



Beef Bytes
November 26, 2013

Dear Friends:

The long awaited transportation bill was signed into law today by Governor Tom Corbett. Along with incrementally increasing fees for such items as vehicular registrations and speeding tickets, the legislation will address the Commonwealth's deteriorating roads and bridges. In addition, the prevailing wage will now kick-in at projects in excess of \$100,000 and the speed limit will be raised to 70 mph in certain sectors. This effort will bring much needed relief throughout PA which has more rural roads than any other state in the nation.

State Legislators will be on Thanksgiving break with the Senate returning to Harrisburg on December 3rd while the House will be back on December 9th. The newsletter will also return on December 9th.

Farmers have until November 30th to apply for a \$2500 grant to be given to a charity of choice via a Monsanto grant. To register, visit: <http://www.americasfarmers.com/recognition-programs/grow-communities-official-rules/>. It is easy to enter.

Trivia for your Thanksgiving conversation: 242 million turkeys were raised in the US in 2013. This number is down slightly from 2012 production. PA ranks ninth in turkeys produced with 6.5 million in 2013 down from 7 million in 2012.

In the meantime, send us your big buck photos to share!

Sincerely,
MeeCee

Articles of Interest

Pennsylvania News:

[Pesticide Disposal](#)

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is helping producers to dispose of unwanted or old pesticides in a responsible manner in 2014. Locations in 20 counties will be set up to collect pesticides for disposal in approved facilities. The program is free for up to 2,000 lbs/producer, and after that disposal is billed at the rate contracted by the state.

[PA Farm Bureau News](#)

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau met in Hershey for their annual policy meeting and gave awards to several outstanding members and county associations. Upcoming policy issues included both state and national issues, including the need for a new farm bill, immigration reform, food safety and transportation laws.

National News:

[Biofuel Changes](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing that the 2014 targets for ethanol production and blending be reduced. This includes both corn and cellulosic based ethanol. In addition, there will be caps on the amount of ethanol that can be blended into gasoline. Industry stakeholders are calling for Congressional action as well to change the standards.

[Consumer Price Concerns](#)

Surveys show that the prices consumers are willing to pay for beef remain consistent, but many are choosing to purchase more chicken products to remain within their budgets. This means that total demand for beef will likely fall in the months to come, even as prices remain high due to tight cattle supplies.

[Antibiotic Resistance](#)

A medical journal released a summary of many points in the debate over antibiotic resistance, citing both overuse in human medicine and agricultural use as contributors to the problem. The authors call for responsible use of antibiotics in both human and animal medicine, a decline in feeding antibiotics for growth benefits, and the development of new antibiotics.

Global News:

[Canadian Marketing Controversy](#)

A marketing campaign in Canada is causing backlash by promoting beef that is raised without steroids or antibiotics as 'better' beef than conventional products. Many feel that the campaign is misleading, as the beef is different but not necessarily better. In addition, Canadian cattlemen want to company to source more local (Canadian) beef rather than importing from the US.

[Chinese Production](#)

As the population in China grows and standards of living improve the demand for meat continues to increase, but production is limited in the country. There are signs that the amount of farmable land is limited and decreasing. In addition, pollution has caused problems for the soil and water resources, which result in production limitations as well as food safety concerns.

Cattle Management Articles:

[Winter Feeding Options](#)

Producers are already making plans to feed hay for the winter and determining how much hay will be needed. If budgeting is off or hay supplies run short, there are alternative options for keeping cows fed and healthy. These include limiting the amount of hay that is consumed, feeding corn or distillers grain, or limit feeding silage products.

[Calving Preparation](#)

Even if calving season is several months away, now is the time for producers to make sure that they are ready for any problems that occur. Checking and cleaning calving facilities, assembling a calving kit and making sure everyone involved is aware of when to call for help are steps that can be taken in advance to make a difficult delivery go more smoothly.

