

FSA MEAT TEST RESULTS DATABASE

DRAFT USER MANUAL (12/01/2006 Version 1.3)

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Introduction

The FSA-sponsored meat test results database is a web-based facility for meat plant operators in the UK. The site provides a way for plant operators to enter their meat and environmental surface microbiology testing results. The primary function of the site is to allow the collection of data for research purposes. All data that is entered is completely confidential. The researchers that manage the site are interested in determining the effect of the 2002 (and 2006) HACCP regulations on the microbiology of UK meat plants. For those plant operators that participate in the research project, summaries of data are made available which show national and individual plant hygiene trends using a variety of analyses methods.

The website address is www.ukmeat.org

Using the web site

Before you start using the database to enter your plant data, you should make sure that you read the list of considerations given below.

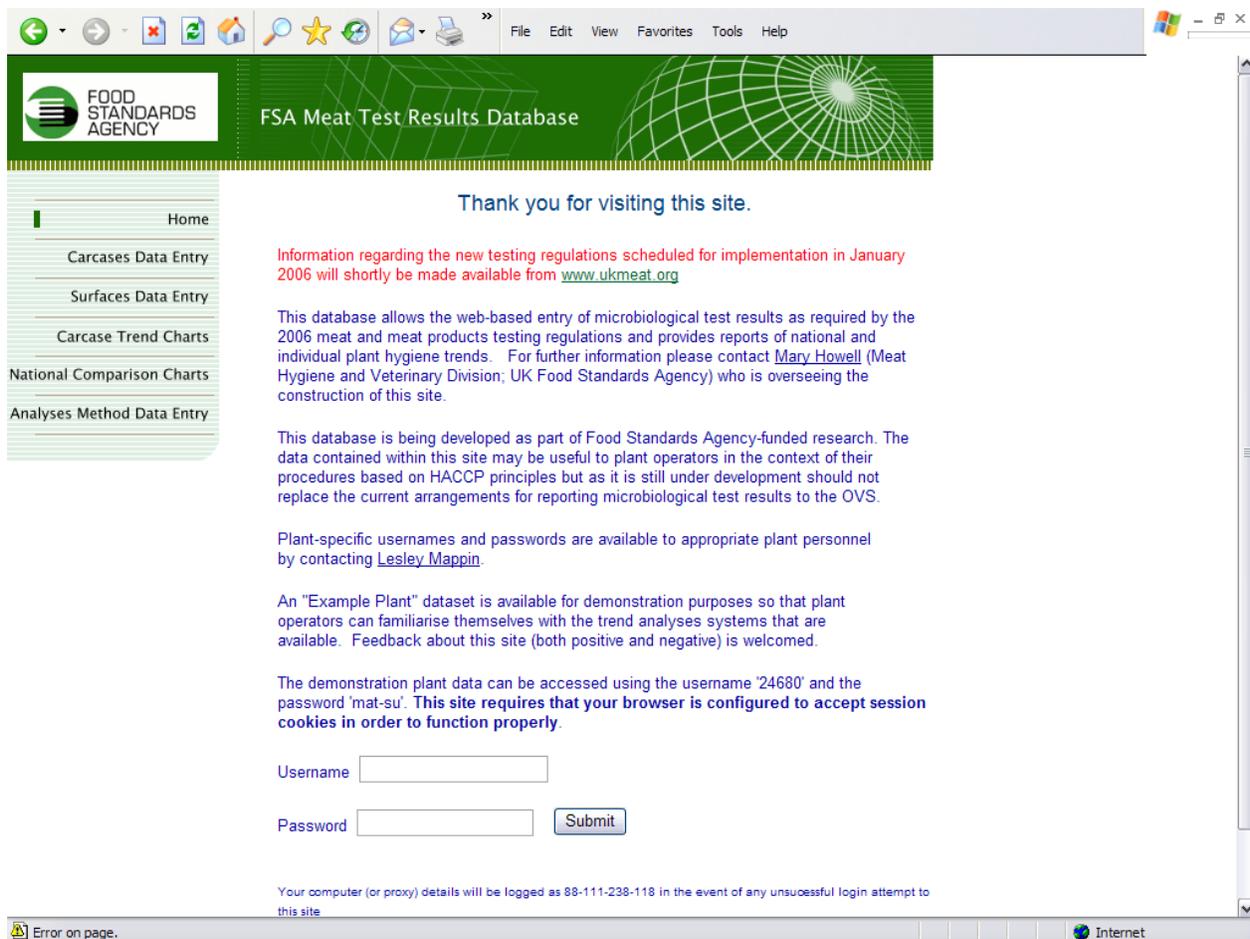
- Ensure you have your password and username to hand.
- Ensure you have data for carcasses and / or surfaces.
- All data should be entered in CFU/cm² (colony forming units per square centimetre).
- If other units are used please convert to CFU/cm² before entering results onto the database.
- In this manual and on the web site 'TVC' are used to denote total viable counts (also known as total aerobic counts or total colony counts).
- Up to 2006, *Enterobacteriaceae* are not compulsory on surfaces and if you do not test for *Enterobacteriaceae* on your surfaces type '0' (zero) into the appropriate box when entering your results.
- From Jan 1st 2006, environmental surface testing is optional.
- For any results that are not detectable and reported as <10 CFU/cm², you should use half of the limit of detection when entering these results. (e.g. if <10 then half 10 to give 5. <1 gives 0.5 etc).
- The website won't allow you to enter values such as <10
- If you experience difficulties using the site, please send an email to Lesley.mappin@pwhutchison.co.uk.
- If you stay logged into the site longer than 20 minutes without doing anything, you will automatically be logged out.

How to login

All usernames and passwords are available by following instructions detailed on the front page of the website; alternatively you can use the demonstration plant login details (also found on the front page of the website) to familiarise yourself with the operation of the site. If you use the example plant login details however, you will not be able to access some menu options such as entry of plant results.

Start Internet Explorer (or any other web browser) and type the web address for the database (<http://www.ukmeat.org>) into the address box.

If you typed the address correctly and have a connection to the internet, the FSA on-line HACCP database home page will appear. The screen should look similar to the screenshot below



The screenshot shows the Internet Explorer browser window displaying the FSA Meat Test Results Database homepage. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.ukmeat.org>. The page features a green header with the Food Standards Agency logo and the title "FSA Meat Test Results Database". A navigation menu on the left includes links for Home, Carcasses Data Entry, Surfaces Data Entry, Carcass Trend Charts, National Comparison Charts, and Analyses Method Data Entry. The main content area contains a welcome message, a red alert about new testing regulations in January 2006, and several paragraphs of text explaining the database's purpose and usage. At the bottom, there is a login form with fields for Username and Password, and a Submit button. A status bar at the bottom of the browser window displays "Error on page." and "Internet".

