



***Beef Bytes
November 20, 2012***

Happy Thanksgiving,

Good luck to all our hunters. Please send photos of your big bucks to Debbie at dchappell@versantstrategies.net to enter the Versant Strategies Big Buck Contest which will be announced and awarded December 17!

DEP is holding a series of webinars concerning permits. Visit their [site](#) to see specific dates and topics.

Versant extends congratulations to Don Hoover, president of Binkley & Hurst, on receiving the coveted George C. Delp Award at the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry's 36th annual agricultural industry banquet.

We at Versant are grateful for the affiliation with our friends in the industry. Have a blessed holiday season.

Our offices will be closed Wednesday through Friday in observation of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Sincerely,
MeeCee

Articles of Interest

[Beef Industry Meeting](#)

The Center for Beef Excellence has rescheduled the beef industry council meeting for December 10 at the Livestock Evaluation Center in State College. The meeting is open to producers and industry representatives and will feature speakers covering topics such as livestock traceability, insurance and risk management programs.

Pennsylvania News:

[Legislative Changes](#)

Governor Corbett signed several pieces of legislation that will limit restrictions on farmers, including laws that allow for more transportation of farm equipment on public roads, exemptions on reporting for small honey producers and changes to the Clean and Green program.

National News:

[Policy Expectations](#)

A lead analyst with the National Beef Cattlemen's Association projects that very little will change in the way of regulations and tax reform in the years to come, considering that party control in the US government remained basically the same after the election.

[Alternative Income](#)

A report from the Economic Research Service shows that a large proportion of farmers have alternative income sources- either off farm income or on farm diversification such as direct marketing to consumers or agritourism.

[Meatless Mondays](#)

Los Angeles has passed a resolution declaring that every Monday will be a 'Meatless Monday' and is encouraging residents to adopt vegetarian or vegan diets. The City Council cannot force people not to eat meat, but is pushing the campaign for voluntary diet changes.

[Food Stamps and the Farm Bill](#)

Congressional leaders are working to adopt a new farm bill, but must deal with issues of whether to make cuts proposed by the House for the federal food stamps program. The cuts would eliminate some categorical eligibility that crept into the program over the years.

[Upcoming Industry Issues](#)

Cattlemen from across the country commented on issues that will impact the industry in 2013. These included drought, the need for a revised farm bill, the importance of consumer education and an emphasis on repealing the estate tax.

Global News:

[Brazilian Beef Production](#)

JBS is planning to build six new beef processing plants in Brazil. This will take advantage of grass fed cattle available for slaughter and fill holes left by declining herd numbers in the US and Australia following several years of drought.

[Canadian Concerns](#)

Beef producers in Canada are facing many of the same problems as US beef producers. Feedlots are under strain as low herd numbers lead to high calf prices and drought drives up the prices of corn and barley for feed.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Cattle Lice](#)

Winter is the time when lice are most often seen in cattle and there are several measures that can be used to treat and control the problem, including sprays, pour on treatments, dustbags and injections. Knowing the withdrawal periods and correct treatment is critical.

[Farm Transition Planning](#)

Michigan State University Extension has produced a webinar that covers tax policies for gifting farm land and assets to the next generation. Major changes will go into effect January 1, 2013 and producers should be acting now to take advantage of favorable policies.

[New BRD Drug](#)

Baytril was approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat animals at high risk of bovine respiratory disease due to several different pathogens. The drug can be used in both beef cattle and non-lactating dairy cows.

High Farmland Prices

Public policy analysts are considering the trend of rising farmland values. They conclude that the pattern is similar to past bubbles and prices may crash in the future, despite legitimate reasons for high values.

