

**Scott Roberts**  
**First Witness Statement**  
**Party: Claimants**  
**[Exhibit: SR1]**  
**Date: 15 January 2025**  
**Claim No:**

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**  
**KING'S BENCH DIVISION**  
**BETWEEN**

- (1) WM MORRISON SUPERMARKETS LIMITED**
- (2) SAFEWAY STORES LIMITED**
- (3) WM MORRISON PRODUCE LIMITED**

**Claimants**

**- and -**

- (1) PERSONS UNKNOWN AS DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULE 1 ATTACHED TO  
THE CLAIM FORM**
- (2) PERSONS UNKNOWN AS FURTHER DESCRIBED IN THE SCHEDULE 1  
ATTACHED TO THE CLAIM FORM**

**Defendants**

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**Exhibit "SR1"**

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# Somerset farmers in Robert Wiseman plant blockade

🕒 23 July 2012



| Supporters pledge to continue their action with Farmers for Action calling it a "necessity"

**Up to 400 farmers have taken part in a second blockade at the Robert Wiseman milk processing plant in Somerset.**

The farmers are protesting at supermarket prices which they say are driving them out of business.

James Badman, from Farmers for Action, said: "Such is the strength of feeling they're even turning out after a long day of haymaking and silage making."

Robert Wiseman said it had contingency measures in place to deal with disruption at its centres.

## 'Completely powerless'

A company spokesman said: "We have long standing contingency plans in place and a network of dairies across which we can process milk to meet the requirements of consumers.

"We fully understand the strength of feeling amongst dairy producers but we are not in a position to fund a milk price at the level it was prior to the global collapse in the value of cream.

"It is our hope that the market for cream which is at the core of this issue will quickly find a balance which will allow us to return improved prices to farmers."

Ministers are holding [talks](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-18946221) BBC website: Milk price protests between farmers and milk processing companies on Monday in an attempt to resolve the situation.

Mr Badman said: "There are some supermarkets paying a sustainable price, albeit only the cost of production, but there does have to be a major shift in the power of the supply chain, because we are left completely powerless.

"It's going to go on until we get what we need because it's not greed that's driving this, it's necessity - we're going to be five pence below the cost of production."

On Thursday evening, more than 200 farmers in Somerset blockaded the Robert Wiseman plant.

A smaller blockade involving 30 tractors also took place on Thursday evening at the Morrisons distribution centre near Bridgwater.

## More on this story

### Draft deal in milk price dispute

23 July 2012

# Dairy farmers blockade Morrisons' depots

Johann Tasker 22 April 2013



Dairy farmers blockaded two supermarket distribution centres in a further night of protests over milk prices.

Farmers targeted the Morrisons distribution centres at Wakefield, West Yorkshire; and Gadbrook Park, Northwich, Cheshire.

Articulated lorries were forced to queue in the road as tractors blocked the entrance, preventing vehicles from entering and leaving the depots.

The protests follow similar demonstrations over the past week by members of Farmers For Action at supermarket distribution centres in the Midlands.

Protests centred on the Co-operative supermarket, with protestors targeting the retailer's distribution centre at Alfreton, Derbyshire.

Farmers continue to warn that farmgate milk prices must rise to meet increases in input costs. Many are losing 4p/litre or more on every litre produced.

The dairy co-operative First Milk has conceded that price cuts are a possibility. It has blamed downward price pressure on retailers, accusing them of refusing to pay more for cheese.

After the Alfreton protest, it emerged that the Co-operative had already increased the amount it paid First Milk for cheese production.

Protestors have now turned their attention to Morrisons, which is also a First Milk customer.

First Milk has said discussions with its retail customers are continuing in a bid to stave off the prospect of price cuts for producers supplying milk under its cheese contract.

These farmers are bracing themselves for a cut of up to 2p/litre from June unless the talks are successful in increasing higher cheese prices.

If they fail, the fear is that other milk buyers will also cut farmgate milk prices.

The protests raise the prospect of another summer of discontent following last year's SOS Dairy protests, which saw thousands of farmers take to the streets.

Farmers For Action chairman David Handley has accused dairy processors of "cherry-picking" from a voluntary code of practice designed to ensure fair farmgate milk prices.

Mr Handley is due to address a crisis meeting due to be held at Holsworthy Memorial Hall, Devon, this Wednesday (24 April).

Hundreds of farmers are expected to attend the meeting – many of them travelling to the venue in a convoy of tractors and farm vehicles.

## More on this topic

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### **Somerset milk protest**

Farmers are blockading a supermarket distribution centre in Somerset. They're stopping lorries entering or leaving Morrison's in Bridgwater in a protest about low supermarket milk prices.