[Managing Heifers](#)

First calf heifers represent a challenge for calving successfully and rebreeding early to calve as three year olds. Pre-calving nutrition is important, as heifers should receive plenty of

energy and protein in their diet to prepare for healthy calves. Breeding to calving ease sires and minimizing calving difficulties also helps cows to rebreed more quickly.

[Winter Skin Problems](#)

Cattle can show signs of ringworm and warts in the winter when they are gathered around hay feeders or watering areas. Typically these problems affect young cattle more than older animals. Both conditions will usually go away over time if left untreated, but if cattle are going to a show or need a health certificate the producer may need to work to get rid of the symptoms.

[Hay Storage](#)

Keeping hay as dry as possible helps to reduce storage loss when feeding in the winter. Bales stored outside will have the greatest loss and should be kept elevated and covered if possible. Allowing for air flow between bales will help to reduce moisture losses. Bales stored outside should be fed to cattle first, as they are the least palatable feed source.

- 11-22-2013 **[Inside PDA for November 22, 2013](#)**
(Press Release)
- 11-22-2013 **[National Beef to expand and add 25-30 new jobs in Hummels Wharf](#)**
HUMMELS WHARF — National Beef Packing Co. announced today it will expand its Hummels Wharf processing facility, adding 25 to 30 jobs. The \$5 million expansion will include new technology and equipment necessary to grind and package ground beef, giving the facility the... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 11-20-2013 **[\\$25 bounty on coyotes proposed in eastern Pa.](#)**
STROUDSBURG, Pa. — A state lawmaker is proposing a \$25 bounty on coyotes to deal with what he calls an infestation in northeastern Pennsylvania... - [AP](#)
- 11-20-2013 **[Lawmakers' gridlock irks ag industry](#)**
There ought to be a law, says Mount Joy poultry grower Stephen Hershey. On transportation funding. On immigration reform. On agricultural market policy. Gridlock on all of the above has been provoking hard-hit farmers to speak out in exasperation. But their frustration shot up another octave at a statewide ag conference... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 11-20-2013 **[Farm industry depending on immigration reform](#)**
Editor, As youngsters, we were taught that "many hands make light work." This sentiment resonates throughout agriculture because "many hands" are not readily available to us for milking cows, harvesting crops, planting tree seedlings, and collecting poultry. This lack of availability could... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 11-19-2013 **[PA Farm Bureau President: Still Time to Address Critical Agriculture Issues...](#)**
(Press Release)

Legislative Activity

- [HB 397](#) [Keller, Mark](#) (PN 2598) The Agritourism Immunity Act provides for protection from liability from personal injury with inherent risks for persons that sponsor farm-related tourism activities engaged in knowingly, voluntarily, intelligently and unreasonably if: (1) The person is an

operator of an agritourism activity; and (2) The notice regarding immunity is conspicuously posted in at least two locations on the premises. The bill enumerates exceptions for protection from immunity. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 407, 1942)

Companions: [HB 1435](#) Keller, Mark (Refiled from 11R Session)
[SB 395](#) Brubaker, Michael (Refiled from 11R Session)
[HCO 709](#) Keller, Mark (M)
1-14-13 H Filed
[SB 581](#) Brubaker, Michael (Related)
3- 1-13 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

Printer Number(s): [P0407](#) [P1942](#) [P2598](#)

Bill History: 11-22-13 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Judiciary

[HB 920](#) [Sonney, Curt](#)

(PN 1059) Amends the Agricultural Area Security Law defining "wind power generation system" and adding that an agricultural conservation easement shall not prevent the granting of rights-of-way by the owner of the subject land in and through the land for the installation of or use of a wind power generation system, if certain enumerated conditions apply. Effective in 60 days.

