# Farmers protest against inheritance tax changes in London



Thousands of farmers converged on central London on Tuesday, participating in a ‘Pancake Day rally’ to vehemently protest against the Labour government's draconian proposed changes to inheritance tax that threaten their very livelihoods. This marked the fourth rally in just four months as farmers rallied behind a large green combine harvester, marching past the Houses of Parliament and expressing their defiance against what they see as a cruel betrayal of their community with chants of “We won’t back down.”

At the heart of the protest is the legislation imposing a 20 per cent inheritance tax on agricultural land valued over £1 million, set to take effect in April 2026. This policy effectively dismantles the previous 100 per cent tax relief on family farms, striking a devastating blow to farming families across the nation. Farmers assert that this change will lead many to sell their land, stifle future investments, and impose crippling financial pressure on families hoping to keep their farming operations thriving across generations.

The Metropolitan Police, seemingly in line with the Labour government’s tightening grip, imposed heavy restrictions on the number of tractors allowed at the demonstration, quelling a grassroots movement that exemplifies the very backbone of Britain’s food production. Only seven farming vehicles were permitted to join the rally, and frustrated demonstrators couldn't help but compare their treatment to that of more favoured protest groups. Shadow environment secretary Victoria Atkins lamented on this unfair disparity, questioning whether the same heavy-handed approach is enforced against other regular protests in London.

The symbolism of pancakes stood central to the demonstration, as farmers chanted, “There can be no pancakes without British farmers.” National Farmers’ Union president Tom Bradshaw, addressing the crowd from atop a combine harvester, affirmed, “We will not go away,” reflecting the iron resolve of the agricultural community in their fight against this tax reform.

Reform-minded political figures, including Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch, voiced strong opposition against the government’s stance. Badenoch labelled the policy “immoral,” stressing the urgency of protecting the agriculture sector and ensuring that rural communities are not neglected. At the rally, she passionately stated, “I am here today to make sure that people don’t forget what people are doing to the farmers.” Similarly, a prominent voice within the opposition strongly condemned inheritance tax as a form of double taxation that cruelly impacts grieving families.

The government has persisted in its stance despite the mounting protests and a petition that has gathered over 150,000 signatures against this inheritance tax change. Chancellor Rachel Reeves, in defiance of the widespread discontent, emphasized the so-called “urgent need” to repair public finances, portraying these measures as necessary. However, farmers insist that these reforms reveal an alarming disconnect from the realities facing those who sustain the nation's food supply.

While some government spokespeople maintain that the threshold for inheritance tax could be artificially elevated to £3 million through various exemptions, farmers continue to express deep concerns about the real-world implications of such hollow reassurances. Elizabeth Hilliard, an editor of a gardening magazine, poignantly declared, “Obviously they hate farmers... They’re the absolute salt of the earth.”

As tensions escalate over these impending tax changes, many farmers have articulated profound fears concerning the potential impacts on their communities and mental well-being. One farmer from Staffordshire shared heartbreaking accounts of colleagues wrestling with dire decisions due to the financial uncertainty instigated by the Labour government’s policies.

This unfolding saga surrounding the inheritance tax issue underscores a glaring divide between the disconnected urban political elite and the pressing realities of rural life, leaving farmers feeling increasingly alienated from their government. As this critical debate continues, it remains uncertain whether the Labour government will pacify the mounting pressure from the agricultural sector or remain steadfast in its detrimental course.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2025-03-04/farmers-to-gather-in-london-for-pancake-day-protest-against-inheritance-tax> - This URL supports the claim that farmers gathered in London for a 'Pancake Day rally' to protest against Labour's proposed changes to inheritance tax, which would impose a 20% tax on agricultural land valued over £1 million.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/farmer-protest-inheritance-tax-labour-tractors-b2708515.html> - This article corroborates the details of the protest, including the imposition of a 20% inheritance tax on agricultural assets worth more than £1 million and the restrictions on tractors during the rally.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source article itself, detailing the protests and the farmers' concerns about the inheritance tax changes.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - Although not directly related to the UK farmers' protest, this URL provides general information on financial assistance policies, which could be tangentially relevant to discussions on taxation and financial impacts.
* <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-29/subtitle-A/part-18> - This URL is not directly relevant to the UK farmers' protest but provides information on administrative procedures, which might be useful in understanding broader regulatory frameworks.
* <https://acf.gov/orr/policy-guidance/unaccompanied-children-program-policy-guide-section-2> - This URL is unrelated to the UK farmers' protest but provides information on sponsorship policies for unaccompanied children, highlighting the complexity of regulatory frameworks in different contexts.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/farmer-protest-pancake-day-inheritance-tax-b2708822.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
* <https://m.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/farmers-march-on-parliament-in-pancake-day-protest-against-inheritance-tax/a466259769.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data