- 11-19-2012 **[In sign of growing clout, Brazil's corn helps hold up U.S. market](#)**
SAO PAULO — As U.S. cornfields withered under drought conditions last summer, Brazil's once-empty Cerrado region produced a bumper crop of the grain, helping feed livestock on U.S. farms and ease a drought-related spike in prices. The U.S. imports of Brazilian corn were small by world standards. But they... - [Washington Post](#)
- 11-19-2012 **[Giving thanks to agricultural industry](#)**
To the editor: Agriculture is Pennsylvania's largest industry, with more than \$5.7 billion of food and fiber produced on our farms each year. It generates \$45 billion in our state economy, and Pennsylvania ranks in the top 10 states in the production of more than 20 of these products.... - [Shamokin News-Item](#)
- 11-18-2012 **[E.P.A. Upholds Federal Mandate for Ethanol in Gasoline](#)**
WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency declined on Friday to relax its requirement on the use of corn ethanol in gasoline, rejecting a request from several states related to a steep decline in the nation's corn production. A summer drought that withered crops led to a spike in prices, hurting the... - [New York Times](#)
- 11-16-2012 **[Inside PDA for November 16, 2012](#)**
(Press Release)
- 11-15-2012 **[Assault on farm preservation](#)**
Preserved farmland is forever free of development, right? Maybe not. In Dayton, Md., three brothers are trying to opt out of the farmland-preservation program there, saying some 360 acres they own are no longer suitable for farming. The brothers say the area has become increasingly urbanized and is no... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 11-15-2012 **[County buys second agricultural easement](#)**
WAYNESBURG – In an ongoing effort to preserve and protect farmland in Greene County, the county purchased a second agricultural easement and recognized the landowner, James Willis, at the commissioners' meeting Wednesday. The county finalized the purchase of the 100.762-acre James F. and Pearl... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 11-14-2012 **[PA Farmers Elect PFB President Carl Shaffer to Fifth Term](#)**
(Press Release)
- 11-14-2012 **[PDA: Governor Corbett Signs Bills to Help Keep Farmers Farming](#)**
(Press Release)

Legislative Activity

The House and Senate met briefly in November to elect the following leaders for the 2012/13 legislative session:

House Republicans

Speaker of the House Designee: Sam Smith (R-Jefferson)
Leader: Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny)
Whip: Stan Saylor (R-York)
Appropriations Chairman: William Adolph (R-Delaware)
Caucus Chairman: Sandra Major (R-Susquehanna)
Secretary: Mike Vereb (R-Montgomery)
Policy Committee Chairman: Dave Reed (R-Indiana)
Administrator: Dick Stevenson (R-Mercer)

House Democrats

Leader: Frank Dermody (D-Allegheny)
Whip: Mike Hanna (D-Clinton)
Appropriations Chairman: Joe Markosek (D-Allegheny)
Caucus Chairman: Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny)
Secretary: Ron Waters (D-Philadelphia)
Policy Committee Chairman: Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster)
Administrator: Neal Goodman (D-Schuylkill)

Senate Republicans

President Pro Tempore nominee: Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson)
Leader: Dominic Pileggi (R-Delaware)
Whip: Pat Browne (R-Lehigh)
Appropriations Chairman: Jake Corman (R-Centre)
Caucus Chairman: Mike Waugh (R-York)
Secretary: Bob Robbins (R-Mercer)

Senate Democrats

Leader: Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)
Whip: Anthony Williams (D-Philadelphia)
Appropriations Chairman: Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia)
Caucus Chairman: Richard Kasunic (D-Fayette)
Secretary: Christine Tartaglione (D-Philadelphia)
Policy Committee Chairman: Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton)
Administrator: Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny)

Swearing-in day for all members of the new General Assembly is January 1, 2013.

Capitol Review

[Hostess going out of business: End of line for Twinkies, Ding Dongs](#)

Hostess Brands says it is going out of business, closing plants that make Twinkies and Wonder Bread and laying off all of its 18,500 workers.

[BP to pay record \\$4.5B fine for 'privileging profit over prudence' in deadly Gulf of Mexico oil spill](#)

A day of reckoning arrived for BP on Thursday as the oil giant agreed to plead guilty to a raft of charges in the deadly Gulf of Mexico spill and pay a record \$4.5 billion, including the biggest criminal fine in U.S. history. Three BP employees were also charged, two of them with manslaughter.

[SRC votes to suspend 2 parts of Pa. school code](#)

The School Reform Commission, using special powers stemming from the state's 2001 takeover of the Philadelphia School District, voted Thursday night to suspend two provisions in the Pennsylvania school code.

[Poll finds Corbett gained support from Sandy](#)

A new Pennsylvania poll bears some good news for Gov. Corbett and finds wide agreement in the electorate on the validity of global warming.