Companions: [HCO1339](#) Sonney, Curt (M)
2-26-13 H Filed

Printer Number(s): [P1059](#)

Bill History: 12-03-13 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[HB 1523](#) [Toepel, Marcy](#)

(PN 2030) Amends "An act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the local government units thereof to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space uses" adding that revenue from the tax levy may be used for expenses necessary to prepare the resource, recreation or land use plan; and for costs associated with design, engineering, improvement and development of the real property consistent with the approved resource, recreation or land use plan. Effective immediately.

Companions: [HCO 594](#) Toepel, Marcy (M)
1-10-13 H Filed

Printer Number(s): [P2030](#)

Bill History: 11-19-13 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 8E-A,

East Wing ...Senate Local Government
11-19-13 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate
Local Government
11-19-13 S Reported as committed from Senate Local
Government
11-19-13 S First consideration
12-03-13 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 491](#) [Folmer, Mike](#)

(PN 1599) Amends The Local Tax Enabling Act providing for the definition of "farming" and allows taxpayers to use the Annual Local Earned Income Tax Return form available from the department's website to file the final return. Provides a taxpayer will be considered to have met the requirements for declaration and minimum payment of estimated tax for any year in which the taxpayer timely declares and makes quarterly payments of estimated tax in amounts that equal at least one-fourth of the total incomes and net profits tax due and not withheld under section 512 in the previous year, provided that the taxpayer can show through the taxpayer's annual earned income tax return that tax liability was incurred. Further allows a taxpayer to use a prescribed formula for determining quarterly tax payments. Allows farmers to file only one tax return per year, avoiding the quarterly requirement. Allows employers to file quarterly returns in certain circumstances. Effective in 180 days. (Prior Printer Number: 454)

Companions: [SCO 230](#) Folmer, Mike (M)
12-13-12 S Filed

Printer Number(s): [P0454](#) [P1599](#)

Bill History: 11-20-13 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing ...Senate Finance
11-20-13 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Finance
11-20-13 S Reported as amended Senate Finance
11-20-13 S First consideration
12-03-13 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 638](#) [Vogel, Jr., Elder](#)

(PN 1604) Amends The General County Assessment Law providing no high tunnel shall be assessed or taxed as real estate regardless of whether the structure has become affixed to the real estate. Provides a definition of "high tunnel". Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 693, 996, 1309)

Companions: [SCO 604](#) Vogel, Jr., (M)
Elder
1-29-13 S Filed

Printer Number(s): [P0693](#) [P0996](#) [P1309](#) [P1604](#)

Bill History: 11-20-13 H Set on the House Calendar
11-20-13 H Laid out for discussion
11-20-13 H 1 Floor amendment(s) adopted
11-20-13 H Second consideration
11-20-13 H Over in House
11-20-13 H Rereferred to House Appropriations

Capitol Review

Americans observed some important dates in our nation's history this week. First, a mere hop, skip and a jump down the road, folks gathered at Gettysburg [to recall President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address](#), while some of our more cynical members of the media spent the day blowtorching President Obama for not attending the ceremony, a uniquely American tradition if there ever was one.

And of course, one could not turn on the television last week without being reminded that 50 years ago, President John F. Kennedy's life was taken by Lee Harvey Oswald. A half-century later, it still stings.

As an aside, there have been a few stories on TV this week about what the nation might have looked like if Camelot had not ended so tragically that November day. Well, had Kennedy never been elected President (and presumably then, never assassinated), the [Kennedy's may have purchased the Philadelphia Eagles](#), making Ted Sorenson the new head coach and Bobby the starting quarterback.

Good news appeared on the horizon for Governor Tom Corbett last week, as some began to opine that the botched Obamacare rollout and subsequent continuing dumpster fires may [drive down President Obama's numbers so badly](#) that he starts to hurt Democrats up and down the ticket in 2014. It would certainly be the supreme irony if Barack Obama turned out to be Tom Corbett's secret weapon!

