

# Annotation Task Code Book: Farmer Protests in Europe

## Background

Between November 2023 and March 2024, Europe witnessed a significant number of farmer protests, driven by various factors. For background information on these protests, please see “Finger, R., Fabry, A., Kammer, M., Candel, J., Dalhaus, T., and Meemken, E-M., 2024. Farmer Protests in Europe 2023-2024. *Euro Choices* ([Link](#)).

The aim of this annotation task is to categorize short event descriptions of farmer protests according to specific reasons behind the protests. This code book provides detailed instructions and guidelines for labeling the event descriptions. Your careful attention to the definitions of each label is crucial for the consistency and reliability of the dataset.

This is a multilabel annotation task. Multilabel annotation refers to a classification task where each data instance (e.g., a text chunk) can be associated with multiple labels simultaneously, as opposed to single-label classification where each instance is assigned only one label. In multilabel classification, the output for each instance can include zero, one, or several labels from a predefined set, depending on the content. For example, a news article might be classified under religion, politics, finance, and education at the same time, or it may not fit into any of these categories and thus receive no labels.

## Task Overview

You will be labeling a sample of **215 short event descriptions** related to farmer protests in Europe. Your goal is to identify the underlying reasons for each protest as described in the event descriptions and label them accordingly.

## Instructions

### 1. Labeling Process:

- Open the provided Excel file (annotation\_farmer\_protests.xlsx).
- Each row contains a short event description.
- The first row of the file contains the labels for categorization.

### 2. Label Definitions:

- The following labels describe potential reasons for the protests:

	Label	Description
1	Rising Production Costs	Protests driven by the increasing costs of production, including fuel, fertilizers, insurance, and energy, and other agricultural inputs, impacting farm profitability and contributing to financial pressures on farmers.
2	Opposition to EU Free-Trade Agreements	Protests and demonstrations against the ratification of the EU's free-trade agreements, demanding that partner countries comply with EU agricultural standards to ensure fair competition and protect local farmers' interests and maintain market stability.

3	Environmental Regulations and Agricultural Standards	Protests against various agricultural policies set by the European Union, including the Green Deal, and Common Agricultural Policy. Protesters oppose stricter environmental norms and regulations, particularly those related to pesticide and nitrogen use, which are perceived as overly restrictive and detrimental to agricultural practices.
4	Bureaucratic Constraints	Protests against excessive bureaucratic processes and administrative burdens related to agricultural operations, state support, and subsidies that farmers believe hinder operational efficiency, productivity, sustainability in the agricultural sector. Protesters lament complex regulatory frameworks, excessive paperwork, and compliance requirements.
5	Opposition to Imports of Agricultural Products	Demonstrations and actions targeting the import of agricultural products from foreign countries, particularly Ukraine, which are perceived to undercut local market prices and harm domestic farmers. The movements emphasize the need for fair production prices and express concerns over the quality of imported goods, which are seen as detrimental to consumer trust and local agricultural markets.
6	Subsidy Cuts	Protests against government plans to cut or delay subsidies and tax exemptions critical to the agricultural sector. These protests often focus on issues such as reductions in agricultural diesel subsidies, vehicle tax exemptions, and overall financial support necessary for farm operations. The protests reflect a broader demand for increased state support and highlight the economic challenges faced by the agricultural community due to inadequate subsidies and budget cuts.
7	Climate and Natural Disaster Relief	Protests and movements advocating for relief measures and compensation for farmers to offset the consequences of droughts, floods, and other climate-related natural disasters impacting agricultural production. These movements emphasize the urgent need for financial support, sustainable practices, and specific policies to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental challenges on agricultural production.
8	Labor and Social Conditions	Movements and protests advocating for improved working and social conditions for farmers and farm workers, including disputes over working hours, fair pay, safety, financial security, health, and support measures during crises. They also call for greater recognition and appreciation of their work.
9	Solidarity Movements	Demonstrations showcasing support among farmers and other sectors, jointly advocating for farmers' recognition, and addressing shared economic challenges, regulatory burdens, and broader social issues such as anti-racism, immigrant rights, and social equality across Europe.
10	Opposition to Renewable Energy Projects	Demonstrations opposing large-scale renewable energy projects, such as wind and solar parks, due to concerns about their negative impact on agricultural land, practices, and local environments.
11	Economic Struggles and Agricultural Livelihoods	Protests addressing the economic challenges faced by farmers, including low production prices, high costs, debt relief and demands for financial support, better working conditions and survival of the agricultural sector.

12	Consumer Awareness Initiatives	Efforts to raise awareness among consumers to educate the public on agricultural issues and the effects of policies on food production and pricing, often involving direct actions at retail locations.
13	Livestock and Animal Welfare Protests	Protests focused on the challenges faced by livestock breeders, including concerns over animal welfare regulations, insufficient financial support, market conditions, and the impact of EU policies on livestock and beekeeping, that are seen as detrimental to farmers' livelihoods.
14	Opposition to Non-Traditional Products	Protests against laboratory-made meat, insect-based flour, and other novel agricultural products perceived to threaten traditional farming practices and cultural authenticity.
15	Infrastructure and Transport Policies	This category encompasses various demonstrations aimed at addressing grievances related to infrastructure and trade policies. Key issues include unfavorable trade and transport policies affecting transport companies, particularly in cross-border scenarios, as well as local environmental concerns. The protests frequently involve stakeholders such as truck drivers, transport unions, and local communities advocating for fair labor regulations and sustainable infrastructure development.
16	National and Local State Support	Protests and demonstrations focused on the need for increased state financial support and subsidies for the agricultural sector, addressing issues like low compensation, economic difficulties, and specific local and national policies affecting farmers.
17	Fair Compensation and Market Practices	Protests centered around low prices paid for agricultural products, which are seen as insufficient to cover the costs of production and ensure a viable income for farmers, protection for local farmers against low-cost foreign products, fairer compensation from large retailers, and addressing unfair trade practices that impact local farmers.
18	Miscellaneous Agriculture-Related Protests	Protests and demonstrations related to various miscellaneous aspects of the agricultural sector. It includes issues such as technological regulations, employment and training, public health and safety, immigration and trade, environmental sustainability, political demands, and unique local grievances.

**Note:** These descriptions are also visible if you hover over the label names in the first row of the annotation file (you can always re-read those).

### 3. Filling the Labels:

- If a label applies to the event description, enter a **1** in the corresponding cell.
- If a label does not apply, enter a **0** in the corresponding cell.
- You **may assign multiple labels** to each event description if applicable.
- Kindly identify and **assign all relevant labels** that correspond, in your assessment, to the event description.
- If none of the labels apply, assign a **1** to the **“Other”** label.
- After completing a row, a new event description will be provided for labeling. Continue this process row by row until you have labeled all 215 descriptions.
- Example:

