

NEWS RELEASE



18 February 2008

Compassion in World Farming
Tel: +44 (0) 1483 521 970
+44 (0) 7771 926005

David Cameron is wrong to blame the crisis facing the country's pig industry on improvements in animal welfare says Compassion in World Farming.

Responding to a speech made to the NFU today, 18 February, Peter Stevenson, Chief Policy Advisor for Compassion in World Farming said:

"It is rubbish that the crisis in the British pig industry is down to improvements made to animal welfare. The reality is that the UK ban on the use of sow stalls - introduced by a previous Conservative government - has only added two pence to the cost of producing a kilo of pig meat.

"However David Cameron is right to talk about the growing global food crisis. We agree with his statement that "calorie for calorie, you need more grain if you eat it transformed into meat than you do if you eat it turned into bread. You need three kilos of grain to produce a kilo of pork and eight to produce a kilo of beef".

"However he should go further and accept the logic of his own data and recommend a shift in western diets away from excessive meat and dairy consumption to a more grain and plant based diet.

"We support Cameron's call for clear labelling but people want to know how their chicken is reared as well as what country it was reared in."

Contact Annabel Davis 07771 926005