

In past years it was relatively easy to change from one crop which did not appear to show much promise, or which for some reason had caused dissatisfaction, and grow another crop which the grower felt was more promising. This is not so easy to do at the present time because no crop shows much promise, and the credit situation is much more rigid than it used to be.

We are primarily interested in potatoes. Normally, we would have expected an increase in potato acreage because of the more favorable price expectation under past price cycles. However, the outcome of last season and the outlook as given for this year do not encourage the farmers to plant, or any one to over-expand his credit for potato acreage. Current reports indicate that the fertilizer companies will restrict credits even below last year's restrictions, when the acreage fell to the lowest for many years. Such reports are current on the Eastern Shore each year, and still a considerable acreage is planted despite such rumors. However, it seems as though there is considerable foundation for the truthfulness of reports of this nature.

On the other hand, the Emergency Seed Loan will be used to a much greater extent than ever before. Apparently, this will not mean an increase in acreage, but simply that more people will use it and possibly with the intention of restricting their acreage to that which can be planted with the funds available under that loan. The rehabilitation credit extensions, apparently, will be about the same as last year. Again, the lack of home-grown seed will make potato growing more expensive than it was last year. Analyzing the situation as best it can be done at present, it would indicate that there will be a somewhat smaller acreage of white potatoes planted on the Eastern Shore of Virginia than there was last year.

Perhaps it would not be amiss to say that there is a greater feeling of pessimism among the farmers than has been observed for many years. They have little faith in the successful outcome of any crop that they may plant, and little hope that any of the present programs offer them any degree of financial security. (Feb. 11).—G. S. RALSTON.

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#### ERRATUM

In the article by A. H. Eddins in the January issue, page 7, table 1, Scranton fine sand 1938, column 3 should read "0.2" instead of "0.1;" and, Bladen fine sandy loam 1938, column 3 should read "0.4" instead of "0.2." Page 8, line 6-7 should read "0.4 per cent the third year" instead of "2.0 per cent the third year."