It happened folks. It finally happened, no foolin', honest to goodness IT FINALLY FREAKING HAPPENED! The General Assembly passed (after defeating) a [comprehensive transportation funding package](#) that will allocate \$2.3 billion annually for the repair, modernization and construction of our state's failing infrastructure! We admit, at several points during the week, we actually passed out and had to be revived. We got 99 problems, but transportation funding ain't one!

Within moments, the some of the more skeptical scribes looked for the darkest cloud they could find. "Hey, this stinks, now there is going to be all kinds of road work and detours and construction barrels and stuff!" Well, yeah, when you allocate money to fix roads, that is what generally happens. [Somebody shows up and fixes them.](#)

Embedded in the transportation law is the [first change in the state's Prevailing Wage Law](#) since JFK was in the White House, which angered some of the state's trade unions (angered being a euphemism for "seething with rage"). The law also includes a provision allowing PennDOT to increase the speed limit to 70 miles per hour, which we suspect was the real reason former Governor Ed Rendell was so enthusiastic about the bill's passage.

Legalize it! OK, calm down there, Bob Marley, Pennsylvania is not exactly poised to become the Mary Jane haven of the east coast. But this week, a bipartisan group of state senators

threw their weight behind a measure that would [legalize medicinal marijuana](#). The response from the Corbett Administration was less than enthusiastic. Looks like folks who don't ski will still have a reason to fly to Colorado.

Headline of the week: "[Gas drilling could be an issue in Pennsylvania governor's race.](#)" Hmmm. Really? The taxation and regulation of an industry that has swallowed the entire Commonwealth in the past four years? That industry might be an issue in the governor's race? Color us shocked.

Speaking of the natural gas industry, landowners are feeling a little salty because it seems nobody, including our own DEP, [has the foggiest idea how much of this stuff is being pumped out of the ground](#). Not a big deal, you say? Well, if you are being paid royalties by the cubic yard, it is never comforting if no one can tell you with certainty how many cubic yards are being extracted from under your farm.

A plan to require proficiency testing of high school students before they are released out onto the world [passed a statewide regulatory panel this week](#). Wow, what a novel idea. Testing children to make sure they actually may have learned something before handing them a diploma. No wonder it was controversial. What's next? Actually requiring graduates to have a name and a Social Security number?

[The push is on to raise the minimum wage](#) in the Keystone State to \$10.10 an hour by this time next year. This has predictably caused some business interests to have multiple cardiac infarctions, even though with the GOP firmly in control of every branch of Pennsylvania government, the chances of this bill passing are about as likely as the governor performing a same-sex marriage in the capitol rotunda while smoking medicinal marijuana.

Lockheed Martin is closing up shop out in Bucks County, taking with it over 1,000 jobs. This is very sad news in and of itself, [compounded only by the immediate finger-pointing and blame game](#) launched by Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick's potential electoral opponents. Apparently, Fitzpatrick single-handedly kicked LM out of Bucks County.

If you happen to hit the lottery and are currently receiving welfare benefits or are late on your taxes, [don't be in too much of a rush to spend your new windfall](#). Legislation is now on the move that would allow the state to intercept winnings in cases of delinquency, and for DPW to remove you from their rolls should you find yourself the newest Powerball jackpot winner. Once you have squared up with the Commonwealth, you may feel free to build a new house, grab some new wheels and live like a king.

Table game revenue at Pennsylvania's casinos [spiked upward last month](#), driving overall casino revenue to \$250 million for the month. Let's take a step back and think about that, shall we? Here is an industry that generates a quarter-billion a month, taxed at 46%, and no one seems to notice. If there were a natural gas well in the middle of Rivers Casino, maybe their tax rate might drop a little.

Using the filibuster to deny judicial appointments has gone the way of the dodo, as U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid finally [went nuclear and changed the senate Rules on Thursday](#). If you don't like how the game is being played, change the rules. Seems to work in the NFL, where it is now illegal to be within 15 nautical miles of the quarterback.