Thank you for visiting this site.

Information regarding the new testing regulations scheduled for implementation in January 2006 will shortly be made available from www.ukmeat.org

This database allows the web-based entry of microbiological test results as required by the 2006 meat and meat products testing regulations and provides reports of national and individual plant hygiene trends. For further information please contact [Mary Howell](#) (Meat Hygiene and Veterinary Division; UK Food Standards Agency) who is overseeing the construction of this site.

This database is being developed as part of Food Standards Agency-funded research. The data contained within this site may be useful to plant operators in the context of their procedures based on HACCP principles but as it is still under development should not replace the current arrangements for reporting microbiological test results to the OVS.

Plant-specific usernames and passwords are available to appropriate plant personnel by contacting [Lesley Mappin](#).

An "Example Plant" dataset is available for demonstration purposes so that plant operators can familiarise themselves with the trend analyses systems that are available. Feedback about this site (both positive and negative) is welcomed.

The demonstration plant data can be accessed using the username '24680' and the password 'mat-su'. This site requires that your browser is configured to accept session cookies in order to function properly.

Username

Password

Your computer (or proxy) details will be logged as 88-111-238-118 in the event of any unsuccessful login attempt to this site

Towards the bottom of the screen are 'username' and 'password' boxes. Click on the username box and enter your MHS plant licence number. Click on password box and enter your password, then click on 'Submit' button.

Username

Password

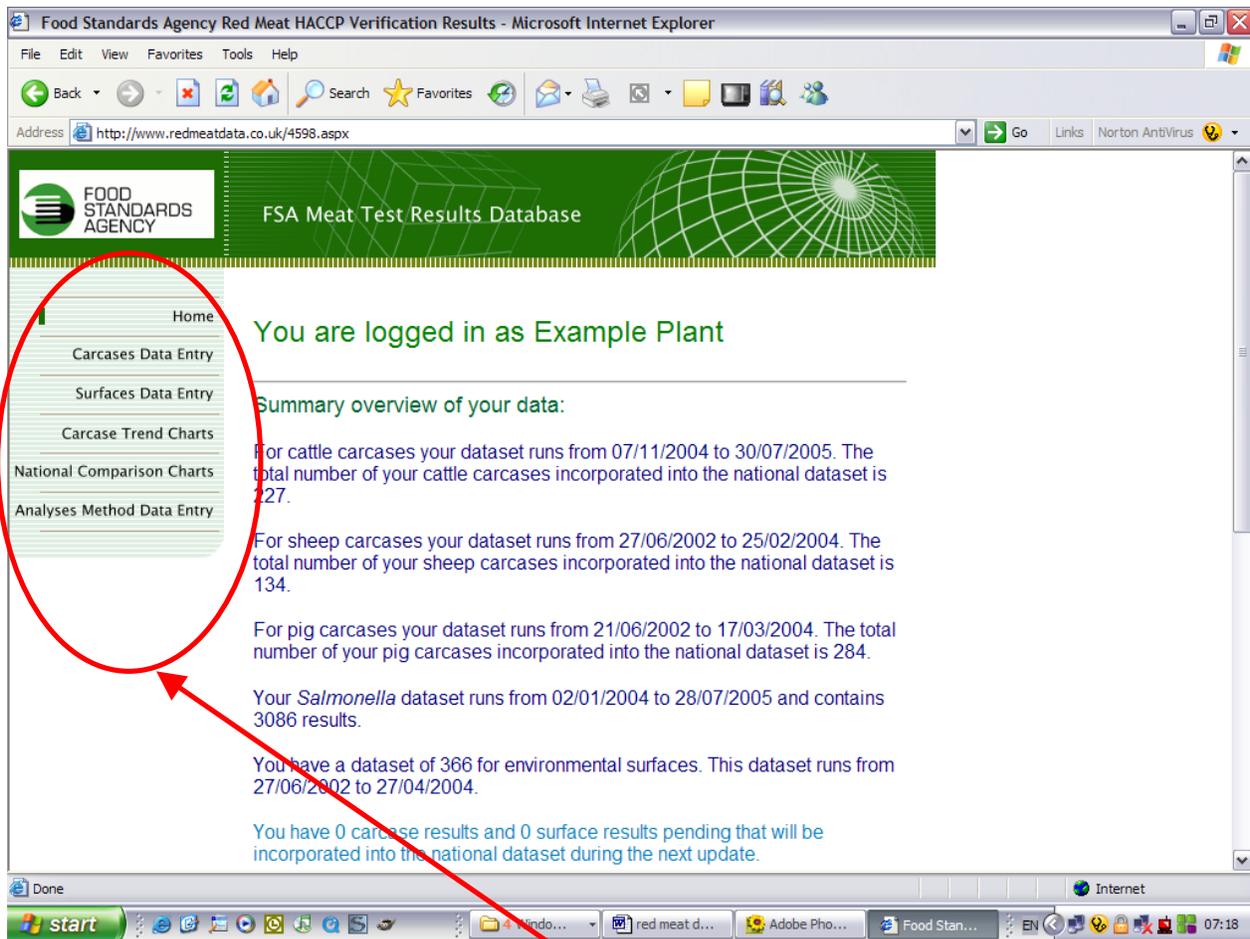
(Using individual plant usernames and passwords are essential for secure access to the site and your data.)

Problems with logging on?

