Delmarva farmers are bullish on beans

CHESTERTOWN, MD -If farmers follow through on their April 1 intentions, the June 27 U.S. Department of Agriculture first planting report of the season will show soybean acreage higher than a year ago in the Delmarva and Mid-Atlantic areas, but lower in most other parts of the nation.

The state-by-state breakdown will probably show Maryland soybean acreage about even with last year's all-time record But soybean acreage intentions

Md. Angus Assoc. plans field day

WOODBINE, Md. - The Maryland Angus Association will be holding their annual Field Day on July 12, at Back Acres Angus in Mount Airy, Maryland.

The farm, operated by the Emmett Full Family, is located on Twin Arch Road, one mile north of the Mt. Airy exit off I-70 between Frederick and the Baltimore

The Fulls have prepared a program that begins with registration at 9 a.m. Activities include judging contests, speakers, displays and demonstrations, a delicious beef luncheon and tour of the Back Acres registered Angus herd and cattle feeding operation.

There is no registration fee and all cattle enthusiasts are welcome. For information, contact the Maryland Angus Assoc., 1868 Rt. 94, Woodbine, Md. 21797, phone 301/489-4519





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indicate a rise of six per cent in Delaware and 11 per cent in Virginia, with an over-all rise of six per cent for the Delmarva Peninsula.

Some possible ex-planations for this were offered last week by Extension specialists at the University of Maryland in College Park. John L. Crothers, Jr., senior marketing specialist in agricultural and resource economics, and David B. Jones, grain and oil crops specialist in the agronomy department, agreed that the following explanations seem most logical:

-Farmers are cutting down on high fertilizer costs by switching to soybeans, which require less nitrogen

-Delmarva tarmers can be more flexible with cropping plans than Midwest farmers because the lighter soils on the Delmarva peninsula require waiting until spring before broadcasting nitrogen fertilizer for corn

-Double-cropping permits Delmarva farmers to grow both small grain and soybeans on the same land in a single year. This cuts down production costs for each crop. And the late-planted soybeans seem to yield as well, on the average, as early-planted soybeans grown on a single-crop basis.

Improved varieties of soybeans have played a big part in the success of doublecropping.

Meanwhile, rising costs of

production for corn, wheat and soybeans make it difficult to produce these crops at a profit on a single-crop basis, Crothers points out. The outlook doesn't seem likely to change during the current crop year.

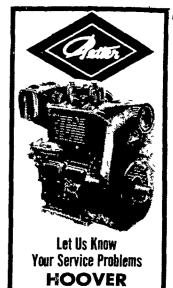
Cash soybean prices have improved slightly since April 1, Crothers noted, but corn prices have remained virtually unchanged. So there has been little reason for Delmarva farmers to lose their relative enthusiasm for soybeans since they indicated their April 1 planting intentions.

The Maryland specialist notes, however, that cash prices for soybeans this spring have been running about \$1.50 per bushel less than a year ago. Corn prices

are virtually unchanged from 1979 spring levels. So, many Delmarva farmers may still be remembering last year's favorable ratio for soybean prices relative to corn prices.

Finally, the Delmarva peninsula is steadily evolving into one of the major soybean-producing areas in the nation. Records of the Maryland Crop Reporting Service show that Delmarva soybean acreage has increased every year for more than a decade.

In 1969, there were 390.9 thousand acres of soybeans harvested on the Delmarva peninsula. By 1979, this figure had increased to 664 thousand. This year's acreage will probably be nearly double that of 1969.



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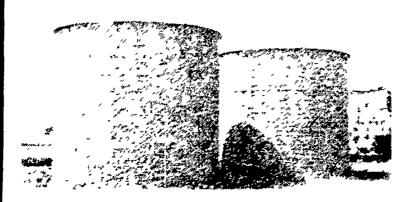
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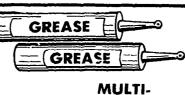
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