



## **Friends of the Earth press release**

MP JOINS IN PINATA TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR PLANET-FRIENDLY FARMING

**When:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2pm

**Where:** Andrew Mackay's Constituency Office, 10 Millbanke Court, Bracknell

Andrew Mackay MP was bombarded with postcards from his constituents when he joined Friends of the Earth Bracknell's farming-themed piñata. The egg-shaped piñata was bursting with chicken-shaped postcards signed in support of Friends of the Earth's Food Chain Campaign.

The Food Chain Campaign highlights the link between factory farms and rainforest destruction to grow animal feed and calls on MPs to fix the food chain by supporting small farmers and only spending taxpayers' money only on planet-friendly farming.

Friends of the Earth want each political party to promise to fix the food chain by including their commitment to planet-friendly farming within their election manifesto. The piñata event is the finale of the group's summer of action on the issue, during which they've canvassed in the streets of Bracknell, at Sandhurst Open Day, and collected over 100 postcards from local people who support the campaign.

The campaign draws the Government's attention to some shocking facts:

- Livestock production is responsible for 18 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, more than all the planes, cars and lorries on the planet.
- On current trends animal feed production and cattle ranching alone will destroy 40% of the Amazon rainforest by 2050.

Andrew Mackay committed to signing Early Day Motions 845 (Deforestation, Climate Change and Livestock) and 560 (Grocery Market Ombudsman).

Bracknell Friends of the Earth spokesperson, John Halladay, said:

"Every single one of these postcards has been sent to Andrew Mackay by local people with an appetite for planet-friendly food and farming so it's great that he is backing the Food Chain Campaign.

"The meat and dairy industry contributes more to climate change than all the planes, cars and lorries on the planet.

"We need the Government to help small and planet-friendly farms instead of huge, damaging factory farms."

ENDS

## Notes to Editors

1. Friends of the Earth is calling on each political party to include the following commitments in their manifestos:
  - **A new law to reduce the impact:** measure and reduce the global environmental impacts of the UK's consumption of meat and dairy products.
  - **Sort out subsidies: make sure** that European farming subsidies support sustainable, planet-friendly meat and dairy farming, and don't prop up intensive factory farms
  - **Protect farmers** – introduce a new watchdog to protect farmers from supermarket bullying. This is essential to make planet-friendly farming profitable.
  
2. Andrew Mackay MP will be one of 242 MPs to have signed Early Day Motion 845 which raises awareness of the environmental and social damage being driven by the global meat and dairy industry and calls for action.
  
3. For more information on the money spent on factory farming see Feeding the Beast media briefing:  
[http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/feeding\\_the\\_beast\\_media.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/feeding_the_beast_media.pdf)
  
4. For more information on the impacts of the global meat and dairy industry see Friends of the Earth's "What's feeding our food?" report:  
[http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/livestock\\_impacts.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/briefings/livestock_impacts.pdf)
  
5. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, "*the livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global.*" Livestock's long shadow report:  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a0701e/a0701e00.HTM>

Friends of the Earth believes the environment is for everyone. We want a healthy planet and a good quality of life for all those who live on it. We inspire people to act together for a thriving environment. For further information visit [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk).