



# The Dairy Business

By  
Newton Bair

By Newton Bair

Last week we witnessed one of the great tragedies of the Space program when the Shuttle Challenger blew up right in view of the Television audience. The terrible sight is one we won't forget for a long time.

Human understanding of the events that shape our lives are constantly being strained to the limit. Since we are reasonable

beings, we like to think that everything that happens has a reason. The reasons that we devise for any given event will probably be colored by the outcome, whether good or bad.

Any understanding that we might achieve concerning the cause of the tragedy must point the way forward rather than discourage further progress. Flaws will be uncovered,

weaknesses will be cited, fingers will be pointed. The dedicated people who are responsible for the space program will leave no stone unturned in their quest for the cause of the accident. Reasons for both successes and failures must be found, defined, and understood.

Tragedy and failure are a necessary, if distasteful part of human existence. Most of us have experienced failure in some degree during our lifetime, or can expect to. Usually it's no big deal, we pick up the pieces and start over. But when the depression and grief keep us on the floor wallowing in self-pity, we only emphasize our human weakness and decrease any chance we might have to survive, correct mistakes, and go on to bigger and better things.

It's no great sin to fail once in a while, as long as the reasons are sought and corrected. Even in the business of farming, a whole batch of unknown quantities may catch a fellow with his shirt tail out. The herd comes down with winter dysentery and milk flow drops to zilch. The tractor engine blows up just before planting time. A wind-

storm blows the barn roof off. The price of corn goes up 20 cents right after you sold the last load. The banker refused your request for a spring loan.

They don't all happen at once, so you call the vet, or overhaul the engine, contact the insurance company, and cuss the fickle markets. The banker might even soften if you handle him carefully. The important thing is seek out the reason and find a way to overcome it.

This letter was inspired by a collective National tragedy which has affected us all to some degree. As long as it is not too close to home, it is easy to forget, and get on with living. Someone else has the responsibility for figuring out

the reasons for the failure and tragedy. It requires only our collective resolve to correct the weakness in the system, and encourage our national pride in further exploration and accomplishment.

In case of the more personal failures or tragedies, big or little, we might find some parallel to this one that affects us all. Reasons should always be sought so that the errors that caused the failure can be corrected. If those reasons that stem from within ourselves are found and overcome, tragedy is turned to triumph, strength emerges from weakness, and tomorrow is bathed in the new light of sweet success.

## Sign-up dates for Conservation Reserve Program set

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block has

announced that sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program will take place March 3 through March 14 at Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service county offices.

Block said approximately 69.5 million acres will be eligible in the 1986 crop year for entry into the program, a provision of the Food Security Act of 1985 that will take highly erodible land out of farming for 10 years and place it into trees or other permanent vegetative cover. Enrollment of approximately five million acres is expected in 1986.

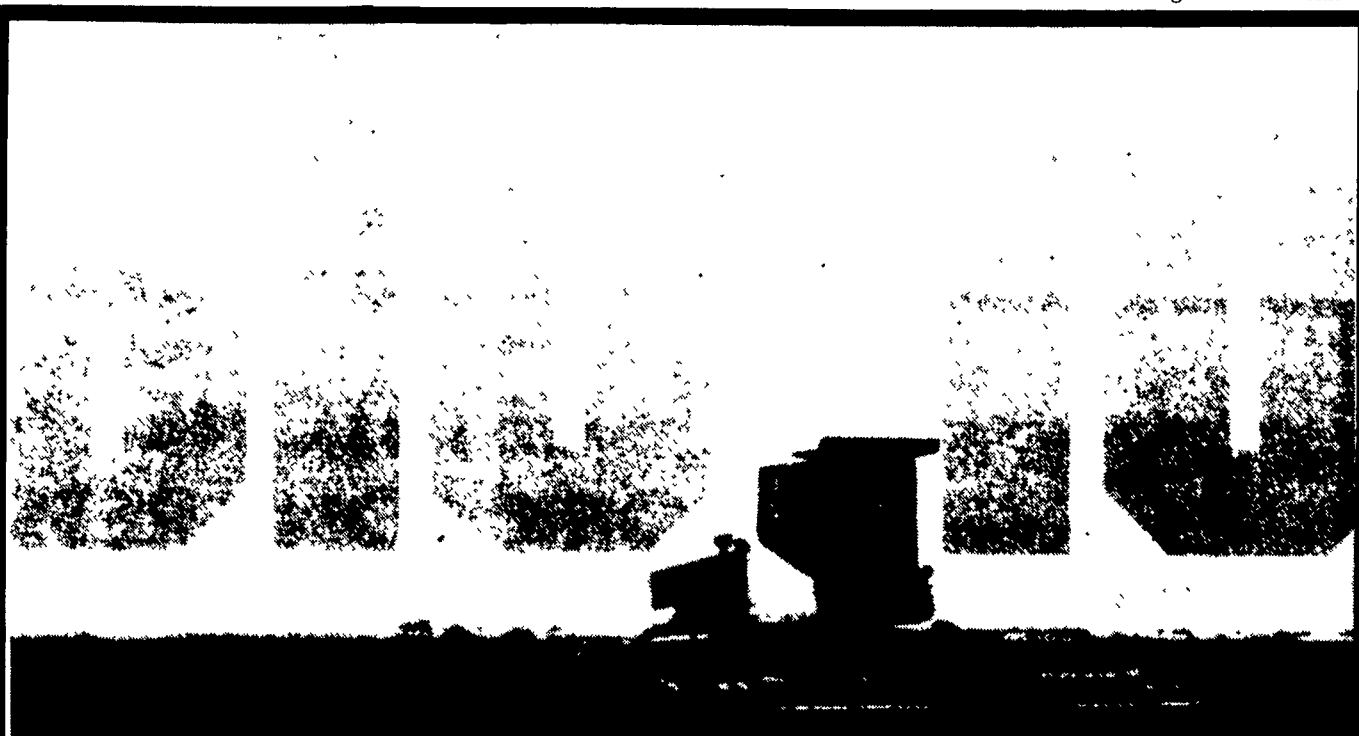
Block said all Class 6, 7, and 8 land is eligible, along with any land in Classes 2 through 5 that is eroding at three times the tolerance level. USDA's Soil Conservation Service will determine the classification or erosion level of land.

