P3532](#) [P3664](#) [P4151](#)

**Bill History:** 10-15-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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[HB 2372](#) [Hickernell, David](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in general provisions, for defs.; in regis. of vehicles, for exemption; in fees, for farm vehicles; in inspection, for periodic inspection & operation; &, in size, weight & load, for width of vehicles.

**Printer Number(s):** [P3533](#) [P3665](#) [P4152](#)

**Bill History:** 10-15-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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[SB 390](#) [Brubaker, Michael](#) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in size, weight and load, further providing for width of vehicles.

**Companions:** [SB 1323](#) Brubaker (Refiled from 09R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0375](#) [P1681](#) [P1793](#) [P2451](#)

**Bill History:** 10-15-12 H Set on the House Calendar

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

**Printer Number(s):** [P1685](#) [P1864](#) [P2410](#)

**Bill History:** 10-15-12 S Set on the Senate Calendar

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## Capitol Review

It has been fairly well established that Pennsylvania is a business-friendly state, if your business happens to be natural gas. But if your business happens to be beer? Not so much, according to Dick Yuengling Jr. The owner and president of Pottsville-based [D.G Yuengling & Sons](#) [says the company is almost certain to build another brewery soon, but isn't likely to do so in Pennsylvania](#). He said other states offer better incentives and fairer taxation. Yuengling's 17 percent growth rate of late has made it the top American-owned beermeister, surpassing Boston Beer Co. and its Samuel Adams brand.

Back to gas for a moment – the U.S. Geological Survey said it appears there are [enormous reserves of oil and natural gas under the Utica Shale, which is under the Marcellus Shale](#).

The geological survey's Utica estimate covered parts of Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. If only beer could be used as a fracking agent...

And, for those of you who want to prepare for the next set of "knock your socks off" predictions about what is under your feet, get ready for discussions about what's in the shale layer that lies below the Utica shale. [The USGS says it's called the Canajoharie Shale](#) – so we might start thinking about a contest to rename it with something easier to remember and say. How deep is the Canajoharie? Well, let's just say you might want to think of reaching it more easily by drilling from China.

There was Paul Ryan versus Joe Biden, Lou Barletta versus Gene Stimp, and John Maher versus Gene DePasquale versus Betsy Summers. Could there possibly have been another debate this week? Well, yes. It seems that U.S. Sen. Bob Casey and Republican challenger Tom Smith just can't seem to find a mutually convenient date to illuminate the electorate regarding their positions on the issues. This is particularly disappointing to editorial writers, [who like that kind of thing even more than the rest of us](#). Meanwhile, the Inquirer reported that its poll shows Casey with a 10-point lead.

This week's installment of We Can't Make This Up commutes from the City of Brotherly Love, where in the absence of NHL hockey, a brawl broke out at a high-end hotel among participants at competing weddings. A video of the bizarre event was captured by a 15-year-old Camp Hill lad, [Max Schultz, whose family was staying at the same hotel as the wedding contestants](#). Police said they don't know what sparked the melee. As if ruining two weddings were not tragic enough, the uncle of one of the brides died from an apparent heart attack following the brawl.

Speaking of commuting and Philadelphia, the future of [Amtrak's popular Keystone Route could include fare increases and service reductions](#) due to reduced federal subsidies and Pennsylvania's own financial constraints. With the concomitant increase in traffic on the beloved Schuylkill "Expressway," perhaps the best way to get to Philly (foreshadowing the music vid here) will be to sail there.

There will be one less person commuting to the 'Burg on Amtrak or the Schuylkill as [Turnpike CEO Roger Nutt announced he is stepping aside at the end of the month for health reasons](#). Turnpike COO Craig Shuey will serve as acting CEO until a permanent replacement is named.

In other transpo news, our friends at the Keystone Transportation Funding Coalition have created a biweekly update of where things stand with the funding issue in anticipation that the General Assembly and administration will take the issue up at the beginning of next year. Those who want to keep abreast of the issue can subscribe by providing their email address at this link [http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=0019gH\\_4Zs6eHDWp7a8CCpYO\\_A%3D%3D](http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=0019gH_4Zs6eHDWp7a8CCpYO_A%3D%3D).

Faculty members from the [14 state universities picketed this week outside the HQ of the State System of Higher Education](#). Their beef is that they've been working without a contract since June 2011, and the state system is seeking "substantial concessions" in health care benefits.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has morphed into something more akin to an activist organization, and the consequences include higher prices for food and energy,

according to PA Coal Alliance CEO John Pippy. [The former state senator laid out his view in an op-ed article following his visit to Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg last weekend.](#)

## ***In Other News***

- 10-15-2012 [Pennsylvania measure would end inspections for new vehicles](#)  
HARRISBURG -- New-car buyers often question why the state makes them get annual safety and emissions inspections on new vehicles, say two state senators from Western Pennsylvania. So Sens. Elder Vogel and John Wozniak are trying to eliminate those requirements and their costs for buyers of new cars, but time is quickly... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 10-15-2012 [Softbank to buy 70 percent of Sprint for \\$20B in historic deal](#)  
TOKYO — Softbank Corp. has reached a deal to buy 70 percent of U.S. mobile carrier Sprint Nextel Corp. for \$20.1 billion in the largest-ever foreign acquisition by a Japanese company... - [AP](#)
- 10-15-2012 [Arlen Specter dies; he was Pennsylvania's longest-serving senator](#)  
Former senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, one of the nation's most durable political figures who during three decades in the Senate became known for his command of constitutional law, died of cancer on Sunday at his home in Philadelphia. He was 82. The death was confirmed by Scott Hoeflich, Sen. Specter's former chief... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-12-2012 [Deli sues feds for refusing to trademark its 'Philadelphia's Cheesesteak'](#)  
MAYBE MIKE CAMPO has a legitimate beef with bureaucrats at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The Old City sandwich shop Campo's Deli at Market has sued the director of the Patent and Trademark Office, David Kappos, in federal court over the rejection of Campo's bid to trademark "Philadelphia's Cheesesteak."... - [Philadelphia Daily News](#)
- 10-12-2012 ["The golden age of water is over," says expert at DelVal symposium](#)  
The world is on the verge of a water revolution, noted investigative journalist Charles Fishman believes. While drought plagues some 64 percent of the United States today and hundreds of millions across the planet have little or no access to safe drinking water, it's past time to rethink a resource so easily taken... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)
- 10-12-2012 [Learning food's value beyond nutrition](#)  
Next week, dozens of D.C. Schools will celebrate "Growing Healthy Schools Week." Organized by the DC Farm to School Network, schools will host chef demos, farmer visits, farm trips and gardening workshops. The executive director of DC Greens, which oversees the Farm to School... - [Washington Post](#)
- 10-11-2012 [Animal-welfare group releases video of Pa. pigeon shoot](#)  
HARRISBURG - The images are stark: men and teenagers drop-kicking wounded pigeons like footballs, stomping on them, slamming them against their heels until they explode. The Illinois-based group SHark (Showing Animals Respect and Kindness) says the images from a Berks County pigeon shoot last month are evidence that... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 10-11-2012 [Giant Food Stores recall granola bars, ice cream due to possible salmonella](#)

**contamination - UPDATE**

Giant Food Stores today announced it is following a recall issued by General Mills and removing the sale of Cascadian Farm Organic Peanut Butter Chip granola bars due to possible salmonella contamination. A news release from the grocer said the General Mills-produced bars with... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

10-10-2012

**Casinos wary of gambling by device**

ATLANTIC CITY - New Jersey has cleared the way for casino patrons to gamble on their tablets, smartphones, and other mobile devices... - [AP](#)