Out on the western frontier, soon-to-be-minted Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto sent out a call for help on his transition team, [and the response was overwhelming](#). In true Pittsburgh fashion, somebody needs a hand and 900 people show up with power tools, a few six packs of Iron City, some Mineo's pizza, roll up their sleeves and get to work!

Finally, in this week's We Can't Make This Up portion of our little show, apparently trains and planes have temporarily lost the ability to navigate. An Amtrak Train heading for New York City [made a wrong turn and ended up in Bala Cynwyd](#). Nice place and all, but certainly no Gotham. In any event, Denzel Washington jumped on board the train and straightened the whole mess out. It was a little tougher for a Boeing 747 that landed at the wrong Kansas airport [onto a runway the size of your driveway](#). Really? Planes don't have GPS?

In Other News

- 11-25-2013 [**Rep. Turzai: Fact-checking Transportation Funding Bill \(HB 1060\)**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-25-2013 [**Gov. Corbett Ceremonially Signs Historic Transportation Funding Bill in...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-22-2013 [**PGC: Wait is on For Late-Starting Pennsylvania Deer Season**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-22-2013 [**China-based Apple supplier Foxconn to invest \\$30 million in midstate manufacturing facility: Report**](#)
Foxconn is migrating from China to the midstate. According to a report in Bloomberg, the Taipei-based maker of Apple Inc.'s iPhone, plans to invest \$40 million in Pennsylvania to develop robotics. This includes a \$30 million manufacturing facility to employ 500 in the midstate, the company... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 11-22-2013 [**Pension reform likely to be next major issue for Legislature to tackle**](#)
With the historic transportation funding legislation now out of the way, Rep. Glen Grell, R-Hampden Twp., said he is optimistic the pension reform issue that has been a top priority for him will finally move front and center for the Legislature. Giving it a gose, he said, is a notice sent out to school districts from... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 11-21-2013 [**AG Kane announces three major mobile phone carriers to block "cramming"...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 11-21-2013 [**Pa. horse racing agencies said to face insolvency**](#)
HARRISBURG — The two state commissions that regulate horse racing in Pennsylvania are on the brink of insolvency, officials said on Wednesday, and two top state senators are calling for the commissions to be dissolved and the regulatory responsibilities shifted to the Pennsylvania Gaming... - [AP](#)
- 11-21-2013 [**A summary of the \\$2.3B Pa. transportation bill**](#)
HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR WALLET: After tax and fee increases take full effect in five years, gas taxes could go up by as much as 28.5 cents per gallon at the pump, based on the average wholesale price in use for 2013, while drivers would pay more for licenses, registration and some traffic... - [AP](#)

- 11-21-2013 [**Pa. transportation bill could raise gas taxes 28 cents**](#)
HOW IT AFFECTS YOUR WALLET: After tax and fee increases take full effect in five years, gas taxes could go up by as much as 28.5 cents per gallon at the pump, based on the average wholesale price in use for 2013, while drivers would pay more for licenses, registration and some traffic... - [AP](#)
- 11-21-2013 [**Action would protect homeowners against flood rate increases**](#)
WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.) announced his support for legislation that would prevent flood insurance rate hikes for thousands of Pennsylvanians. The bill, the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act would protect up to 30,000 policyholders from rate increases. Pennsylvania is the seventh... - [Milton Standard](#)
- 11-19-2013 [**SNAP cuts are worse than column suggests**](#)
Melinda Henneberger's column "Restocking the Pantries: Private Charity Can't Raise Enough to Feed the Hungry" (Nov. 15) presents a powerful argument that cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program pose an insurmountable challenge to charities attempting to help... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 11-19-2013 [**Bill allowing taverns to offer small games clears Legislature**](#)
The Pennsylvania Senate gave approval Monday afternoon to a bill that will allow thousands of bars and taverns to profit from gambling while keeping some of the profits to boost the state budget. Under the legislation, which now moves to the governor for his signature,... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)