- The password are 'case sensitive', so ensure that the "Caps Lock" button on your keyboard is not pressed (some keyboards have a little light in the top right hand side that lights up when the 'Caps Lock' is on)
- The letters 'o' or 'O' can sometimes look similar to the number '0' (zero)
- Similarly, the number '1' can sometime look the same as the letter 'l'.
- In order to use the site, you need to have your PC set so that it allows 'session cookies'.
- If you experience problems logging in, please contact Lesley.Mappin@pwhutchison.co.uk

The plant summary home page

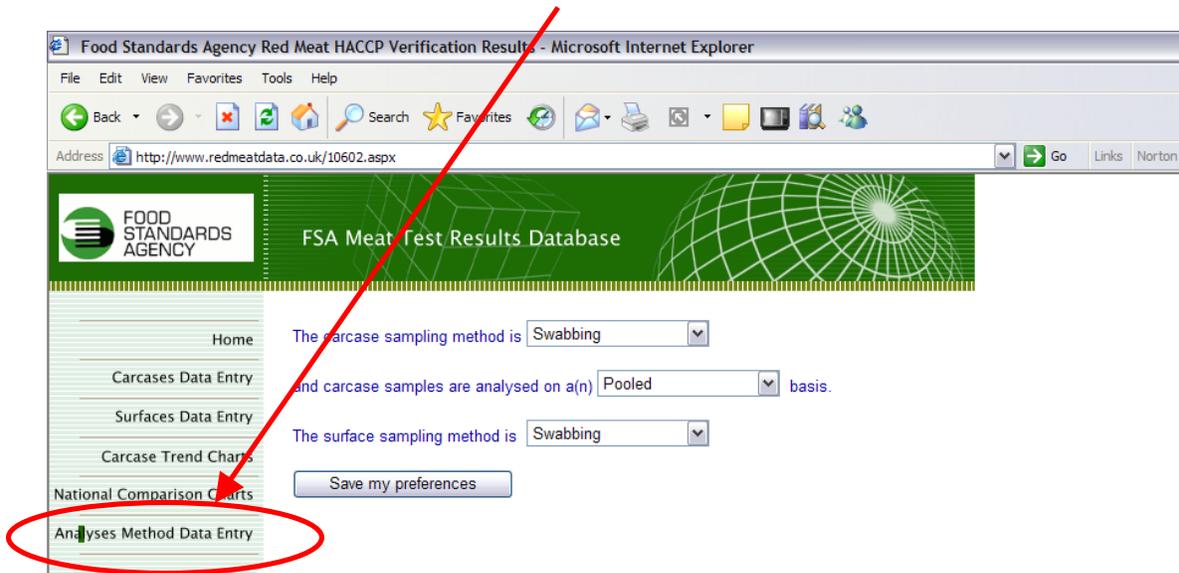
If you are successfully logged in, you will be shown the main home page for the site. The screen will look similar to the picture shown below except your plant details and your plant's results summary will be shown.



The main menu

You can navigate around the site using the **main menu** which is located on the left hand side of the screen. Clicking the "Home" button will return you the page shown above at any time.

Analyses method data entry (at the bottom of the main menu)



Before you can begin entering your data, the website has to know a few basic facts about your plant and how you take your samples. The reason that this information is required is so that the site can present you with data entry screens that are appropriate for your plant.

For example, if you sample carcasses by swabbing and have your laboratory test your results as a single sample from each carcass, the data entry screen you use will be different from plants which send 4 individual samples from each carcass.

To save your preferences

You need to first of all provide the answers to three questions namely:

1. Carcass sampling method: click on the grey arrow to reveal the drop down menu box and click on the method your plant uses to collect carcass samples i.e. swabbing or excision.
2. Carcass analysed by: click on the grey arrow to reveal a drop down menu box and click on method used i.e. pooled or individual.
3. Surface sampling method: click on the grey arrow to reveal a drop down menu box and click on the method your plant uses to collect surface samples i.e. swabbing or contact plate.

Most importantly, you need to click on 'Save my preferences' button to save your preferences. If you don't click the button, the preferences won't be saved. You can change your preferences at any time.

The options on this page must be saved before any data entry can take place for carcasses and surfaces as it determines what data need to be entered.

Carcase data entry (at the top of the main menu)

Please use this entry screen only if you sample by Pooled Swab Sampling.

Date taken

Carcase type

Site

TVC result CFU/cm²

Enterobacteriaceae result CFU/cm²

You can correct errors by clicking [here](#)

Date	Species	Site	TVC (CFU/cm ²)	Entero (CFU/cm ²)
23/02/2005	Cattle	Pooled	90	13
23/02/2005	Cattle	Pooled	0.5	0.5
23/02/2005	Cattle	Pooled	45	3
23/02/2005	Cattle	Pooled	2	0.5
23/02/2005	Cattle	Pooled	10	1

To enter your carcass test results, click on 'Carcases Data Entry' on the main menu. For each result that you have, fill in each box by clicking on it and entering your data. Helpful information for each box is shown below:

- Date taken: should be entered in the following format: dd/mm/yyyy.
- Carcase type: click on grey arrow and make the correct species selection.
- Site: should automatically be entered for you each time (it is filled in based on the information you provided in the preferences screen)
- TVC and *Enterobacteriaceae* values can be entered but must be in CFU/cm².
- Remember, if your results are low enough to be reported as <10 CFU/cm², these should be entered as half the limit of detection i.e. 5 CFU/cm²

When you have entered your result, click on the "Submit entered data" button. Your data will be transferred into the grid towards the bottom of the screen. To make data entry easier some of the textboxes will remember what you typed into them (e.g. the date box will remember the date because its likely that you took more than one sample per date).

Problems with carcase data entry?

- The database will not allow you to enter your results unless you have first provided your preferences (and saved them). See the previous section of this booklet for details of how to do this.
- The screen that is shown above is for a plant that samples by pooled swabbing. If you sample by excision or take individual samples from a single carcass the screen may look slightly different.
- If boxes are left blank, a small red message will appear next to the box after you click the submit button. The message will explain the problem and ask you to enter appropriate data.
- The microbiological results that you enter can be re-calculated into a standard format. If the values that appear in the grid are different to those you entered, this is the most likely reason. It probably means you take individual samples and/or you sample using the excision method.
- If a mistake is made click on 'correct here' link. You will be redirected to a screen that looks similar to the one shown below.. Since calculations can be made to the results you enter, the site has been designed so that can't change single values within each row. You should delete the entire row by clicking on its 'delete' button, and then re-enter your result correctly.

	DateTaken	Species	TVC/cm2	Enteroc/cm2	
Delete	23/02/2005	Cattle	90	13	
Delete	23/02/2005	Cattle	0.5	0.5	
Delete	23/02/2005	Cattle	45	3	
Delete	23/02/2005	Cattle	2	0.5	
Delete	23/02/2005	Cattle	10	1	1

Back to data entry



- Data paging: If you have entered a lot of data, the grid above will present your results as a series of "pages". You can click the numbers in the lower right hand side of the grid to move backwards through your data if it has been spread across different pages.

