Hall donation

LAWRENCE — It took a $4 million donation to build Kansas University’s 12th scholarship hall, but a $400,000 donation will keep it from falling into disrepair.

The university in January announced that former state legislator and KU alumnus Carl C. Krehbiel had given $4 million to build the school’s 12th scholarship hall. Later this month, the university will announce that Krehbiel has agreed to donate an additional $400,000 to try to keep the building from going on a future deferred-maintenance list.

“When we get the money for a new building, we also should be asking for money to maintain them,” said KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway. “Krehbiel Scholarship Hall will have that.”

Campus leaders, both those in Strong Hall and at the KU Endowment Association, which oversees construction of virtually all new buildings and will manage the gifts, believe this is the first time a new building will open with a special donor-generated fund dedicated to maintenance.

Although the endowment association builds the buildings, they are turned over to the state when they open, with the understanding that the state will pay to maintain them.

As they dealt with the problem of deferred maintenance, Kansas legislators earlier this year suggested that buildings built by donors should not have maintenance solely funded by the state.

—— The Lawrence Journal World
www.ljworld.com
MANHATTAN POLICE SEARCH FOR SERIAL RAPIST

The Associated Press

MANHATTAN, KAN. — Police are on the hunt for a man they say has raped seven college-age women near Kansas State University over the past seven years, the latest attack coming last month.

The man, they say, always wears long-sleeve shirts and dark-colored gloves and covers all but his eyes with a mask. Because of the mask, police don’t have a composite sketch of the suspect and few leads to track down.

That uncertainty has ratcheted up the fear in the college community with parents pressuring law enforcement for more information and professors scheduling crime prevention presentations.

“Whenever there is an attack by this guy, we get lots of calls,” said Mary Todd, director of the university’s Women’s Center. “Calls from people concerned about their safety.”

Police have continued to provide female students with tips on how to stay safe, such as never walking alone and keeping doors and windows locked. They say they want students to avoid becoming the victim of all sorts of criminals.

“If someone is able to protect themselves from the opportunist rapist, you can protect yourself against the serial rapist,” said Capt. John Doehling of the Riley County Police Department, which covers Manhattan. “Yes, we believe there is one guy doing this. But if it was seven different persons committing these crimes over the course of seven years, people would still need to be concerned.”

Studies show the bulk of rapes in a college setting are committed by people who know their victims, either as acquaintances or as a date. But two University of Kansas doctoral students said their research showed women were more afraid of rapes committed by strangers, even though they believed they were more likely to be raped by an acquaintance.

Officials are urging parents to talk to their daughters and make sure they keep the doors and windows to their apartments closed and locked, even during the day.

Female students are also using Wildcat Walk, a service that provides escorts across campus at night. Wildcats Against Rape signed up a record number of new members this semester, about 100 people, compared to the usual 40.

“I think it’s great people are concerned and it’s great people want to get involved,” said Abby Herald, a senior from Pratt and president of the group. “But I think it’s really sad that it has to happen again for people to pay attention to it...This has gone on for years.”

Investigators said they believe the rapist got his start in October 2000 when he tried to rape a woman but ran off after a struggle.

His first successful attack came a year later in August 2001, but it wasn’t until 2004 or 2005, after at least a fourth rape, that police determined they may be related.

The attacker is described as a man 5 feet 10 inches tall, about 200 to 220 pounds and wears long-sleeve shirts, pants and boots.

Investigators said the man tended to do and say the same things during the attacks, better proof of a single assailant, but they aren’t saying what those actions are.

“Those are details that are known to him, the victims and a few of us,” said Doehling. “Those are things we need to keep under our hats... If you have information that he’s a one-armed man, we’d be putting that out there. That’s a pretty good clue. That’s something to look for.
Farm bill founded in days of exodus, brought hope in early part of century

By AMY BICKEL
The Hutchinson News

Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family’s Stafford County farm for 25 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

“I’d go home broke,” he said, noting his weekly situation on a Saturday night signaled what most in the farm sector experienced at the time.