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1. 5 September 2013 at 8:52pm

### **Dairy farmers form a blockade at supermarket depot**

As many as 70 dairy farmers are tonight blockading the Morrisons distribution depot in Somerset in a row over milk prices.

They arrived earlier this evening, bringing with them 15 tractors to stop lorries getting in and out of the warehouse by the M5 at Bridgwater.

They're angry about low supermarket milk prices which they say are driving them out of business.

Last updated Mon 8 Dec 2014

1. [Read more](#)
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### Farmers' Milk Protest

Hundreds of farmers protesting this evening in Somerset over milk prices

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1. 20 July 2012 at 11:13am

### Angry farmers protest over milk prices

Hundreds of angry dairy farmers across the South West blockaded the Robert Wiseman Dairy and a Morrisons Depot in Bridgwater last night. It was in protest over a 4 pence cut in milk prices in the last three months. They parked their tractors in front of the plant, preventing deliveries.

# Sorry

This video does not exist.

Last updated Sat 19 Jul 2014

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# Bridgwater milk protest sees farmers block Morrisons depot

🕒 8 October 2014



Farmers for Action said protesters would stay at the Morrisons depot until someone from the company comes out

**More than 50 tractors are blocking two entrances to the Morrisons distribution centre near Bridgwater in Somerset.**

Dairy farmers are protesting over a drop in the price they get for milk.

Several Morrisons vehicles are stuck at the depot and Farmers for Action said protesters would stay until someone from the company talks to them.

Avon and Somerset Police said the protest was affecting the A38 into Bridgwater and junction 23 of the M5, and diversions were in place.

Hundreds of farmers blockaded the Muller Wiseman plant in Market Drayton, Shropshire on Monday.

With fresh price cuts announced this week, the amount farmers receive for their milk has been slashed each month for the last four months.

Some farmers now say they face revenue losses of up to 25%.

The National Farmers Union (NFU) has urged supermarkets to pay more for milk.

## More on this story



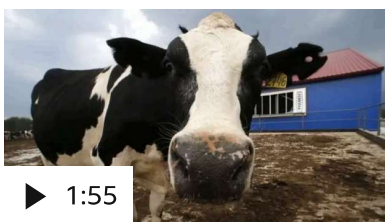
### Dairy farmers quit due to losses

8 October 2014



### Farmers stage milk price protest

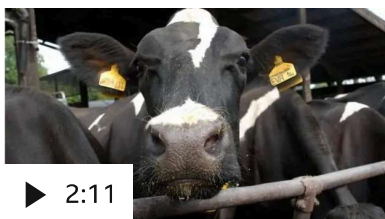
7 October 2014



▶ 1:55

### NFU urges support for dairy farmers

6 October 2014



▶ 2:11

### Global milk glut affects dairy prices

6 October 2014

# Protestors target Morrisons over milk prices

**Johann Tasker** 31 October 2014



Dairy farmers have targeted supermarket giant Morrisons in the latest protest against low milk prices.

Milk producers blockaded the retailer's distribution centre at Gadbrook Park, Cheshire, on Thursday (30 October).

The distribution centre on the outskirts of Northwich is understood to cover 850,000ft and is said to be Morrison's third largest depot.

Lorries were brought to a standstill for more than four hours as tractors and other farm vehicles were parked outside the depot gates.

Farmers have accused Morrisons of devaluing milk and undermining the dairy sector, with many farmers losing money on every litre produced.

They have also accused the retailer of putting pressure on processors by re-tendering its liquid milk deal. Morrisons current five-year contract is due to end in 2015.

The supermarket chain has responded by expressing “real sympathy” for farmers it says are suffering from “unparalleled movements” in global dairy commodity prices.

Morrisons says it plans to unveil a [new-style liquid milk contract aimed at helping farmers cope with sharp ups and downs in prices](#) .

A mechanism to address market fluctuations is said to be “well-advanced” – possibly a new contract to pay farmers a price transparently linked to movements in dairy commodities.

But milk producers remain unbowed, with protests expected to be stepped up over the coming weeks as the autumn maize harvest is completed.

Likely targets include the Co-op and Iceland – the latter which has been selling four pints of milk for as little in 89p in a bid to win customers from its rivals.

Some farmers have clocked up more than 1,500 miles in the past month to join their fellow milk producers at protests from Hampshire to Staffordshire, Somerset and Derbyshire.

Pressure group and protest co-ordinators Farmers For Action says retailers must realise that British milk producers deserve and must earn a sustainable milk price.

But the NFU says blockades are not the answer.