Surface data entry (second from the top of the main menu)

Home
Carcases Data Entry
Surfaces Data Entry
Carcase Trend Charts
National Comparison Charts
Analyses Method Data Entry

Date Taken

Surface description Please fill this box in

Area swabbed cm²

TVC result CFU/cm²

Enterobacteriaceae result CFU/cm²
(use 0 if you don't test for enteros)

You can correct errors by clicking [here](#)

Date	Description	Area Swabbed	TVC (CFU/cm ²)	Enteros (CFU/cm ²)
23/02/2005	Gut pan	50	54	6
23/02/2005	Sheep saw	50	230	5
23/02/2005	Hock cutter	20	120	10

Please note that from the 1st January 2006, microbiological testing of surfaces is no longer a statutory requirement. If your plant still tests surfaces by microbiological testing, you can enter your test results by clicking on the 'Surfaces Data Entry' menu item.

For each result that you have, fill in each box by clicking on it and entering your data. Helpful information for each box is shown below:

- Date taken: this has to be entered in the following format: dd/mm/yyyy.
- Surface description: enter where sample was taken from e.g. saw blade
- Area swabbed: enter value in cm².
- TVC values can be entered but must be in CFU/cm².
- *Enterobacteriaceae* values can be entered but must be in CFU/cm².
(*Enterobacteriaceae* are not compulsory on surfaces. If you do not test for this class on bacteria on your surfaces type '0' (zero) into the *Enterobacteriaceae* result box.
- For any results that are not detectable (e.g. <10, <1) use half of the limit of detection (see page 2, the section headed 'using the website').

When you have entered your results, click on the "Submit entered data" button.

Your data will be transferred into the grid towards the bottom of the screen.

To make data entry easier some of the textboxes will remember what you typed into them (e.g. the date box will remember the date because its likely that you took more than one sample per date).

Problems with surface data entry?

- The database will not allow you to enter your results unless you have first provided your preferences (and saved them). See the previous section of this booklet for details of how to do this.
- If boxes are left blank, a small red message will appear next to the box after you click the submit button. The message will explain the problem and ask you to enter appropriate data.
- If *Enterobacteriaceae* have not been tested for or if Coliforms have been tested instead, type '0' (zero) for not tested.
- If a mistake is made click on 'correct here' link. You will be redirected to a screen that looks similar to the one shown below. Delete the whole entry click on 'delete' button. Since calculations can be made to the results you enter, the site has been designed so that can't change single values within each row. You should delete the entire row and re-enter your result correctly.

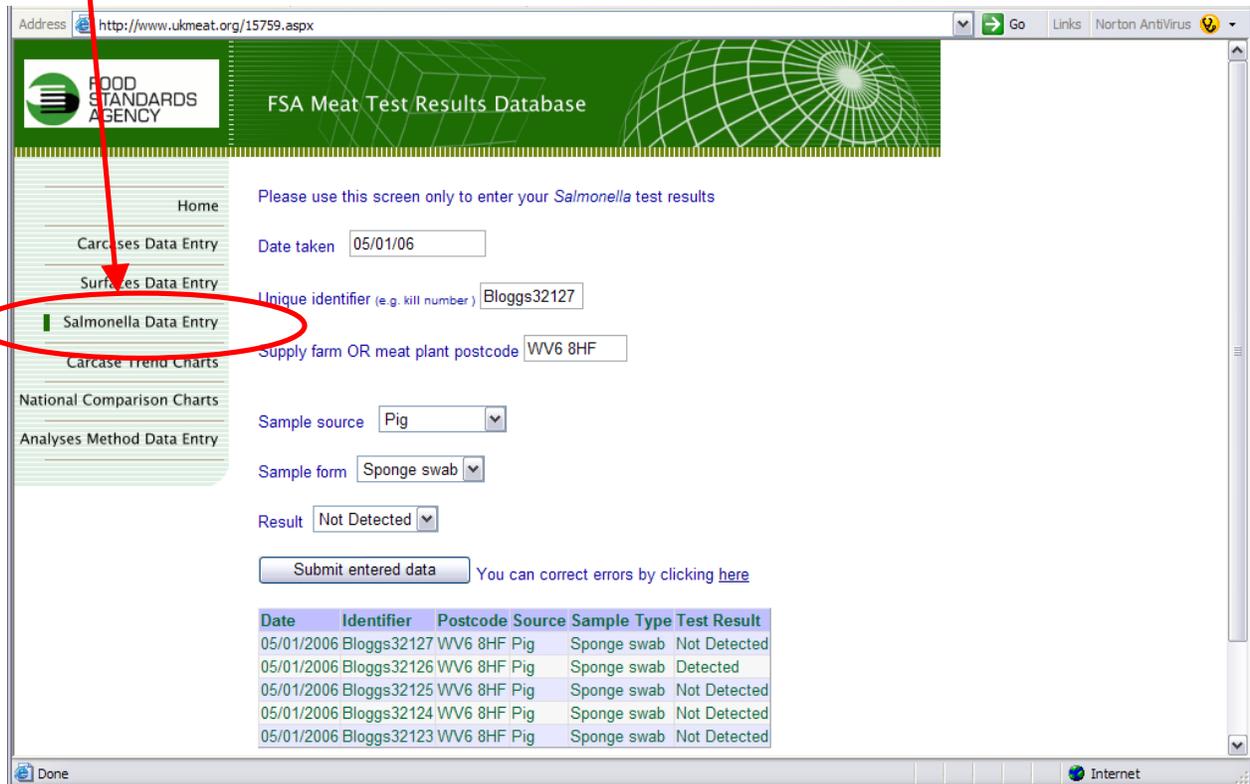
	Date Taken	Description	Area Swabbed	TVC/cm2	Enteroc/cm2
Delete	23/02/2005	Gut pan	50	54	6
Delete	23/02/2005	Sheep saw	50	230	5
Delete	23/02/2005	Hock cutter	20	120	10
					1

Back to data entry



- Data paging: If you have entered a lot of data, the grid above will present your results as a series of pages. You can click the numbers in the lower right hand side of the grid to move backwards through your data if it has been spread across different pages.