It was around that same period Hayes and his father had wheat on the ground at 30 cents a bushel during the June harvest, then picked it up and took it to the elevator for 25 cents a bushel. The younger Hayes watched as banks and mortgage companies foreclosed on one local farm after another.

“Times were tough,” said Hayes, who recently moved from his Zenith-area farmstead to a senior apartment. “You could buy farms at a bargain price.”

It was a time of mass exodus from rural America. Hundreds of thousands of farms went out of business. Drought and dust storms hurt income, with the average farm household making half or less than nonfarm households.

Commodity prices plummeted due to a surplus of crops. Some farmers found it more prudent to burn corn for fuel than sell it at 10 cents a bushel.

Hayes said there were two banks in Stafford, and the one his parents had their money in went belly up.

Then, Franklin Roosevelt became president, Hayes said, and his administration’s New Deal programs were aimed at saving America’s farms and rural areas. The plan helped farmers recover from the economic collapse of the nation’s heartland.

“He started putting his loving arms around the farm people because he knew they were important,” Hayes said of Roosevelt. “He brought around some farm action.”

Nearly 75 years later

But when Roosevelt signed the first farm policy into law in May 1933, he promised it would be a temporary measure.

Yet more than 70 years later, the plan — though tinkered with over the years — still is in place, and many farmers remain dependent on subsidies to aid their farm income amid a tough farm economy that includes high fertilizer and fuel costs.

This year, the farm bill debate continues as Congress works on its latest measure — expected to pass sometime this fall. But it’s a different era than Roosevelt’s New Deal period, or even a decade ago. Most Americans are far removed from the land that sustains them, unlike the 1930s when 25 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms.

See FARMERS, Page A10

LINDSEY BAUMAN / Hutchinson News
Retired Zenith-area farmer Earl Hayes, 92, was 17 and working on the family farm when the first farm bill was enacted in Congress in 1933. Hayes still owns the land he farmed and just recently sold the family farmhouse and outbuildings.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Today, that figure is less than 2 percent.

The top two priorities for Roosevelt’s administration were to save “the family farm and help rural America,” said Troy Dumler, Kansas State University agriculture economist.

But one question looms for an industry where there are fewer producers farming the same amount of land: Does a program started amid the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

“Thats the million-dollar question, you can basically argue both sides of that,” Dumler said. “Some say it helps a lot. Others say not much.”

A new New Deal

The government stepped in when successful farmers started losing their farms during the Great Depression. Programs established target prices for certain commodity crops, such as corn, wheat, cotton and rice. The program included payments for taking land out of production, as well as conservation efforts, said Donald Worster, a University of Kansas professor who wrote “Dust Bowl, The Southern Plains in the 1930s.”

Roosevelt saw the farm bill as a temporary measure to help boost farm income, Worster said.

“But it became quite permanent. Farmers became part of a welfare state. And for some people, it has meant a lot of money.”

The government has spent $164 billion on farm programs in the last decade, he said, noting the farm bill of the 21st century is no longer a poverty program.

“If you want to combat rural poverty, you give the money to the poorest,” Worster said. “But the subsidies today are going to a relatively small handful of people. They tend to be the richest farmers.”

Policy opponents, including the Environmental Working Group — an advocacy group that tracks farm payments — argue subsidies aren’t helping the rural communities or the small family farmers that the first farm policy intended.

Still, farm bill leaders, such as Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., say the policy needs a lot to a state like Kansas that ranks No. 1 for wheat and grain sorghum production, 10th for soybeans and seventh for corn.

“(It) is more than just about Kansas farmers and ranchers,” Moran told reporters in June during a House subcommittee hearing on the farm bill. “This is about whether or not we have people who populate our state, who live in our smaller communities and whether we have kids in our school systems.”

A different era

About a dozen farm bills have been passed since the creation of the first farm policy during the Roosevelt administration.

Every five to seven years, agricultural policies are evaluated and reauthorized through the federal farm bill. The last passed in 2002.

Those bills have added everything from a food stamp program — a move aimed at gaining urban support of farm programs — to a Conservation Reserve Program, which pays farmers to turn cropland to grassland, Dumler said.

