

sages of support were coming in from the United States. He read out a few lines of the statement of solidarity from leading farm representatives from eleven U.S. states to date, which was met with cheers from the crowd, and grateful comments from the organizers.

**Wiesbaden:** Around 2,000 tractors and trucks were involved in the demonstration Jan. 8, which included many young farmers with their families, some of whom came from distant places such as Fulda, 140 km away, from where they had set off early at 2 a.m. At the final rally in front of the Hessian State Chancellery, the Chairman of the Hessian Farmers' Association (HBV), Karsten Schmal, presented the head of the State Chancellery Axel Wintermeyer with a resolution.

The HBV had expected "only" 1,000 tractors. Schmal's deputy Thomas Kunz told *Hessischer Rundfunk*:

We are very, very positively surprised by our own people and our environment. This shows the high level of motivation that exists in our professional field, but also in rural areas.

A 13-year-old student's school essay on the topic: "Why is the government so stupid as to ruin the farmers?" was met with great approval when his father read it from the podium. One sign ridiculing the government said, "They don't sow, they don't reap, but they know everything."

There were also a number of trades and professions represented in the crowd in front of the State Chancellery—bakers, restaurateurs, trade unionists. An older, well-off couple demonstrated with a sign: "Save the German Economy!"

**Mainz:** Around 2,000 demonstrators and tractors



X/@PeterSweden

*German farmers occupy Dresden with 4,000 tractors and trucks on Day 3 of their Week of Action, Jan. 10, 2024.*

took part in the Day One rally at the Mainz Exhibition Center. Photos taken from the highway overpasses show long lines of tractor convoys but no traffic jams because the organization was incredibly good. According to police, the main convoy consisted of up to 1,000 tractors and trucks, and was 20 km long. The state chairman of LsV, the President of the Farmers' and Winegrowers' Association (DWV), and the President of the German Hotel and Restaurant Association (DeHoGa) in Rhineland-Palatinate spoke at the rally.

**Dresden:** The protesting farmers blocked the motorway entrances around Dresden Jan. 8, which was accepted and supported by the population. Around 900 participants were expected at the rally in the city, but the crowd swelled to 5,000 by midday, and in the evening the media even reported around 13,000 people taking part. The crowd included not only farmers, but also many others who are suffering from the Berlin government's policies, including the nursing services, as well as skilled craftsmen, and people from all along the food chain, from bakeries to restaurants.

## U.S. Farm and Ranch Leaders' Message to Germany: Let the Tractors Roll!

*Jan. 13—The following open message of support was sent by U.S. farm and ranch leaders to German farmers and their allies during their Jan. 8–15 Week of Action.*

We U.S. farmers and ranchers send our support and admiration to German farmers and their co-dem-

onstrators—truck drivers, railroad workers, and all in the food chain—who are holding the Jan. 8–15 Week of Action in Germany. You have the guts and courage to defend the right to produce food, and demand a productive economy for all citizens. You are an inspiration and example to all farmers through-

out the world, to activate and fight.

The German farmer rallies, with thousands of tractors so far this Winter, from Berlin to Stuttgart, have put you on the front lines defending all humanity. The planned Jan. 15 Berlin mass rally is a world-important event. We have seen tens of thousands of farmers in Europe hit the streets in recent years because of the emergency; now is the breaking point.

Farmers all over the world are facing manipulation by the agro-financial-complex of commodity conglomerates, controlled by London, Wall Street, Chicago, Amsterdam, and other commodity financial centers. It is destroying family farming, reducing food production, driving up food prices, and perpetuating hunger. This globalist mechanism creates conditions for depopulation.

The German government is knowingly ruining family farm food production by hiking the diesel price, banning certain agro-inputs, taxing farm machinery, and other moves.

Farmers the world over are now standing up to this. We commit our support to defeat these enemies of humanity in 2024. We can work together to bring about development and peace for all, and total food security.

Let the tractors roll! We are alongside you in the cabs and on the streets!

*Signators, as of Jan. 9:*

**Jon Baker**, Harper, Iowa. Cattle and Grain Farmer; Agricultural Bank Vice President and Loan Officer; Vice President, Iowa Stockgrowers Association

**Robert “Bob” Baker**, Leesburg, Virginia. Former Grain and Livestock Producer; Former Agricultural Bank Loan Officer; Director, Schiller Institute Agricultural Commission

**James Benham**, Versailles, Indiana. Former State President, Indiana Farmers Union; National Board Member, National Farmers Union

**Bill Bullard**, Billings, Montana. Chief Executive Officer, R-CALF USA (Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America)

**Mike Callicrate**, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Cattleman; President and Founder, Ranch Foods Direct

**Frank Endres**, Corning, California. Wheat and Cattle Rancher; National Board Member, National

Farmers Organization (NFO) and R-CALF USA  
**Dr. Taylor Haynes**, Laramie, Wyoming. Rancher; President of the Board of Directors, Organization for Competitive Markets

**Angela Huffman**, Wharton, Ohio. Sheep Farmer; President, Farm Action

**Tracy Hunt**, Newcastle, Wyoming. Cattle Rancher; Farm Leader; Attorney (retired)

**Wilbur Kehrli**, Manchester, Iowa. Cattle, Pigs and Grain Farmer; Retired, Board of Directors, American Blue Cattle Association

**Bill Kluck**, Mud Butte, South Dakota. Sheep and Cattle Rancher; Chairman, Sheep Committee, R-CALF USA; Board of Directors, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association

**Vaughn Meyer**, Reva, South Dakota. Cattle Rancher; Former President, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association; Former President, Organization for Competitive Markets

**Eric Nelson**, Merville, Iowa. Farm/Feeder and Rancher; Vice President, R-CALF USA and Director, Region VII (Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin)

**Andrew Olson**, Windom, Minnesota. Grain Producer, Farm Leader; Chairman, Minnesota Schiller Institute Agricultural Commission

**Mike Schultz**, Brewster, Kansas. Rancher and Farmer; Vice-President, Organization for Competitive Markets

**Randy Sowers**, Middletown, Maryland. Dairy and Grain Farmer; Founder, South Mountain Creamery

**Matthew Steele**, Manhattan, Kansas. Executive Director, Kansas Cattlemen’s Association

**Herman Steffen**, Detour, Maryland. Beef Cattle and Grain Farmer; Farm Leader

**Mike Weaver**, Franklin, West Virginia. Member, Board of Directors and former President, Contract Poultry Growers Association of the Virginias

**Charles White**, Fowlerville, Michigan. Dairy and Grain Farmer; Farm Leader

**Tork Whisler and Sawyer Whisler**, Washington, Iowa. Grain and Pork Producers; Farm Leaders; Founders of *Barn Talk* (on YouTube)

**Ron Wiczorek**, Mitchell, South Dakota. Rancher and Farm Leader; Former Candidate for U.S. Congress; Chairman, South Dakota Schiller Institute Agricultural Commission