Salmonella data entry (third from the top of the main menu)



Address <http://www.ukmeat.org/15759.aspx> Go Links Norton AntiVirus

FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY FSA Meat Test Results Database

Home
Carcases Data Entry
Surfaces Data Entry
Salmonella Data Entry
Carcase Trend Charts
National Comparison Charts
Analyses Method Data Entry

Please use this screen only to enter your *Salmonella* test results

Date taken

Unique identifier (e.g. kill number)

Supply farm OR meat plant postcode

Sample source

Sample form

Result

You can correct errors by clicking [here](#)

Date	Identifier	Postcode	Source	Sample Type	Test Result
05/01/2006	Bloggs32127	WV6 8HF	Pig	Sponge swab	Not Detected
05/01/2006	Bloggs32126	WV6 8HF	Pig	Sponge swab	Detected
05/01/2006	Bloggs32125	WV6 8HF	Pig	Sponge swab	Not Detected
05/01/2006	Bloggs32124	WV6 8HF	Pig	Sponge swab	Not Detected
05/01/2006	Bloggs32123	WV6 8HF	Pig	Sponge swab	Not Detected

Done Internet

Salmonella test results for red meat carcasses, poultry (i.e. chicken and turkey only) carcasses, ground meat, mechanically separated meats and meat products can be entered by clicking on the '*Salmonella* Data Entry' option on the main menu. For each result that you have, fill in each box with your data. Helpful information for each box is shown below:

- Date taken: should be entered in the following format: dd/mm/yyyy.
- Unique identifier: A description chosen by the plant that allows the sample to be uniquely identified. Most plants would probably use the carcass kill number, but anything that is unique and can be used by the plant to identify the carcass is appropriate to use here.
- Postcode: The postcode can be left blank if the *Salmonella* detection was negative. For positive samples, the postcode of the source farm (whenever possible) should be entered here. For some sample types (e.g. ground meat) the source farm postcode may not be available, and the plant postcode should be entered here.
- The sample source can be selected from the drop down menu.
- The sample form is the type of sample that was sent for testing to the lab. The database checks that sensible choices for sample source and sample form are selected.

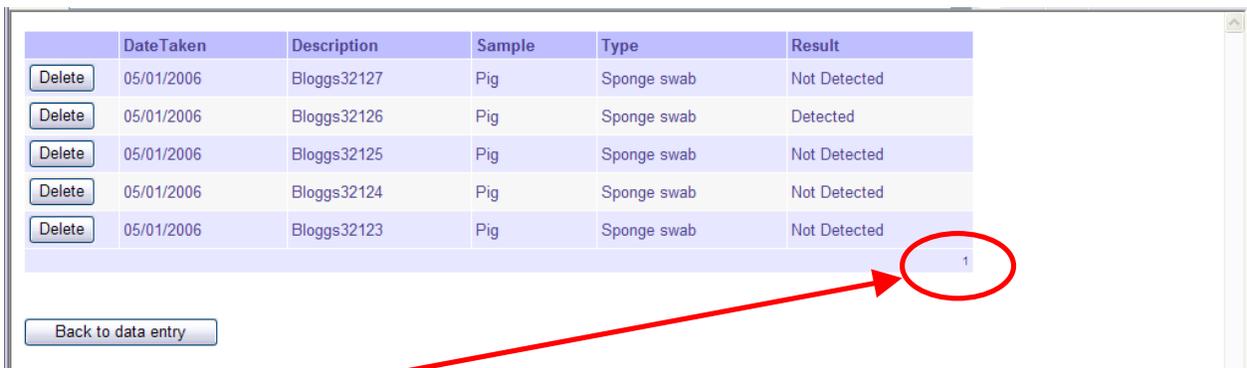
- The test result (detected or not detected) should be selected from the drop down menu.

When you have entered your data, click on the "Submit entered data" button. If everything has been entered correctly, our data will be transferred into the grid towards the bottom of the screen. If there are any problems with what has been entered, a small message in red will appear next to the appropriate text entry box and give you an indication of the problem.

To make data entry easier the textboxes will remember what you typed into them (e.g. the date box will remember the date because its likely that you took more than one sample per date).

Problems with *Salmonella* data entry?

- If some of the boxes are left blank, a small red message will appear next to the box after you click the submit button. The message will explain the problem and ask you to enter appropriate data.
- The postcode is only required if a positive detection is made.
- The postcode should be in upper case letters with a space in the middle
- If a mistake is made click on 'correct here' link. You will be redirected to a screen that looks similar to the one shown below. Delete the whole entry by clicking on the 'delete' button.



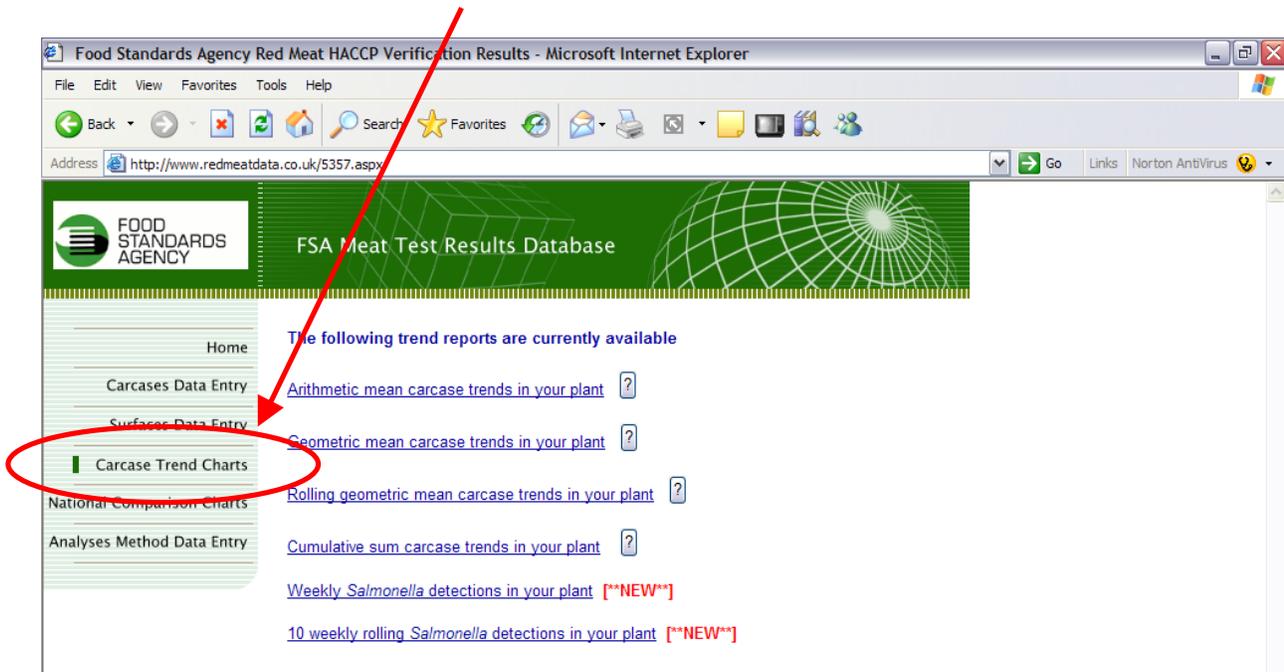
	DateTaken	Description	Sample	Type	Result
Delete	05/01/2006	Bloggs32127	Pig	Sponge swab	Not Detected
Delete	05/01/2006	Bloggs32126	Pig	Sponge swab	Detected
Delete	05/01/2006	Bloggs32125	Pig	Spongs swab	Not Detected
Delete	05/01/2006	Bloggs32124	Pig	Sponge swab	Not Detected
Delete	05/01/2006	Bloggs32123	Pig	Sponge swab	Not Detected