The commodity title of the bill includes 20 different commodities.

The 1996 bill, known as Freedom to Farm and largely authored by Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, was written with an eye to expand agriculture trade and reform U.S. farm policy to comply with the World Trade Organization. The bill offered a program of decreasing income support payments, while giving farmers more planting flexibility and reliance on an open market.

It also removed the last remaining pillar of inventory management — the requirement for farmers to set aside a percentage of their acreage to qualify for government payments.

When farmers were allowed to produce as much as they could, prices collapsed, and the promised export expansion never materialized. Congress responded with a series of $20 billion in “emergency” bailouts during four consecutive years, according to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

Today, there is pressure from various groups and individuals — including environmentalists, the World Trade Organization, members of Congress who represent urban areas and specialty-crop producers who don’t receive government checks — to uproot current policy, Dumler said.

Some say they need subsidies to boost household income, he said. In Kansas, subsidies make up 60 percent of the farm income. And of those receiving subsidies, much of it gets capitalized into land values.

Opponents make the argument that only 40 percent of the nation’s farms receive subsidies, with only 10 percent receiving a majority of the payments. Still others call for capping payments instead of continuing big handouts to wealthy farmers and landowners.

“A lot of people are pushing for reform,” Dumler said. “We still support the same commodities that we did in 1933, but things are way different now. Is support really justified now?”

Still vital?

Stafford County’s Hayes admits he probably wouldn’t have stayed with farming if it hadn’t been for New Deal legislation.

His father gave him interest in 20 acres when he first started farming full-time. Hayes expanded his operation to 2,000 acres that spread across portions of Stafford, Gray, Finney and Reno counties.

In the 1970s, he went to Washington nearly every month to lobby for farm bill legislation as president of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers.

Hayes duly notes the consolidation in the farm sector and has seen farms get bigger while communities shrink around them. Even the cooperative in the small town of Zenith, where he served on the board for 21 years, merged with a larger group.

Hayes began renting his land years ago. A new family moved into his farmhouse last month.

Still, he’d argue with anyone that subsidies are vital to rural America.

“Who pays the taxes in a rural community?” he asked. “It isn’t the person with the two or three children who is working for the co-op.”
By CHRIS GREEN
Harris News Service

TOPEKA — The state's colleges and universities appear to be responsible in referring students to lenders, state Attorney General Paul Morrison announced Tuesday.

However, Morrison also wants the schools to adopt a code of conduct to help protect students and their families from deceptive practices.

"We are confident — after conversation with officials from schools across the state — that they will gladly accept the recommendations we propose," Morrison said in a written statement. "Adopting this 'Code of Conduct' will ensure that the best interest of students are the primary focus."

Morrison's office began a three-month student-lending probe in May by sending out an investigation letter to 55 Kansas schools, including four-year, community and technical colleges.

The inquiry came on the heels of an investigation by New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, whose office discovered hidden financial relationships between loan companies and university officials.

Investigators learned of cozy relationships between lenders and institutions across the country, which included free trips and other perks for university officials. In some cases, companies apparently even provided additional payments to colleges for steering students toward their private loans, which can carry higher interest rates than government-backed loans.

But Morrison's office found that most schools in Kansas considered the competitiveness of lenders were when they made a list of "preferred lenders." They also made information about the selection process available for students to review.

The schools also reported routinely turning down expense-paid trips, meals and temporary clerical assistance. They also now decline gifts of nominal value, such as pens.

"Based on the information collected in our investigation, it does not appear that Kansas schools are engaging in the types of inappropriate or unethical lending practices identified by the New York Attorney General in his investigation of schools in New York and other states," Morrison said.

University of Kansas spokesman Todd Cohen said he hoped Morrison's investigation would provide reassurance for anyone concerned about lending practices here.

At KU, officials already follow a code of conduct and don't accept trips or gifts from private lenders and don't steer students to a list of preferred lenders, he said.

"It's helpful to clear the smoke so it's clear there's no fire in Kansas," Cohen said.

