

Press Release

**From Barry Stamp
Liberal Democrat Prospective Parliamentary Candidate
Stafford Constituency**

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Stafford Farmers Must Not Lose Out In Supermarket Dash For Profit

Stafford farmers must not lose out in the ongoing race to increase supermarket profits warns the towns would be Liberal Democrat MP today.

Speaking ahead of his visit to Rodbaston College on Friday, Liberal Democrat Candidate Barry Stamp said dozens of local farmers were struggling to keep their businesses going, while large supermarkets were demanding ever lower prices for their products.

“In the week when Tesco announced yearly profits of over £2billion many farmers in the Stafford and Penkridge area who sell into the supermarket supply chain will be struggling to make ends meet. While we should welcome the fact that supermarkets are making top quality food available to the public at reasonable prices we have to remember it is the farmer and growers that are loosing out. It quite immoral that a supermarket giant can make such large profits by driving the price they pay to farmers down. Its not surprising that many local producers are struggling to make a profit themselves. It really is time the Government introduced a food trade inspector within the Office of Fair Trading to ensure the benefits of the supermarkets success are spread throughout the food supply chain. Without such a move I am concerned that many local small farmers and growers will be forced out of business. I also believe that this pressure is also making many youngsters think twice about following a career in agriculture. On Friday I will be visiting Rodbaston Agricultural College at Penkridge and I will be taking the opportunity to discuss the future of the industry with the Dr Ralph Alcock the College Principal. I will be especially interested to hear at first hand just how attractive farming is to todays young people,” said Barry Stamp.

Further details from Barry Stamp
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Notes to editors: A picture opportunity will be available at Rodbaston. Barry will be at the College between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.