Back to data entry

- Data paging: If you have entered a lot of data, the grid above will present your results as a series of pages. You can click the numbers in the lower right hand side of the grid to move backwards through your data if it has been spread across different pages.

Producing reports of your results

The reports that the database can produce are split into two main groups. The first group are relate only to your plants and show the microbiological trends on your carcasses. To show the reports that are available for your plant, click on the button marked "Carcase trend charts" on the main menu.



Carcase trend charts:

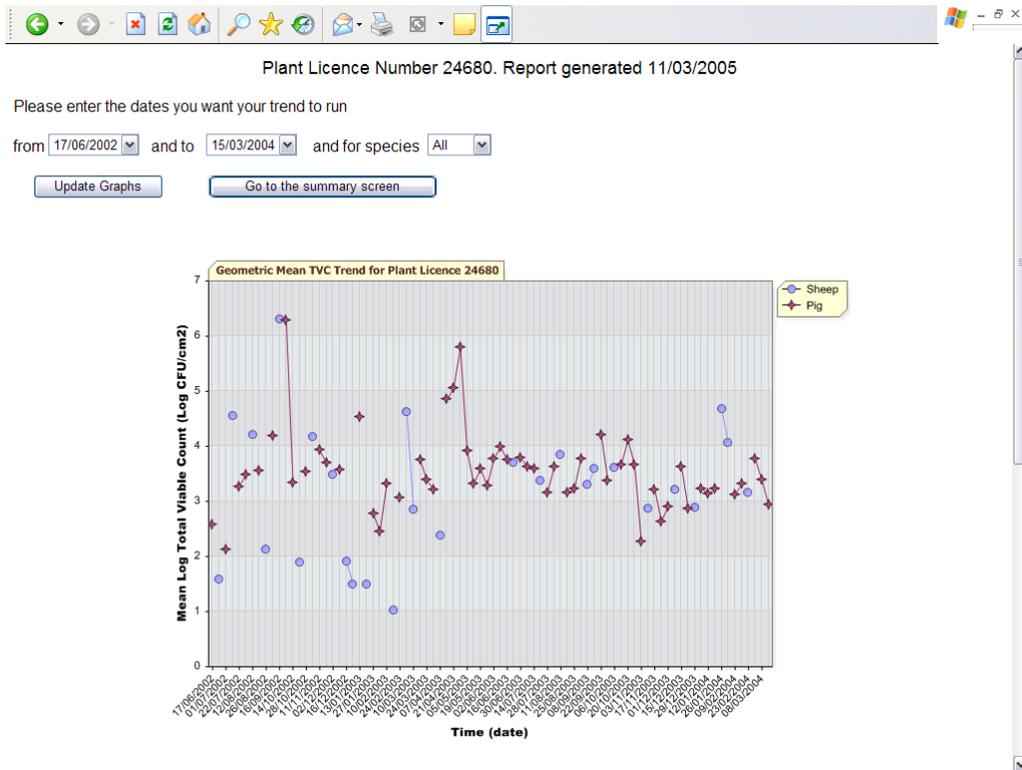
At the time this manual was produced, 6 different ways of showing your trends were available. Each of these methods has different advantages and disadvantages for different plants.

A detailed explanation of how each trend is calculated as well as a brief description of the strengths and weaknesses of each method is available online by clicking the

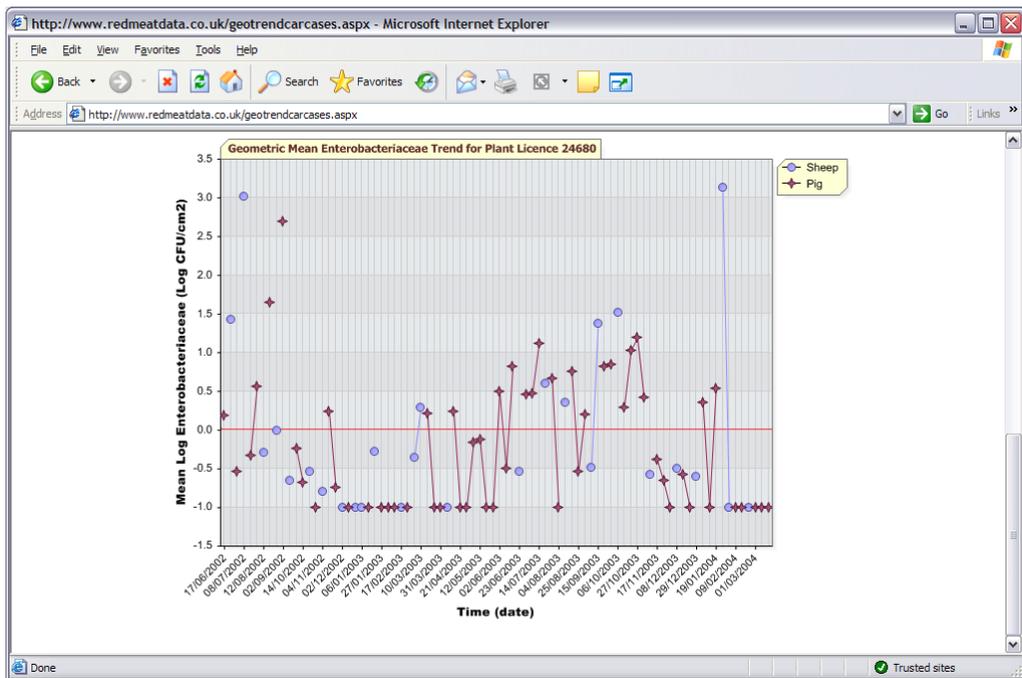
'' symbol adjacent to each trend.

