



**Beef Bytes**  
**November 5, 2012**

Dear Friends,

Know a high school senior who plans to major in an agriculturally related field? The soybean association is offering a \$5000 scholarship. Visit the [soygrowers](#) link for details. Applications are due November 15.

Are you tired of election advertising but want to keep abreast of polling trends? [Real Clear Politics](#) provides averages of several polls to give a more clear and unbiased accounting of key races.

The 2013 Farm Show comes early this year with the annual PA preferred receptions set for January 3rd. The Farm Show web site provides a [schedule](#) of events.

Sincerely,  
MeeCee

***Articles of Interest***

**CBE News:**

[Industry Meeting](#)

The Center for Beef Excellence Beef Industry Council meeting on October 30 was postponed due to weather concerns from Hurricane Sandy. The meeting will be rescheduled for a later date at State College.

**Pennsylvania News:**

[New Transportation Laws](#)

Pennsylvania is considering laws that would increase the width allowance for farm vehicles, while also allowing these vehicles to travel further on the roads. The changes were approved by the legislature and sent to the Governor for approval.

**National News:**

[Food Policy Movement](#)

There is evidence that groups interested in food production and local food movements will work together to try to influence political policy. This is most evident in the California referendum to require labeling of genetically modified foods.

[Effects of Sandy](#)

Although several livestock production and processing facilities were closed early in the week, operations resumed with minimal setbacks following Hurricane Sandy. Some areas experienced flooding and power outages that temporarily delayed service.

[Agricultural Policies](#)

The presidential candidates have stated positions on a variety of agricultural issues, including biofuels, disaster relief, the importance of a farm bill and risk management programs. Make sure to get out and cast your vote on November 6!

### **Global News:**

#### [Export Predictions](#)

Agricultural exports from the US are expected to total \$143 billion. Even with reduced yields due to drought, high prices will keep export values high. Asia is the prime growth market for exports and free trade agreements will continue to improve trade opportunities.

#### [Australian Agriculture](#)

Foreign investors view Australia as a good place to invest in agriculture, but fear of foreign control could lead to protectionist policies in the future. However, Australia needs to foreign capital to become a leader in growing Asian and Pacific markets.

### **Cattle Management Articles:**

#### [Early Winter Feeding](#)

Now is the time to feed cows well to achieve a body condition score of 5 before winter weather hits. Dry cows in early gestation have low energy requirements and will more easily convert feed to fat before the additional energy requirements of snow and wind.

#### [Feedlot Emissions](#)

A Texas A&M study is working to quantify emissions of methane and nitrous oxide from feedlot cattle. Accurate measurements of these emissions will be vital for future reporting and control requirements.

#### [State of Feedlots](#)

High calf and feed prices are causing trouble for profit margins in the feedlot industry. This will likely only worsen in the future with limited numbers of calves and the effects of drought on corn prices. Strong beef demand will be necessary to remain profitable.

#### [Heifer Development](#)

Producers must manage heifers properly in order for them to attain puberty before the breeding season. Age at puberty is based on genetics, nutrition, body composition and several other factors.

#### [Herd Size Decisions](#)

Producers must make decisions about both culling and replacement rates in the herd. Drought has resulted in limited feed resources, so it may be smart to increase culling rates for the year and follow up with a year of higher replacement rates to moderate feed costs.

#### [Hay Feeding](#)

A short hay supply means that prices are high and producers should work to reduce wastage when feeding hay. Selecting a good round bale feeder will minimize the amount of hay that is trampled into the ground.

#### 11-04-2012 [Did Farmers of the Past Know More Than We Do?](#)

A couple years ago, I saw a small field of oats growing in northwest Iowa — a 40-acre patch in a sea of genetically modified corn and soybeans. It was an unusual sight. I asked my cousins, who still farm what my dad always called the “home place,” whether someone had added oats to... - [New York Times](#)

