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staff photo by Sumanesh Agrawal

*A little more to the left!*

Lisa Hartman, a sophomore Geology major from Dallas stretches her muscles before a two-mile run in her Aerobics class. Stretching before running helps prevent injuries to muscles.

*Farmers say they need relief*

**Interest rates damaging**

**United Press International**  
WICHITA, Kan. — With the one-two punch of high interest rates and low farm prices forcing more farms into bankruptcy, farmers told a National Farmers Union hearing that they need help.

Farmers and agricultural leaders from across the state said Tuesday they can't hold out much longer, during a hearing sponsored by the National Farmers Union and the Kansas Farmers Union.

George Stone, president of the National Farmers Union, said the major culprit forcing the rising number of farm mortgage foreclosures is high interest rates. In fact, Stone said many farmers are paying as much as 46 percent of their income toward interest payments. "For every dollar in net farm income, there's \$10.60 cents they owe," he said. "We cannot survive on high interest rates and low prices."

Stone said he wasn't expecting any new information to arise from Tuesday's hearing, but said the testimony gathered there would be distributed to consumer groups, the Reagan Administration and members of Congress "who don't fully understand the situation."

The hearing at the Airport Hilton was the second of nine hearings around the country, with the first held Monday in Lubbock, Texas.

"Our purpose is to get information," Stone said, "and inform people about the real situation on the farm and the depression we're in."

Besides the farmers who spoke at the hearing, several agricultural leaders and agribusinessmen submitted statements Tuesday on the plight of the Kansas farm, including Bob Showalter, president of the Heston State Bank; Harland E.

Priddle, secretary of the Kansas Board of Agriculture; and John Strunk, a member of the Andale Coop Board of Directors.

Among the farmers speaking at the hearing were Tom Giessel of Larned, Joel Daniels of Garden City and Bill Leonard of Hugoton, who all testified that Kansas farmers are going broke and need help in the form of higher prices for their products. Said Stone, "We need some relief."

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