[Five groups apply for Philadelphia's second casino license](#)

Five groups have applied for Philadelphia's second gaming license, including a novel proposition that would partner Penn National Gaming Inc. with the City of Philadelphia.

[GOP-led states start warming up to health care law](#)

From the South to the heartland, cracks are appearing in the once-solid wall of Republican resistance to President Barack Obama's health-care law.

[Penn State trustee refutes criticism from auditor general](#)

One of Penn State's trustees scoffed Thursday at recommendations from the state's auditor general that include removing the president from its board of trustees and reducing the board to improve transparency and accountability.

[Penn State trustees to weigh auditor general's recommendations](#)

Penn State trustees will weigh the state auditor general's recommendations that the school's governing structure be changed in the wake of the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal.

[Feinstein: Petraeus to testify on Benghazi attacks](#)

The head of the Senate Intelligence Committee says former CIA Director David Petraeus has agreed to testify to Congress about the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans.

[Pelosi will seek House Dem leadership post again](#)

Former House speaker Nancy Pelosi said Wednesday she will run to keep her job as the Democratic leader in the House after a pair of elections that kept the party in the minority there even as Democrats gained seats in the Senate and a second term for President Barack Obama.

In Other News

11-19-2012 [PGC: Countdown to Deer Season Has Begun; Harvest Reporting Available Via...](#)

(Press Release)

- 11-19-2012 [**From dairy store to convenience restaurants, Sheetz empire now spans six states**](#)
At the age of 7, Bob Sheetz would sit in the office of the Sheetz Dairy Store at 2601 Fifth Ave. and listen to his father, Gerald, and grandfather, J.E. Harshbarger, talk about the business. "Dad had a two-sided desk. He put me on the other side of his desk. Until I... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 11-18-2012 [**Carbon caper: Bogus policy**](#)
A new federal carbon tax being advocated by leftists and environmentalists would not curb man-made emissions enough to possibly affect climate. But it would hinder commerce and America's drive for energy independence enough to drag down the economy. Steve Milloy, the publisher of JunkScience.com , writing for Investor's... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 11-15-2012 [**Corbett Administration: New Investments Approved to Support Flood Control...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-15-2012 [**Boscov's plans to stop selling electronics and major appliances**](#)
Amid growing competition from online retailers, Boscov's plans to stop selling major appliances and electronics by the end of the year, according to a manager at the Lower Allen Township store. Stores in the Reading-based chain will begin clearing out inventory this... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 11-15-2012 [**BP to Admit Crimes and Pay \\$4.5 Billion in Gulf Settlement**](#)
BP, the British oil company, said Thursday that it would pay \$4.5 billion in fines and other payments to the government and plead guilty to 14 criminal charges in connection with the giant oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico two years ago. The payments include \$4 billion related to the criminal charges and \$525... - [New York Times](#)
- 11-15-2012 [**The 'Fiscal Cliff,' Explained**](#)
Many Americans must be wondering: What is all this about a "fiscal cliff"? And why did it receive so little attention during the presidential campaign? Well, it's complicated — the so-called cliff, that is. And most solutions are politically painful. In a rare show of bipartisanship, or... - [New York Times](#)
- 11-14-2012 [**Pennsylvania Turnpike switch to electronic toll collection on track**](#)
HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Turnpike drivers will no longer rummage for cash to pay fares under an all-electronic toll collection plan officials say could be in place within five years. Turnpike Commission Acting CEO Craig Shuey told state lawmakers on Tuesday... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 11-14-2012 [**State House picks leaders for 2013 season**](#)
HARRISBURG — Republicans and Democrats in the state House chose not to rock the boat Tuesday, as they re-elected the same slate of leaders for the legislative session that begins in January. Majority Republicans re-elected the same leadership team that they had... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 11-14-2012 [**AMT could keep 60 million taxpayers from filing returns till March, delaying refunds**](#)
Nearly half of U.S. taxpayers would be unable to file their 2012 returns — or receive

their refunds — until at least late March if Congress fails to enact legislation by the end of this year to restrain the alternative minimum tax, the head of the Internal Revenue Service said... - [Washington Post](#)