NFU dairy board chairman Rob Harrison said: “Blockading dairies is not a sensible option when, for me, it is not clear how or if it will actually deliver more money for farmers.

“We need to look at what changes are necessary in the industry for farmers to achieve fair and sustainable milk prices, and that is a long-term exercise.”

# Dairy farmers blockade two Morrisons depots

Philip Case 21 November 2014



© James Williams, Twitter: @jbwills007)

**Dairy farmers blockaded two Morrisons distribution centres as they stepped up their fight against milk price cuts.**

Up to 200 farmers used about a dozen tractors to prevent lorries from accessing the Morrisons' depot in Middlewich, Cheshire.

Protest organisers Farmers For Action (FFA) said the blockades on Thursday (20 November) prevented lorries from getting in and out of the site.

By around midnight dozens of the retailer's lorries were seen parked up on roads from Gadbrook, up to one mile from the depot. The protest ended at around 2am.

Meanwhile, a second demonstration at the Morrisons distribution centre in Bridgwater, Somerset, caused similar disruption to the milk delivery services.

See also: [Protesters target Morrisons ove...](#)

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# Supermarkets targeted in night of farmer-led protests

**Proud to Farm group takes supply chain fairness fight to Tesco, Morrisons, Asda and Sainsbury's**

Jane Thynne

16 October 2023 • 2 min read

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**Image:** Asda distribution centre in Chepstow was just one of the locations targeted by farmers

Farmers around the country staged blockades at several supermarkets in a protest over unfair pricing in the supply chain.

Members of Proud to Farm said they had been forced to take direct action and took to social media to appeal for farmers, producers and members of the public to join them at more than 30 supermarket distribution sites at 7pm last Friday (October 13).

The group had launched a campaign via **TikTok** which revealed the location of more than 30 distribution centres belonging to Asda, Sainsbury's, Morrisons and Tesco which were due to be targeted.



Tractors made their way to various locations with farmers nationwide pledging their support.

In Wales, FUW members joined protests outside Asda's distribution centre in Chepstow. The two-hour action saw around 15 lorries prevented from leaving.

One member told Farmers Guardian: "It was relatively small but it was effective. The aim was to let supermarket managers know that farmers are not happy with the current environment. Prices and contracts are just not sustainable.


"It was very peaceful and the lorry drivers were very supportive of our message."




Hampshire-based pig farmer Flavian Obiero pledged his backing saying he would be joining the protest to 'support the industry I love!'

**Flavian Obiero**    
@kenyanpigfarmer · [Follow](#)

I'm a proud farmer and I'll be showing my support for the industry I love, tomorrow at 7pm in Southampton, SO16 0BW. See you there.  
[#enoughisenough](#)

Watch on X

7:58 PM · Oct 12, 2023 from Fareham, E 

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Farm worker and Proud to Farm group member Becky Dack from North Yorkshire said the aim of the action was not to cause disruption or to upset to anyone but to let people know how farmers are being treated.

"We just want to be heard," she said. "We have been ignored for years and we need [supermarkets] to know that we can be seen.

"Farmers just want a **fair price**. We want the public to understand that if they buy local, then they are supporting local farmers. We understand some food has to be imported and that people want to shop at supermarkets but if you can buy British you may as well buy British.

"It is about **fairness**. Supermarkets are announcing record profits while many people who produce the food are living below the poverty line. It is wrong."

Ms Dack who has more than 35,000 followers on TikTok said it is not about making consumers to pay more but asking retailers to distribute the profits more fairly.

Fellow supporter and Lancashire-based farmer Eden Muzzall has also publicised the campaign, explaining to followers how farmers are impacted by current supply chains rules and encouraging members of the public to get behind the protest.





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## "Supermarket Meet" ..... tractors - 17th January

Clive · Jan 6, 2025



1 2 3 ... 22 Next ▶

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**Clive**

Staff Member

Moderator

Location: Lichfield

Jan 6, 2025

#1

### **Plan for a coordinated national action,**

This action is supported and promoted by the organisers of the the various other successful large events to date and we will be asking The NFU to also support this and get members involved

**When** - January 17th

**Where** - a local supermarket ..... there will be one close to you on a list we will publish in due course

**What** - Drive and park your tractor to a local supermarket, ideally with banners etc and park in their carpark. The aim will be to spend a couple of hours in a none disruptive way and then disperse. Ideally we want tractors but if you really can't manage that a farm pickup will be ok (double cab preferred !)

**Why** - to keep pressure on that farmers are not backing down on the damage this budget will cause and show the strenght of our resources that "could" be used in far more disruptive ways sould that become necessary !