Larry Moeder, director of student financial assistance at Kansas State University, said he wasn't surprised by Morrison's findings.

"I didn't expect there to be anything unusual in Kansas," Moeder said.
FHSU Habitat for Humanity chapter folds

By MICAH MERTES
Hays Daily News

Last fall, a group of students laid out plans for a new student organization at Fort Hays State University. The group set up a campus branch of the Ellis County chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and FHSU joined three other Kansas universities — Kansas State University, University of Kansas, and Sterling College — as an institution with an on-campus Habitat branch.

But now, with construction well under way for the Ellis County chapter's house in Ellis, there's no more group.

"The Fort Hays branch has gone inactive," said Jennie Straight, president of the Ellis County Habitat chapter and an instructor at FHSU. "All of the students who worked on it last year have either graduated or taken jobs elsewhere, and they've not been able to find anyone interested to fill in."

The core group of students who helped set up the organization's framework were part of the Fieldwork and Leadership class — or, more commonly, Leadership 310 — in which students get involved in service projects throughout the community.

The group starting Habitat was interested in spreading awareness and volunteerism throughout the campus. There are four functions of a campus chapter: building, fundraising, advocating and education.

The campus Habitat members managed their way through the red tape of becoming a student organization and carried the group through last academic year. But after students left, there was no one else to run it.

Christie Brungardt, who teaches two sections of the Leadership 310 class at FHSU, said the dissolution of the organization had a lot to do with inopportune timing. When the students were ready to build, the house wasn't being worked on. But now that the house is being worked on, the students aren't around.

Not every project is guaranteed to stick either, she said.

"One of the things the groups of students are graded on is what sustainability measures they ingrain into their project," Brungardt said. "Now, even if they do this correctly, that doesn't always equate to a 100 percent successful project every single time."

Despite the group's inactivity, Brungardt said the group was a strong team of students who did a great job on the project.

Habitat hopes to have the campus branch up and running soon.

Micah Mertes is a reporter for The Hays Daily News and the director of The Stir. He can be contacted at micah@thestironline.com

Students to assist at Ellis Co. chapter's project

By MICAH MERTES
Hays Daily News

While faculty and administrators are hoping soon to reactivate the campus Habitat group, other areas of FHSU are chipping in with Ellis County Habitat's house in Ellis.

Tigers in Service, FHSU's student service organization, has been helping out periodically, sending volunteers to the building site.

"We're going to try to help them build the house," said Rindi Zimmerman, an FHSU freshman and the assistant director of Tigers in Service. "And we're going to go out and help on Make a Difference Day as well."

On Make a Difference Day — Oct. 13 — Tigers in Service aids in different projects throughout the area. This year's central goal will be aiding Habitat.

And the electrical wiring side of things is going to get a big boost from a mechanical and electrical engineering class at FHSU.

"We're going to help out as much as we can," said Joe Chretian, the class' instructor. "We're going to take a class period or two, maybe two half days, to go over to the house and get to work."

Chretian said the first order of business will be getting the outlet boxes ready. He believes he and his students can get a "good chunk" of the electrical work done for Habitat. They need to get started soon, he said, before the weather gets too cold.

Crews typically work on the house, 1809 Walnut in Ellis, on Saturday mornings through the afternoon. When it cools off, they'll be working more, said Jennie Straight, Ellis County Habitat president.

"We've had some wonderful help," she said. "We've had a lot of good people, and we need more."

Habitat broke ground for the Ellis house in June, dug the basement in October and have been working on the house consistently since spring. Straight said she anticipates the house being completed somewhere between late October to Thanksgiving.

Micah Mertes is a reporter for The Hays Daily News and the director of The Stir. He can be contacted at micah@thestironline.com.
Area women pledge to KU sororities

The University of Kansas sororities recently pledged Gretchen Berns, Amber Richmond, and Kari Tajchman as part of the fall formal recruitment.

Pledged to Alpha Chi Omega, Berns is a Peabody-Burns High School graduate and is undecided about her major. She also is a freshman and is the daughter of Fred and Lynn Berns and Helen Berns.