The mathematical method used to generate each trend report is different for each of the different reports. However, the reports that are generated look similar and the graphs can all be formatted and the information that is displayed are all changed in the same way.

Clicking on one of the carcasse trend reports will show a report (the example that follows uses the geometric mean trends). The screen should look something like the screenshot below.



As you can see, the graph shows the TVC trends on carcasses for the plant that is logged in. A similar graph for *Enterobacteriaceae* is also generated below the TVC graph. You can see the *Enterobacteriaceae* graph by scrolling down the screen.



The information that is displayed on the trend graphs is controlled by the three drop down boxes at the top of the screen.

You change where the graphs begins from by making a selection from here

You change where the graphs ends making a selection from here

You change what species is shown (if your plant processes more than one carcass type) from here

from and to and for species

After you have made any changes, clicking the "update graphs" button will refresh the graphs to show what has been selected.

To return to the "Carcase Trend Charts" page click the "Go to summary screen" button.

Ten week rolling Salmonella reporting for your plant

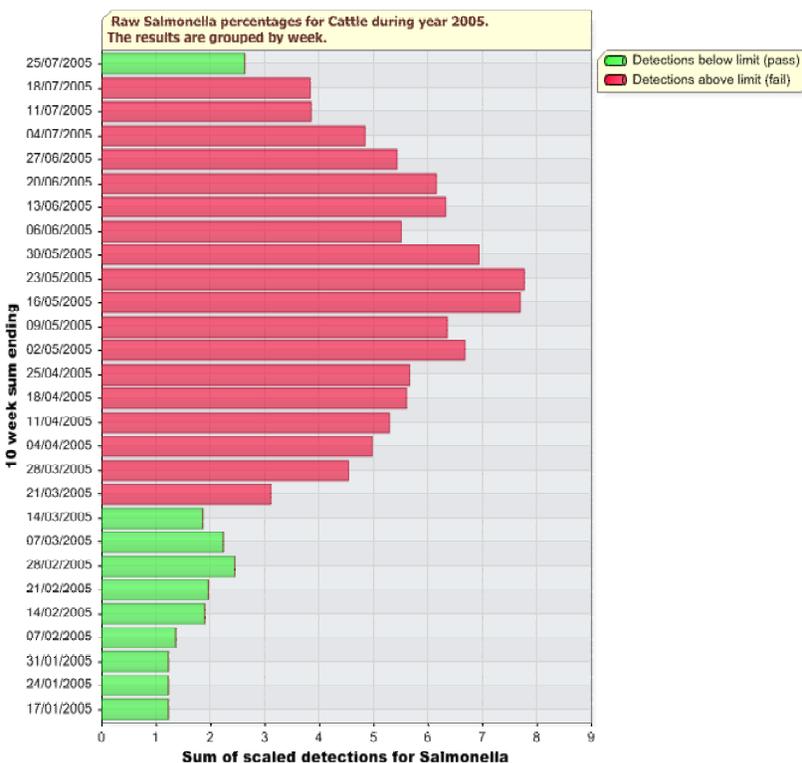
At the time of writing, there are two reports specifically for your plant which relate to the new *Salmonella* regulations scheduled to come into force in January 2006. The most useful for your plant will probably be the "10 weekly rolling *Salmonella* detections in your plant" report which is found under the 'Carcase trend charts' button on the main menu.

This report reflects our current understanding of the new rules which are that each sampling group analysed will comprise of 50 samples. These 50 samples will come from 10 consecutive sampling sessions (with 5 carcass samples per session), and that sampling sessions will be weekly. These 50 samples "roll" i.e. the samples from week 1 will drop off at week 11. The assessment criteria that we believe will be used are:

4 out of 50 for cattle and sheep are unacceptable and

6 out of 50 for pigs are unacceptable.

An example of a typical "10 weekly rolling *Salmonella* detections" report is shown below. The report automatically colours the bars on the chart red when they exceed the unacceptable criteria.



Producing reports of everyone's results

The second group of reports relate to national trends in all red meat plants. To access these reports, click on the button marked "National comparison charts" on the main menu.

FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY

FSA Meat Test Results Database

Home

Carcasses Data Entry

Surfaces Data Entry

Carcass Trend Charts

National Comparison Charts

Analyses Method Data Entry

The national comparison charts which are available from this screen are composed of data collated from all of the plants that submit their results to this site. However, some of the weekly reports show data for very recent weeks which has been collected from relatively small numbers of plants. For this reason, weekly reports with dates within the last 2 months should be interpreted cautiously.

These reports are currently available for surfaces.

- [Plant surface TVC percentile comparisons with national dataset](#)
- [National surface hygiene bandings shown by week](#)
- [Plant surface pass/fail comparisons with national pass/fails](#)

These reports are currently available for carcasses.

- [National carcass percentile summaries](#)
- [National carcass hygiene bandings shown by week](#)
- [Plant carcass percentile comparisons with national dataset](#)
- [Plant carcass pass/fail comparisons with national pass/fails](#)
- [National mean *Salmonella* percentage detections **\[**NEW**\]**](#)

[What are percentiles?](#)

As you can see from the screenshot above, there are 8 reports available and they are divided into reports for surfaces and reports for carcasses.