Whilst there be sure to buy an item that can justify your visit as business use such as Tea / Coffee / cleaning products or office stationary. Tjis validates the use of your fuel and car parking

Organisation of this to be at local level so please get together with neighbours to choose you supermarket, we suggest you use whatsapp groups and TFF to coordinate yourselves

We will aim to coordinate and manage national press but any local press and promotion your groups can get will help

Replies to this thread **NOT** to question this action (they will be deleted so don't bother !) Replies **ONLY** to state that you will be participating and your nearest town so we can build that "target" list

**Let's make this a big one ! It's legal and none disruptive** (aiming to maintain the fantastic public support we have ) BUT sends a message again that is at some point we choose not to play so nicely we "could" shut things down. It will cost you NOTHING more than your time, no train ticket to London required this time, EVERY farmer should get involved in this

Please spread the work vai you networks, text and whatsapp friends etc

Last edited: Jan 6, 2025

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Big-Al, tullah, Salsastitcher and 24 others



**Magnus Oyke**  
Member

Arable Farmer

Jan 6, 2025

#2

Check the signs in the carpark. They are private property and the supermarkets are quite within their rights to fine you for using them, and the inheritance tax issue isn't their fault or problem. You may be better off talking with them to ask for permission and getting them on side. They probably won't want to get involved too much but farmers and supermarkets have a symbiotic relationship.

AndersonAgri, dun tilling, Devil's advocate and 3 others



**Grass And Grain**  
Member

Mixed Farmer

Location: Yorks

Jan 6, 2025

#3

Hi everyone,

As chair of the BFU I will be supporting this, and will be emailing out to members. Hopefully NFU will do the same, as we all need to work together.

As a cereal farm we'll need £320/acre increased sales/profit to pay our IHT liability over the 10 year period. That's a minimum 50% increase on sales output compared to currently. We should be asking supermarkets for this, because somehow the tax has to be paid.

Personally I'd suggest picking a category of food, purchasing and donating to a food bank, then it's charitable. Many supermarkets have a food donation basket.

Make sure the supermarket you plan to visit doesn't have vehicle height restrictors.

Last edited: Jan 6, 2025

**Please join the new BRITISH FARMING UNION. Securing a better future for farmers. We're stronger together!**

*All content and information I post are just my own opinion.*

Hfd Cattle, spin cycle, Thomas Simpson and 6 others



**Clive**  
Staff Member

Moderator

Location: Lichfield

Jan 6, 2025

#4

Magnus Oyke said: ⤴

Check the signs in the carpark. They are private property and the supermarkets are quite within their rights to fine you for using them, and the inheritance tax issue isn't their fault or problem. You may be better off talking with them to ask for permission and getting them on side. They probably won't want to get involved too much but farmers and supermarkets have a symbiotic relationship.

I don't think the PR would be very good for them finding the very farmers that make their multi billion £ annual profits possible !

We don't need permission, they need us !

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Bella\_vista, spin cycle, ladycrofter and 4 others



**Magnus Oyke**  
Member

Arable Farmer

Jan 6, 2025

#5

Clive said: ⤴

I don't think the PR would be very good for them finding the very farmers that make their multi billion £ annual profits possible !

We don't need permission, they need us !

You do need permission, it's their land, how would you like Allied Grain or Rank Hovis doing something similar in your yard? It's nothing to do with the supermarkets, go and park yourself outside you MP's office

iaincr, Storeman, Bullock82 and 3 others



**Henarar**

Member

Livestock Farmer

Location: Somerset

Jan 6, 2025

#6

White diesel ?

<https://www.bfu.org.uk/>

An Gof



**neilo**

Member

Mixed Farmer

Location: Montgomeryshire

Jan 6, 2025

#7

Magnus Oyke said: ⤴

You do need permission, it's their land, how would you like Allied Grain or Rank Hovis doing something similar in your yard? It's nothing to do with the supermarkets, go and park yourself outside you MP's office

You don't need permission to park there, usually for up to 2 hours, as long as you go in and buy something from the store (as per @Clive 's post above).

Buying a biro for the farm office would justify the use of red diesel in driving there.

Website finally updated! [www.lowyerye.com](http://www.lowyerye.com)

farmer james, Hfd Cattle, snipe and 13 others



**LP**

Member

Arable Farmer

Location: Newbury

Jan 6, 2025

#8

If you want it in coordination with NFU why not do it on the 25th? Make sure it's for charity. Talk about galvanising farmers, 3 runs in 15 days? Any joined up thinking at all on this?

jgmleyns and farmern



**grainboy**

Member

Location: Bedfordshire

Jan 6, 2025

#9

Well now they have 10 days to put in appropriate measures, to prevent this action, Sorry but, You're lost all the surprise,

Last edited: Jan 6, 2025

For more details and other items please see:

<http://www.tjyoungfarmmachinery.co.uk/>

PSQ and jgmleyns



**Daniel**

Member

Mixed Farmer

Location: Suffolk/Cambs border.