Richmond also pledged to Alpha Chi Omega and is a Marion High School graduate. She is a freshman in pre-pharmacy and is the daughter of Rodney and Diane Richmond.

Tajchman pledged to Gamma Phi Beta and also is a MHS graduate. She is a freshman in pre-journalism and is the daughter of Charles and Kay Tajchman of Marion.
Hutchinson, KS
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From Page: 1
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Redford Zenith area farmer Earl Hayes, 92, was 17 when the first farm bill was enacted in Congress in 1933 while he was working on the family farm. Hayes still owns the land he farmed and just recently sold the family farmhouse and outbuildings. Hayes said the farm bill helped many family farmers in rural America.

"...it became quite permanent. Farmers became part of a welfare state. And for some people, it has meant a lot of money."

- Donald Weis
KU profile:

Depression’s dividends

Seven-five years later, many farmers still depend on ‘temporary’ farm subsidies.

By AMY BICKEL
The Hutchinson News
abickel@hutchnews.com

Earl Hayes was just a 17-year-old kid in 1933, working on his family’s Stafford County farm for 35 cents a week amid the Great Depression.

Now 92, Hayes easily recalls those days, and remembers spending his wages in one night on 10-cent-a-gallon gas and 10-cent movie tickets before heading to the pool hall to blow the rest.

“I’d go home broke,” he said, noting his weekly situation on a Saturday night signaled what most in the farm sector experienced at the time.

It was around that same period that Hayes and his father had wheat on the ground at 30 cents a bushel during the June harvest, then picked it up and took it to the elevator for 25 cents a bushel. The younger Hayes watched as banks and mortgage companies foreclosed on one local farm after another.

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County:
Reno
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This year, the farm bill debate continues as Congress works on its latest measure—expected to pass sometime this fall. But it’s a different era than Roosevelt’s New Deal period, or even a decade ago.

Most Americans are far removed from the land that sustains them, unlike the 1930s when 25 percent of the U.S. population lived on farms. Today, that figure is less than 2 percent.

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But one question looms for an industry where there are fewer producers farming the same amount of land: Does a program started amid the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

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### FARM BILL TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Agricultural Adjustment Act: First “farm bill” established the New Deal mix of commodity-specific price and income support programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act: First direct links created between soil conservation and commodity programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Agricultural Act: Established policy of high, fixed-price supports and acreage allotments as permanent farm policy. Programs revert to the 1949 provisions should a new farm bill fail to pass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Agricultural Act: Introduced flexible price supports to commodity programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Agricultural Act: Established Soil Bank, which introduced use of conservation reserve in addition to acreage control for supply management. The program ended after only 2 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Food and Agricultural Act: Introduced new income support payments in combination with reduced price supports and continued supply controls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act: Introduced target prices and deficiency payments to replace price supports, coupled with low commodity loan rates, to increase producer reliance on markets and allow for free movement of commodities at world prices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Act: First inclusion of title for Food Stamps and other commodity distribution programs in a farm bill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Food Security Act: Introduced marketing loan provisions to commodity loan programs to reduce farm forfeitures by allowing repayment of loans at lower rates when market prices fell, with the intention of reducing government-held surplus grain. Re-established a program to put land into reserve for conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act (Freedom to Farm): Replaced price support and supply control program with program of direct payments based on historical production. Introduced nearly complete planting flexibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Farm Security and Rural Investment Act: Introduced counter-cyclical payments program triggered when current prices fall below a target level, but payments were based on historical production. Introduced working lands conservation payments through the Conservation Security Program. Continued planting flexibility and program of direct payments based on historical production, allowing updating of historical base acres and adding historical soybean acres.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Changes in Agriculture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1900</strong></td>
<td>41 percent of workforce employed in agriculture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1930</strong></td>
<td>21.5 percent of workforce employed in agriculture; Agricultural GDP as a share of total GDP 7.7 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1945</strong></td>
<td>16 percent of the total labor force employed in agriculture; Agricultural GDP as a share of total GDP 6.8 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1970</strong></td>
<td>4 percent of employed labor force worked in agriculture; Agricultural GDP as a share of total GDP 2.3 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2000/02</strong></td>
<td>1.9 percent of employed labor force worked in agriculture (2000); Agricultural GDP as a share of total GDP (2002), 0.7 percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Schools cleared of loan abuse

BY CHRIS GREEN
Harris News Service
cgreen@dailynews.net

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University of Kansas spokesman Tom Coenen said he hoped Morrison's investigation would provide reassurance for anyone concerned about lending practices here.

