

Soil Service questioned

Despite many years of agricultural research in the State of Alaska, there is insufficient information on the soils and the methods for managing them. Soil, water, and climatological information must be made available to those making decisions for expanding the Alaskan agriculture resources. There is a pressing need to have a complete and thorough description of the soil and water resources in the state of Alaska.

Senator Ted Stevens, during questioning of the Soil Conservation Service, before the Senate Appropriations Committee, stated that there are currently only two soil scientists at the Alaska Experimental Station,

and wanted to know what the Service's plan was for meeting the increasing demand for their services. The Administration's budget calls for only a very small increase in the budget, and Stevens said: "considering inflation, this will mean that there will be a decrease in either program or personnel. I am interested in what your plans are for the Alaska District on this matter".

More land in Alaska will be going into private or state ownership due to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and since many of the Native Corporations are requesting assistance from the S.C.S., Stevens asked what type of services the S.C.S. is planning, and how it will meet the increased demand for information. S.C.S. officials will submit written responses to the Senator's questions.