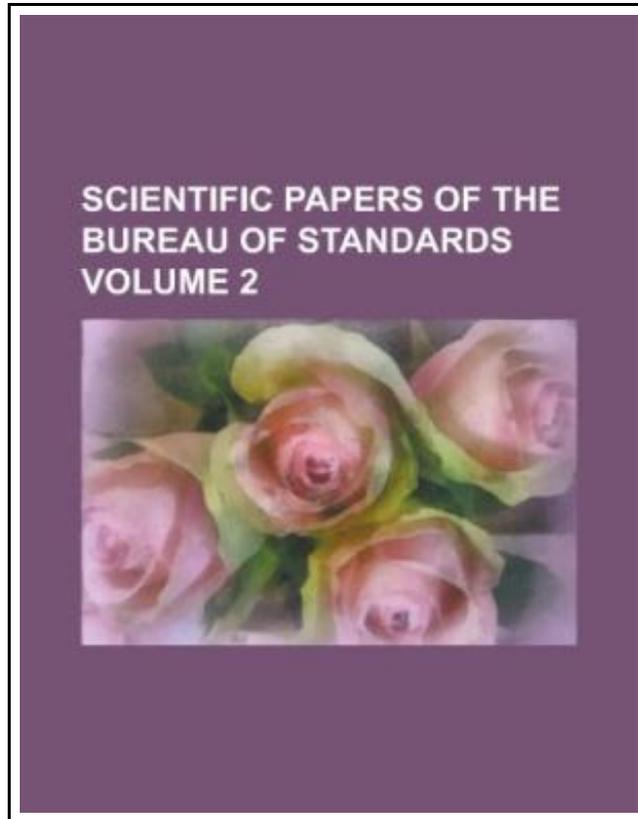


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RareBooksClub. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 34 pages. Original publisher: Washington, D. C. : U. S. General Accounting Office, 2003 OCLC Number: (OCoLC)53403442 Subject: Nitrogen fertilizers -- United States. Excerpt: . . . natural gas prices in 2003 have remained well above historic averages and are continuing to exact a financial toll on the domestic nitrogen fertilizer manufacturing industry. These officials cite the fact that, in June 2003, the U. S. industry was operating at only 50 percent of capacity as evidence of this toll. Further, they said the industry has suffered through several years of extreme financial hardship, caused in part by higher gas prices driving up production costs and foreign competitors who have access to less expensive natural gas and, if gas prices in this country remain relatively high, more U. S manufacturers are likely to curtail nitrogen production, and some could permanently shut down their plants. The production and consumption of fertilizer is often measured by the amount of nutrient content in the fertilizer applied. For nitrogen fertilizer products, the primary nutrient that is measured is nitrogen. Manufacturers supply nitrogen that is consumed in both the agricultural and industrial sectors. Table 1 below provides estimates of nitrogen supply and demand in the United States over the last 7 years, including the nitrogen nutrient content in fertilizer products consumed by the agricultural sector. As the price of natural gas, the key component in the manufacturing of nitrogen spiked in 2001, nitrogen production fell. As shown in table 1, U. S. manufacturers produced 25 percent less nitrogen in 2001 than in 2000. Page 11 GAO-03-1148 Natural Gas This item ships from La Vergne,TN. Paperback.



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