

# Stevens: Alaska farms need aid to fight pests

Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, has requested Richard Lyng, secretary of agriculture, to provide immediate assistance to Alaska farmers in fighting a grasshopper infestation which threatens the Delta barley crop.

"Alaska farmers are suffering under the worst grasshopper infestation in the history of agriculture in the state," Stevens said. "If the grasshoppers are

not stopped quickly the barley crop will be devastated."

In a telegram to the secretary of agriculture, Stevens requested immediate action on the State Division of Agriculture's application for assistance.

If the application is accepted, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a branch of the Department of Agriculture, will assist in spraying infested federal and state lands, as well as neighboring private fields.