At KU, officials already follow a code of conduct and don't accept trips or gifts from private lenders and don't steer students to a list of preferred lenders, he said.

Larry Moeder, director of student financial assistance at Kansas State University, said he wasn't surprised by Morrison's findings.

"I didn't expect there to be anything unusual in Kansas," Moeder said.
Farm bill founded in days of exodus

By Amy Bickel
The Hutchinson News

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Subsidies meant as temporary measure to save farms in '30s

Earl Hayes, 92, easily recalls spending 25 cents, his entire week's wages as a farm worker, in one night on the town — on 10-cent-a-gallon gas, 10-cent movie tickets and blowing whatever was left at the pool hall.

"I'd go home broke," he said.

Farmers were driven out of business by drought, dust storms and mortgage foreclosures. The turnaround began, Hayes said, when Franklin Roosevelt became president and launched his New Deal programs aimed at saving America's farms and rural areas.

"He started putting his loving arms around the farm people because he knew they were important," Hayes said.

Among the farmers saved was Hayes. He said he wouldn't have stayed with farming had it not been for the New Deal. Starting with a stake of 20 acres given him by his father, Hayes built his operation to include some 2,000 acres in Stafford, Gray, Finney and Reno counties.

'Temporary' program

When Roosevelt signed the first farm policy into law in May 1933, he promised it would be a temporary measure. Yet more than 70 years later, the plan that includes subsidies to augment farm income is still in place.

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What's at stake?

It was 1933. He was 17. "Times were tough," said Hayes, who recently moved from his Zenith-area farmstead to a senior apartment.

It was a time of mass exodus from rural America. Hundreds of thousands of farm-
Bill / Subsidies going to richest farmers

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It’s been tinkered with over the years, and, indeed, such tinkering is under way this fall as Congress writes its newest version of the farm bill.

The top priorities for Roosevelt’s administration were to save “the family farm and help rural America,” said Troy Dumler, Kansas State University agriculture economist.

But today, when there are fewer farmers and dwindling population in rural communities, one question lingers: Does the program rooted in the Great Depression still help those it was intended to help?

“That’s the million dollar question,” Dumler said. “You can basically argue both sides of that. Some say it helps a lot. Others say not much.”

Though intended to be temporary, the New Deal program “became quite permanent,” said Donald Worster, a University of Kansas professor who wrote “Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s.”

“Farmers became part of a welfare state, and for some people it has meant a lot of money,” he said.

The farm bill no longer is a poverty program, he said.

“If you want to combat rural poverty, you give the money to the poorest,” Worster said. “But the subsidies today are going to a relatively small handful of people. They tend to be the richest farmers.”

Policy opponents, including the Environmental Working Group, an advocacy group, argue that subsidies aren’t helping rural communities or small family farmers, as Roosevelt intended.

Still, Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., says the farm bill means a lot for Kansas, a leading producer of wheat, grain sorghum, soybeans and corn.

“(It is) more than just about Kansas farmers and ranchers,” Moran told reporters in June during a House subcommittee hearing on the farm bill. “This is about whether or not we have people who populate our state, who live in our smaller communities and whether we have kids in our school systems.”

A different era

About a dozen farm bills — one every five to seven years — have been passed since Roosevelt created the first farm policy. Those bills have added everything from a food stamp program — a move aimed at gaining urban support of farm programs — to a conservation reserve program that pays farmers to turn cropland to grassland.

The latest version, the 1996 bill known as Freedom to Farm that was largely authored by Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, was written with an eye to expand agriculture trade and reform U.S. farm policy to comply with the World Trade Organization.

