

French farmers cut off Paris with tractors

1st February 2024

Easier



French farmers are angry with their government. They are blocking roads around France's capital city of Paris. There are many reasons for the farmers' anger. It is becoming more difficult for them to survive. Inflation in France is increasing because of high energy prices. This is making food more expensive for farmers to produce. The war in Ukraine is causing higher prices, especially for fertilizers. The farmers are also angry because the government is not protecting them from cheaper food coming from other countries, especially those in Eastern Europe. Finally, they are furious with European Union climate measures, which are adding to red tape and the costs of doing business.

The farmers blocked major highways around Paris. They parked their tractors on main roads to stop traffic going in and out of the city. They also dumped smelly agricultural waste outside government offices. Farmer Christophe Rossignol told the Associated Press news agency: "We've come to defend French agriculture. We go from crisis to crisis." Another farmer said: "Parisians are going to be hungry. The goal is to starve Parisians." A large farmers union said: "Our objective is to put pressure on the government so that we can quickly find a solution for a way out of the crisis." Some tractors had messages on them that said: "No food without farmers" and "The end of us would mean famine for you."

Sources: [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com) / [thehill.com](https://www.thehill.com) / [aljazeera.com/breakingnewsenglish.com](https://www.aljazeera.com/breakingnewsenglish.com)

DISCUSS

"Countries should grow enough food to feed all of their people." Do you agree or disagree? Why (not)?

True / False

1. The French government is angry with French farmers. T / F
2. Inflation in France is making it more difficult for farmers to survive. T / F
3. France's government is protecting farmers from cheap food imports. T / F
4. Blue tape is making the cost of doing business higher. T / F
5. Farmers used combine harvesters to block roads around Paris. T / F
6. Farmers put bad-smelling waste outside government offices. T / F
7. A farmer said his aim was to make people in Paris hungry. T / F
8. Some farmers said there would be famine if there were no farmers. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in bold are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. angry | a. actions |
| 2. reasons | b. answer |
| 3. protecting | c. bureaucracy |
| 4. measures | d. food shortages |
| 5. red tape | e. furious |
| 6. blocked | f. disaster |
| 7. dumped | g. shielding |
| 8. solution | h. threw away |
| 9. crisis | i. causes |
| 10. famine | j. obstructed |

DISCUSS MORE

- 1) What does your government do that makes you angry?
- 2) What do you think of a farmer's life?
- 3) How important are farmers?
- 4) What would you think if people stopped you getting to a major city?
- 5) What do you think of your capital city?
- 6) What do you think of inflation?
- 7) How are higher prices affecting you?
- 8) What should France do to help the farmers?
- 9) Would you like to start your own business?
- 10) What advice do you have for farmers?

Speaking – Anger

Which angers you the most? Rank these items from 1 (top) to 8 (bottom).

- ___ money
- ___ Wifi
- ___ rude people
- ___ our government
- ___ family
- ___ transport
- ___ shopping
- ___ ourselves