Jan 6, 2025

#10

I'm happy to go to Ely Tesco or Sainsbury's. Our shitty old Deutz is in for repair so might have to take a Fendt. 🚗

Clive



**Clive**

Staff Member

Moderator

Location: Lichfield

Jan 6, 2025

#11

Henarar said: ⤴

White diesel ?

if you do as suggested and buy a business item such as tea / coffee / cleaning product or office stationery etc then your cost is business and use of red is ok

alternatively buy a food item and donate to a food bank and your covered under charity

stop looking fur problems and JFDI ! di you think French farmers have such conversations ? 🤔

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Corn & Horn, Jsmith2211, quattro and 18 others



**Clive**

Staff Member

Moderator

Location: Lichfield

Jan 6, 2025

#12

grainboy said: 🗨️

Well now they have 10 days to put in appropriate measures, to prevent this action, Sorry but, You're lost all the surprise,

don't need surprise, if they close car parks the road will be blocked stopping customers getting in ..... and that will be their fault so a pretty stupid thing to do

just do it or sit like a lemming watching your industry be destroyed !

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Steve770, Farmerwilson, mobileweld and 13 others



**Clive**

Staff Member

Moderator

Location: Lichfield

Jan 6, 2025

#13

L P said: 🗨️

If you want it in coordination with NFU why not do it on the 25th? Make sure it's for charity. Talk about galvanising farmers, 3 runs in 15 days? Any joined up thinking at all on this?

the NFU are not working with anyone, they have made that clear on multiple occasions now - what they are "actually" doing on the 25th seems very unclear as usual their communication is abysmal

they can promote this they want and i hope they final do so

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RichardSou, Hfd Cattle, Hay Maker and 2 others



**grainboy**

Member

Location: Bedfordshire

Jan 6, 2025

#14

I'm just watching as an outsider,  
The French wouldn't lay their cards on the table,

For more details and other items please see:  
<http://www.tjyoungfarmmachinery.co.uk/>



**Clive**

Staff Member

Moderator

Location: Lichfield

Jan 6, 2025

#15

grainboy said: 🗨️

I'm just watching as an outsider,  
The French wouldn't lay their cards on the table,

we are not being disruptive with this so there is no need to be secretive about it is there, how will people know it's happening to join if it's a secret 🤔🤔

it will be VERY bad PR for any supermarket to try stop legal and peaceful demonstration ..... farmers have a lot more public support than they do !

Follow me on Twitter - @TWBFarms [www.twbfarms.co.uk](http://www.twbfarms.co.uk)

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tullah, PSQ, Ffermer Bach and 1 other person



**Woolly**  
Member

Mixed Farmer

Location:

Romney Marsh

Jan 6, 2025

#16

If only the 17th was on a Tuesday ! 😊



<https://www.instagram.com/lambfarm/>

Nearly, Hfd Cattle, JPB and 9 others



**mixedfmr**  
Member

Mixed Farmer

Location: yorkshire

Jan 6, 2025

#17

Woolly said: Ⓜ

If only the 17th was on a Tuesday ! 😊

Click to expand...

We could all have called in for lewance



**Magnus Oyke**

Member

Arable Farmer

Jan 6, 2025

#18

neilo said: ↕

You don't need permission to park there, usually for up to 2 hours, as long as you go in and buy something from the store (as per @Clive 's post above).  
Buying a biro for the farm office would justify the use of red diesel in driving there.

You don't need permission to park there when you do your shopping, I'd suggest you would to use their land for anything other than shopping with them. This isn't their problem



**essex man**

Member

Location: colchester

Jan 6, 2025

#19

Magnus Oyke said: ↕

You don't need permission to park there when you do your shopping, I'd suggest you would to use their land for anything other than shopping with them. This isn't their problem

I think that's where the biro buying comes in

tullah, Hfd Cattle, Cowmansam and 7 others



**Magnus Oyke**

Member

Arable Farmer

Jan 6, 2025

#20

essex man said: ↕

I think that's where the biro buying comes in

It's just taking the pee, the problem is nothing to do with the supermarkets. By all means speak to them, ask permission and get them on side, but you can't expect to rock up on some elses private land in a tractor and pickup to further your political argument.

Primmiemoo2, PSQ, Agrijas and 2 others

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