

The Herald's Weekly Page of Kentucky Farm News

Farm Mortgage Loans Decrease

Principal Demand Is For Short Term Credits For Farm Operating Purposes.

Decline in the demand for farm land mortgage finance and rapid increase in the volume of short-term credit for operating farms marks the present trend of service of the farm credit administration to Kentucky farmers, John E. Brown, President, The Louisville Bank for Cooperatives, reported in addressing the state coordination meeting of the National Emergency Council "Emergency refinancing of farm mortgages by the Federal Land Bank was practically completed in Kentucky early last year," said Mr. Brown. "Current loans on land mortgages are being made chiefly for normal purposes of land purchase and improvement. Short-term credit extended by the 12 Production Credit Associations of Kentucky, on the other hand, was more than doubled in volume so far this year as compared with the same period last year. In 1935, the Kentucky pro-

duction credit association made 3,273 loans for \$1,482,000. During January, February and March this year, 1,506 production credit association loans for \$557,000 were closed by associations of the state. Farmers of the four states comprising the Fourth Farm Credit Administration District have already purchased and paid for over \$500,000 in capital stock of these short-term credit cooperatives, and through their National Farm Loan Associations now own nearly \$12,000,000 of the capital stock of the Federal Land Bank of Louisville.

"Baby Farms"

(Cincinnati Enquirer)

"Ten Acres Enough" is the title of a book in which the author attempts to demonstrate that a family of five can live comfortably on a tract of ground that small.

In the more distant Cincinnati suburbs there are many such little farms. The real estate agents call them "baby farms." Ten acres devoted mostly to what in New England is designated as "garden sass" will not only keep a family of five in food, but will provide a considerable surplus for sale. Of course, to accomplish this, intensive cultivation is necessary and every inch of ground must be planted. There is a record of such a baby farm in the western part of the country where one-quarter of an acre in strawberries yielded a gross return of \$275. This was unusual, but it shows what can be done.

The American tradition is to farm on a large scale. The typical farmer wishes a well-balanced farm of more than a hundred acres. He desires pastures, meadows, plowed land, orchard, and wood lot, and he rather scoffs at the care and minute attention to details which are necessary to produce results on a baby farm. Indeed, on many a farm where the fields of corn and wheat are meticulously cultivated, the garden is so neglected as to be almost a weed patch. Often the farmer thinks that quite beneath his notice. Yet were he to pay the same attention to the garden, to a bit of a vineyard, and to patches set in various berries, as he does to the broad acres in corn, he might find to his profit that an acre so planted would produce in money as much as he can get from 10 acres in grain.

No real farmer would think 10 acres enough. But he might turn to his Bible and read that the day of small things is not to be despised. Naturally, 10 acres is not enough for a Kentucky stock farm, and for an Ohio farmer who raises corn for hogs, 10 acres would not go far. Yet to the man who is willing to work, and who knows how to get the most from a baby farm, it can be a young giant.