Producers wishing to put land into the program must provide a cropping history covering the years 1981 through 1985, Block said. The land must have been planted or considered to have been planted during that period (including land in the Acreage Conservation Reserve or set-aside programs, or land that was in the prevented-planting category). Set-aside or diverted acres are not eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program. Reserve acreage will be over and above amounts needed to qualify for price support programs.

Block said producers must submit bids for annual rental payments at the time of application. There will be 50 percent cost sharing on conservation cover practices. Payments will be either in cash or negotiable (PIK) certificates. There is a \$50,000-per-person, per year, limit on annual rental payments but not on cost shares.

Bases, quotas, and allotments will be reduced by the ratio of cropland on the farm to the amount put into the program. The producer will choose which bases, quotas, or allotments will be reduced over the life of the contract and this history will be preserved over the life of the contract.

County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and Soil Conservation Service offices will have more information before sign-up begins, Block said, and he urged producers to contact these offices for further details or assistance in determining their eligibility.



## WORLD RECORD 10-TON ALFALFA

PLACE YOUR SEED ORDER WITH THE FOLLOWING DEALERS TODAY:

**HONEYBROOK FARM CENTER**  
Honeybrook, PA 19344  
215-273-3554

**FORREY'S AG-SERVICE**  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-397-0035

**REIST SEED CO.**  
Mt. Joy, PA 17552  
717-653-4121

**LANCASTER BONE FERT. CO.**  
Quarryville, PA 17566  
717-786-7348

**LEBANON CHEMICAL CO.**  
Carlisle, PA

**GROFFDALE SEEDS**  
New Holland, PA 17557  
717-656-6295

**PAUL BRUBAKER**  
Mt. Joy, PA 17552  
717-653-4086

**RICHARD LEININGER**  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022  
717-367-3642

10 tons per acre is impressive, but consistency is the real measure of an alfalfa variety's performance. The BIG 10 reputation is built on a documented two-year and three-year average yield!

Some varieties claim one-time high yields, but BIG 10 consistently beat its competitors in the most recent university yield tests.

BIG 10 provides resistance to all the major alfalfa pests including bacterial wilt, anthracnose, phytophthora, and fusarium. It also incorporates excellent seedling vigor with very good winter hardiness.

BIG 10 will provide top tonnage for five years and more, and can return your seed investment in the first cutting. Contact your GREAT LAKES HYBRIDS DEALER today. Supplies are limited!

Dr. M.B. Tesar, Professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University (MSU), recorded a two-year average yield of 10 tons/A with one alfalfa variety for the 1981-82 season. Achieving alfalfa yields of 10 tons/A/year has been compared to producing corn yields of 300 bu/A.

"It appears that this is the highest documented two-year average research yield for nonirrigated alfalfa in the U.S. and in the world," notes Dr. Tesar. "This is three times the regional average for the North Central States."

Many factors working together contributed to the 10-ton yield, a goal in the project since 1968. Yields are based on alfalfa hay at 12% moisture.

### TEN TON +

Alfalfa Distributors  
Division of Servos Seed Corp.  
28 Ringfield, Chadds Ford, PA 19317  
215-388-6039