The bill offered decreasing income support payments while giving farmers more planting flexibility and increased reliance on an open market. It also removed the last remaining pillar of inventory management — the requirement for farmers to set aside a percentage of their acreage to qualify for government payments.

The result was collapsed farm prices when production increased, and the promised expansion of exports never materialized. Consequently, Congress approved a series of $20 billion “emergency” bailouts over four consecutive years, according to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

Today, Dumler said, there is pressure from various groups and individuals to uproot current policy, he said. They include environmentalists, the World Trade Organization, congressional members who represent urban areas and specialty-crop producers who don’t receive government checks.

“A lot of people are pushing for reform,” Dumler said. “We still support the same commodities that we did in 1933, but things are way different now. Is support really justified now?”
Manhattan police search for possible serial rapist

KSU dealing with concerns about women’s safety

By The Associated Press

MANHATTAN — Police are on the hunt for a man they say has raped seven college-age women near Kansas State University over the past seven years, the latest attack coming last month.

The man, they say, always wears long-sleeve shirts and dark-colored gloves and covers all but his eyes with a mask. Because of the mask, police don’t have a composite sketch of the suspect and few leads to track down.

That uncertainty has ratcheted up fear in the college community with parents pressuring law enforcement for more information and professors scheduling crime prevention presentations.

“Whenever there is an attack by this guy, we get lots of calls,” said Mary Todd, director of the university’s Women’s Center. “Calls from people concerned about their safety.”

Police have continued to provide female students with tips on how to stay safe, such as never walking alone and keeping doors and windows locked. They say they want students to avoid becoming the victim of all sorts of criminals.

“If someone is able to protect themselves from the opportunist rapist, you can protect yourself against the serial rapist,” said Capt. John Doehling of the Riley County Police Department, which covers Manhattan. “Yes, we believe there is one guy doing this. But if it was seven different persons committing these crimes over the course of seven years, people would still need to be concerned.”

Studies show the bulk of rapes in a college setting are committed by people who know their victims, either as acquaintances or as a date. But two University of Kansas doctoral students said their research showed women were more afraid of rapes committed by strangers, even though they believed they were more likely to be raped by an acquaintance.

Officials are urging parents to talk to their daughters and make sure they keep the doors and windows to their apartments closed and locked, even during the day.

Female students are also using Wildcat Walk, a service that provides escorts across campus at night. Wildcats Against Rape signed up a record number of new members this semester, about 100 people, compared to the usual 40.

“I think it’s great people are concerned and it’s great people want to get involved,” said Abby Heraud, a senior from Pratt and president of the group. “But I think it’s really sad that it has to happen again for people to pay attention to it. This has gone on for years.”

Investigators said they believe the rapist got his start in October 2000 when he tried to rape a woman but ran off after a struggle.

Investigators said the man tended to do and say the same things during the attacks, better proof of a single assailant, but they aren’t saying what those actions are.

“Those are details that are known to him, the victims and a few of us,” said Doehling. “Those are things we need to keep under our hats. If you have information that he’s a one-armed man, we’d be putting that out there. That’s a pretty good clue. That’s something to look for.”

“But here, we’re talking about methods and tactics.”

The victims range in age from 18 to 25 and have lived within a mile or two of each other in the small town. Five of them were attacked between May and September, although one attack was in March and another in December.

At least five victims lived in apartments while another lived in a single-family home. Police won’t say how the suspect gained entry.

Investigators are also mum on whether they have DNA or other evidence collected at the crime scenes.

They have brought in the FBI to help profile the attacker, although they avoid calling him a serial rapist.

While investigators have few details to share, some in town feel the incidents need to be discussed more to raise awareness and make sure students are protecting themselves.

“When we have a heinous crime happening, let’s talk about it,” said Todd, of the Women’s Center. “I know there’s a line. Police want a good investigation so the guy is caught as soon as possible and there’s good prosecution after that.”

“But that’s one side of the line. Public safety is on the other.”

wears long-sleeve shirts, pants, and boots.

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