

North Devon Conservatives

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Save Our Bacon

Philip Milton, Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for North Devon, voiced his support for the joint campaign that Waitrose and Farmers Weekly are running to highlight the plight of pig farmers.

Rocketing feed costs and declining export markets now mean that pig farmers are losing up to £26 per pig. If British consumers fail to support British pig farmers, we shall have to rely more and more on imports which already account for 70% of the market.

Philip says:

“I have already added my support to proposals that an EU-wide ban on the use of ‘sow stalls’ should be brought forward to ensure there is a level playing field for pig farmers across the European market. The unfair commercial advantage gained by farmers in the EU who still use ‘sow stalls’ could cripple the British pork industry.

“The farming practice by which pigs are kept in small spaces for the duration of their pregnancies was banned in Great Britain in 1999 but is not due to be banned in rest of the EU until 2013.

“I remember my father’s pig rearing days and that his sow was in a lovely large shed with plenty of straw and an outside part for nuzzling-up the mud, etc. The only thing we had to watch was when the sow farrowed we had to make sure the piglets were not crushed when the sow lay down. To make sure all the piglets were safe when born and then placed under a heat lamp in a separate part of the pig’s house, we used to stay up all night when she was due to farrow, in the loft above the sty. As a young lad, it was a great experience!

“My Father believed in appropriate conditions for his animals – and not small cages. If he could make simple alterations to protect the piglets when born, I am sure European farmers can as well – as have ours already.

“I wholly support the campaign that British farmers must not face a commercial disadvantage as a result of our progressive animal welfare laws.

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“The standard of welfare on British pork farms is considerably higher than is found on farms in many other countries where the practice is still legal and I would encourage people to ensure that when they buy meat, they buy British.”

More information can be found at
www.pigsareworthit.com<<http://www.pigsareworthit.com/>>.

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