
About seventy-five soil scientists gathered in a plane-grounding fog at the Ramada Inn (1501 South Neil St.) at Champaign, Illinois on Monday, March 2, with J. B. Fehrenbacher presiding.

H. W. Busch, Illinois State Conservationist, S.C.S. made some introductory remarks about Illinois, which stretches 388 miles from the ski slopes of the north to the magnolias and cotton fields of the south. Six of the ten soil orders are found in the state. Increased demands for soil survey information are resulting from (1) more intensive and extensive use of water and land resources, (2) expansion of industrial cities, (3) population explosion, (4) expansion of institutions of higher learning (the state has 92 4-year colleges and universities and 62 2-year Junior colleges). Of the 102 counties in Illinois, 22 have published modern soil surveys, 11 have surveys beginning in 1970. This leaves 63 counties yet to survey. More than 20 county soil surveys are adapted for tax assessment purposes. Six soil and water conservation districts are cooperating in the formation of a N.E. Illinois natural resources center to bring technical agency expertise and automatic data retrieval systems to bear on environmental problems.

G. W. Sallisbury, Director of the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station defined a land grant University as a generator and distributor of information. Urbanites are increasingly in charge of land management decisions. Our work as soil scientists should be specifically aimed at helping the citizenry and not at talking to ourselves.