



## NEWS UPDATE

### **A Business Opportunity**

A good friend of ours has shown us how to maximise a business opportunity and I recommend that we all apply ourselves to not doing things in return for generous Government subsidies. The letter he has written (see below) shows how it can be done

“To: Rt Hon David Milliband MP Secretary of State, DEFRA

Dear Secretary of State. My friend, who is in farming at the moment, received a cheque for £3,000 from the Rural Payments Agency for not rearing pigs. I now want to join the "not rearing pigs" business. In your opinion, what is the best kind of farm not to rear pigs on, and which is the best breed of pigs not to rear? I want to be sure I approach this endeavour in keeping with all government policies, as dictated by the EU under the Common Agriculture Policy. I would prefer not to rear bacon pigs, but if this is not the type you do not want rearing, I will just as gladly not rear porkers. Are there any advantages in not rearing rare breeds such as Saddlebacks or Gloucester OldSpots, or are there too many people already not rearing these? As I see it, the hardest part of this programme will be keeping an accurate record of how many pigs I haven't reared. Are there any Government or Local Authority courses on this? My friend is very satisfied with this business. He has been rearing pigs for forty years or so, and the best he ever made on them was £1,422 in 1968. That is - until this year, when he received a cheque for not rearing any. If I get £3,000 for not rearing 50 pigs, will I get £6,000 for not rearing 100? I plan to operate on a small scale at first, holding myself down to about 4,000 pigs not raised, which will mean about £240,000 for the first year. Then I can afford to buy an aeroplane. Another point: These pigs that I plan not to rear will not eat 2,000 tonnes of cereals. I understand that you also pay farmers for not growing crops. Will I qualify for payments for not growing cereals to not feed the pigs I didn't rear? I am also considering the "not milking cows" business, so please send any information you have on that too. Please could you also include the Government information on set aside fields? Can this be done on an e-commerce basis with virtual fields? In view of the above you will realise that I will be totally unemployed, and will qualify for unemployment benefits. I shall of course vote for you at the next general election.

Yours faithfully”

### **Spouse/Family Member Salaries**

Following recent requests under the Freedom of Information Act, it has been revealed that several MP's employ family members. Some examples include a son (who is a full-time student) at a salary of £950 per month and spouses on salaries of between £28,000 and £35,000 pa plus pensions and other perks! Following this revelation, MP's voted to exempt themselves from parts of the FoIA which allow people to ask difficult questions about MP's expenses. Typical behaviour from a section of our community that has no respect or morals!

In the recent high profile divorce case of Beverly Charman, her earnings as a non-working Spouse were deemed equal to her husband's in the divorce thus enshrining into case law that a Spouse brings added value and cannot be valued as a normal employee.

This therefore provides a great example to challenge any attempt by HMRC to contend that “hours times the National Minimum Wage” is the appropriate measure. We would not of course advocate that businesses pay the Beverly Charman rate (which incidentally was £48million!!!) but clearly each case should be looked at on its own merits.

**Peter**

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