

Press Release

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

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Use: Immediate

Lib Dem Launch Single Farm Payment Survey

Stafford's would be Liberal Democrat MP Barry Stamp will later this week launch a survey designed to see how local farmers view the new Single Farm Payment Scheme.

The survey, which will be sent to every farm in the Stafford Constituency will ask farmers to comment on a variety of issues including the way the scheme was introduced by the Government, the ease of understanding the paperwork involved, the appropriateness of the cross-compliance elements, and whether or not the farmer thinks the payment regime will cause a cash flow problem for his business.

"The Single Farm Payment Scheme is the biggest change to farming many years. Over the past few months local farmers and growers have been inundated with information and forms from Government all of which have taken a great deal of time and effort to read and fill in correctly. Local farmers have told me how confusing they found the whole thing to have been and many are still not sure what their income will be. To make matters worse only last week the Rural Payment Agency announced that payments were unlikely to be made until February 2006, despite the fact they led farmers to believe they would receive their payments sooner than that. I know this news will disappoint many in the industry and will certainly add to the financial pressures many businesses are already facing. My survey is designed to get the reaction of local farmers to this new scheme and find out just how well they think the Government has handled the whole thing. The information I gather will help me fight for a better deal for local farmers," said Barry Stamp.

Further details from Barry Stamp
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Notes to Editors

- i) A copy of the Single Farm Payment Survey is attached to this e-mail in Adobe Acrobat format.

- ii) A picture opportunity can be arranged at a local farm in Seighford. Please contact Barry to arrange.