- 11-04-2012 [Dairy farmers lose financial cushion as Congress fails to act](#)  
Dairy farmers recently lost an important financial cushion protecting them from an imbalance in milk prices and production expenses. The termination of the federal farm bill at the end of September due to Congressional inaction also ceased the Milk Income Loss Contract program,... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 11-02-2012 [Sugarloaf deer farm quarantined](#)  
A deer farm in Sugarloaf has been quarantined by the state Department of Agriculture as the agency determines locations that may possess deer that had contact with an Adams County farm where an animal tested positive for chronic wasting disease on Oct. 12. The disease is fatal to cervids, such as deer and elk, but has not been... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 11-01-2012 [PA Farm Bureau: PA Farmers Get Relief from Antiquated State Vehicle Code](#)  
(Press Release)
- 10-31-2012 [Major Says New Trans. Laws Pertaining to Farm Equipment Benefit PA Farmers](#)  
(Press Release)
- 10-31-2012 [USDA - Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup for the Week Ending October 28, 2012](#)  
(Press Release)

#### GAME COMMISSION: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE RESPONSE #1

The Game Commission designated a Disease Management Area (DMA) in Adams and York Counties to mitigate risk factors and to determine the prevalence and geographic distribution of chronic wasting disease. Full details are provided in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol42/42-44/2159.html>

#### Legislative Activity

[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](#) [P2490](#)

**Bill History:** 11-03-12 G Last day for Governor's action  
11-01-12 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 209 )

#### Capitol Review

It certainly qualified as a [stormy Monday](#), and like the song goes, Tuesday was just as bad. Everything in the eastern U.S. from Wall Street to Main Street was pretty much closed as the eastern half of the country hunkered down. Amtrak and public transit agencies up and down the Atlantic seaboard gave it a rest. 'Round these parts, it didn't turn out as bad as some predictions, but our [brethren to the east will be cleaning up the mess for quite some time](#).

In addition to rearranging a good bit of the Atlantic coastline, hurricane/tropical/subtropical storm Sandy recalibrated [New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's thinking on global warming and prompted him to endorse President Obama's reelection effort](#). The mayor said he had come to the conclusion that the president is better able to address the global climate issue that he believes contributed to the severity of the storm.

Will the storm have an impact on turnout and the outcome of the presidential election? We'll have to wait for Tuesday for that answer. [No telling how the widespread power outages will play out through Election Day](#), but the vast majority of Keystone State residents had their electricity restored by the weekend, and the voting situation in PA was pronounced hunky-dory.

As often is the case in natural disasters, this Frankenstorm brought out the best and the worst in some of us and leads us to – drum roll please – not one, but two nominees for this week's We Can't Make This Up. First – and we know this happened because we saw and heard it on TV with our own eyes and ears – there was former FEMA head Michael Brown. You know, the dude who, um, “managed” Katrina disaster-relief efforts? He of “heckuva job, Brownie” accolades from George W. Bush who later resigned from his post amid accusations of ineptitude? In interviews this week, [Brown criticized the president for jumping on the storm issue too quickly, and he advised New Yorkers to just “chill.”](#)

Then there's Nominee No. 2, an allegedly inebriated York County woman who decided it would be a good idea to [jump into a raging creek to rescue a family of ducks from the rising storm waters](#). Because, you know, water tends to make ducks forget how to swim, right?

The bottom line here, folks, is that while we can laugh about chasing ducks in a flooded creek, Sandy proved once more that storms can kill. We know your thoughts are with the families of the dozen Pennsylvanians who lost their lives in connection with this megastorm. And we don't need to remind anyone that the Red Cross needs and deserves an extra donation in these trying times.

Just when everyone was beginning to enjoy a new injection of global warming hysteria, a couple of those darn [scientists rained all over that parade with a copious dose of reason and logic](#). Their point: while a link between climate change and tornados could be plausible, scientific literature does not strongly support such a connection.

But if you still need to feed your hysteria jones, try this: while the consensus was that the storm models really nailed the forecasts regarding Sandy and perhaps saved lives and property, the [New York Times and others are reporting that mismanagement and lack of money could mean that the U.S. is facing a year or more without crucial satellites that provide invaluable data for predicting storm tracks](#). You know, the kind of data that led to the storm models really nailing the forecasts regarding Sandy, and providing Americans with the type of information they needed to make decisions about their safety...

On the other hand, despite the astonishingly accurate weather predictions, [tens of thousands of coastal dwellers rolled the dice and decided to ride the storm out instead of evacuating](#). But heck, if you still needed to feed a gambling jones, rolling the dice in AC was out of the question until Friday morning, when [Governor Christie finally gave the okey-dokey for casinos to reopen](#).

As the final week before Election Day unfolded, Republican presidential candidate [Mitt Romney appeared to be sneaking back into the hunt in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and](#)

[perhaps Minnesota and Michigan](#). There was speculation that one candidate could actually receive the most popular votes, but lose the election because of that dumb ol' Electoral College. Oh, c'mon, that can't really happen, can it?

Finally, [former Penn State President Graham Spanier joined two other administrators who already face criminal charges](#) in connection with an alleged cover-up of the Jerry Sandusky scandal. In announcing the new charges, Attorney General Linda Kelly declined to discuss any role of the late Joe Paterno. Spanier and the others insisted on their innocence.

## ***In Other News***

- 11-05-2012 [\*\*Christie sees N.J. getting back to "new normal" but fears approaching storm\*\*](#)  
HOBOKEN, N.J. - Joined by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Gov. Christie told residents Sunday the state was slowly getting to a "new normal" after the ravages of Sandy - while warning that progress could be threatened in days by another storm. An approaching nor'easter could bring 50 m.p.h. winds and three to four... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 11-04-2012 [\*\*TechBits: Be prepared for the next natural disaster with a useful app from FEMA\*\*](#)  
Washington may have been spared the worst of Hurricane Sandy, but it certainly was a reminder to be prepared for the next one. So take a look at this app from the Federal Emergency Management Agency; it's done a lot better than most government agencies, whose apps tend to be buggy,... - [Washington Post](#)
- 11-04-2012 [\*\*Wildlife: Animals find ways to survive super storms\*\*](#)  
Hurricane Sandy has claimed more than 80 American lives and caused an estimated \$50 billion in damage. Those numbers are likely to increase in the days ahead. Another unspoken toll is that taken on wildlife. How can wild animals possibly survive such a super storm?... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 11-02-2012 [\*\*Dry summer means tri-state region's rainfall causes little flooding\*\*](#)  
The huge storm that ravaged much of the Jersey Shore and crippled New York City for days was mostly kind to the tri-state region, where a dry summer left reservoirs lower than normal. The week's rain raised low rivers and soaked dry ground and forests, but there's been relatively little of the flooding many expected.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 11-02-2012 [\*\*As Wolves' Numbers Rise, So Does Friction Between Guardians and Hunters\*\*](#)  
GREENDALE, Wis. — When people like Nancy Jo Dowler started raising wolves here decades ago, the animals were rare in Wisconsin and nearly extinct across the country. Now the president of the Timber Wolf Preservation Society, Ms. Dowler, 66, cares for five full-grown purebreds. She bottle-fed them as pups and howls... - [New York Times](#)
- 11-02-2012 [\*\*Solobay calls for extending absentee ballot deadline for all Pa. voters\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG -- State Sen. Tim Solobay, D-Canonsburg, has called on Gov. Tom Corbett to extend absentee ballot deadlines for all Pennsylvania voters to end the confusion over the street-by-street rules created by this week's hurricane and subsequent executive orders.... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 11-02-2012 [\*\*Wegmans recalls packaged salad due to E. coli fear\*\*](#)  
Wegmans is recalling its Organic Spinach and Spring Mix salads because it may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria.... - [AP](#)

10-31-2012 [\*\*DEP Offers Tips for Removing, Processing Storm Debris\*\*](#)  
(Press Release)

10-31-2012 [\*\*Shore towns face daunting rebuilding task\*\*](#)  
Sandy roared through Ocean City, knocking century-old summer cottages off their foundations, swamping the quaint downtown under two feet of floodwater, and giving the iconic 59th Street fishing pier its final blow. The town that bills itself as "America's Greatest Family Resort" took a... - [\*Philadelphia Inquirer\*](#)

10-31-2012 [\*\*Did Global Warming Contribute to Hurricane Sandy's Devastation?\*\*](#)  
Was the bizarre storm called Sandy a product, in whole or in part, of human-induced climate change? That may not be a top-of-mind issue for the millions of people who will spend coming weeks recovering from the damage. But it is an important scientific question, one whose answers could shed light not just on why... - [\*New York Times\*](#)