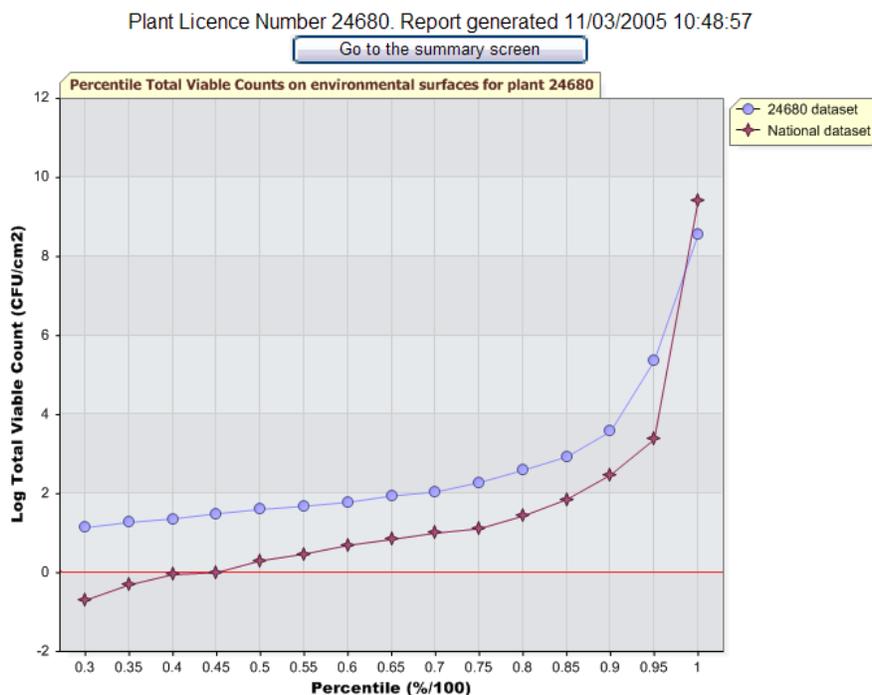
Before you have a look at any of these reports, you may find it worthwhile to refresh your memory about percentiles. There is an easy-to-follow description of what a percentile is available by clicking the button marked "What are percentiles?" (circled in red in the diagram above).

Producing reports of everyone's results: Surfaces

The surfaces reports all relate only to TVC. *Enterobacteriaceae* have not been included because these are optional and most UK plants do not test for these. The first report in the list is a comparison of the plant surface TVC results against the national results. To view this report please click on the link at the top of the list marked "Plant surface TVC percentile comparisons with national dataset"

A report is shown that will be similar to the one shown below. The blue line and circles (which represents the plant's results) is above the red line and stars (which are the results from all the plants in the country), and thus the microbiological numbers reported by the example plant are higher than those reported by the rest of the plants in the country.

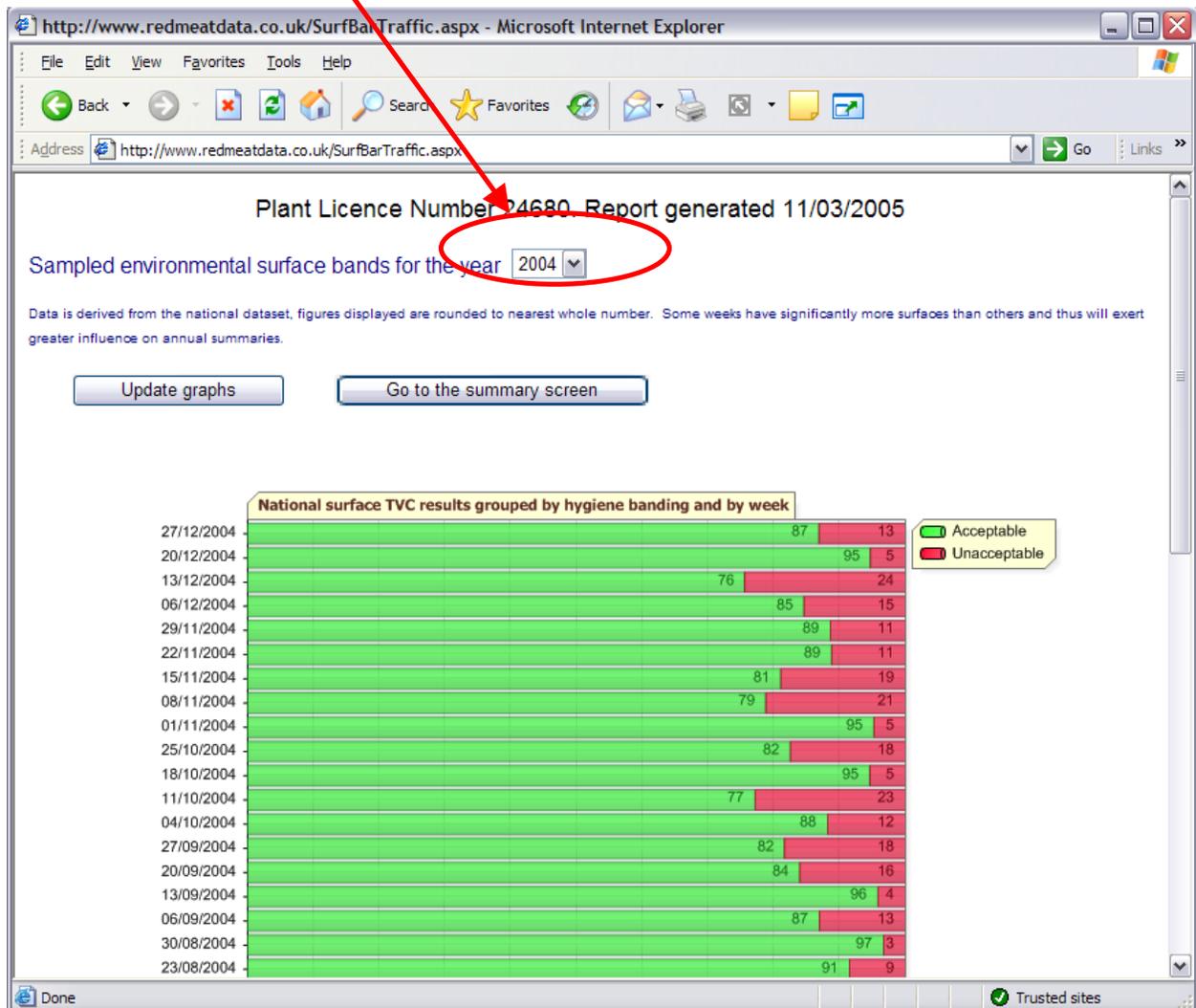
Clicking on the 'go to summary screen' button will return you to the 'National Comparison Charts' page.



When interpreting graphs such as these please remember that sometimes microbiological test results from different labs may not be directly comparable because there are differences between the analyses methods and the growth media that different labs use and these can affect the results that are reported.

National surface hygiene bandings shown by week.

The percentage of surface passes and fails derived from the national surfaces results can also be reported broken down on a week by week basis. Clicking on the drop down box allows you to choose which year is shown.



If you change the year that you want to display, clicking on the 'update graphs' button will refresh the graph.

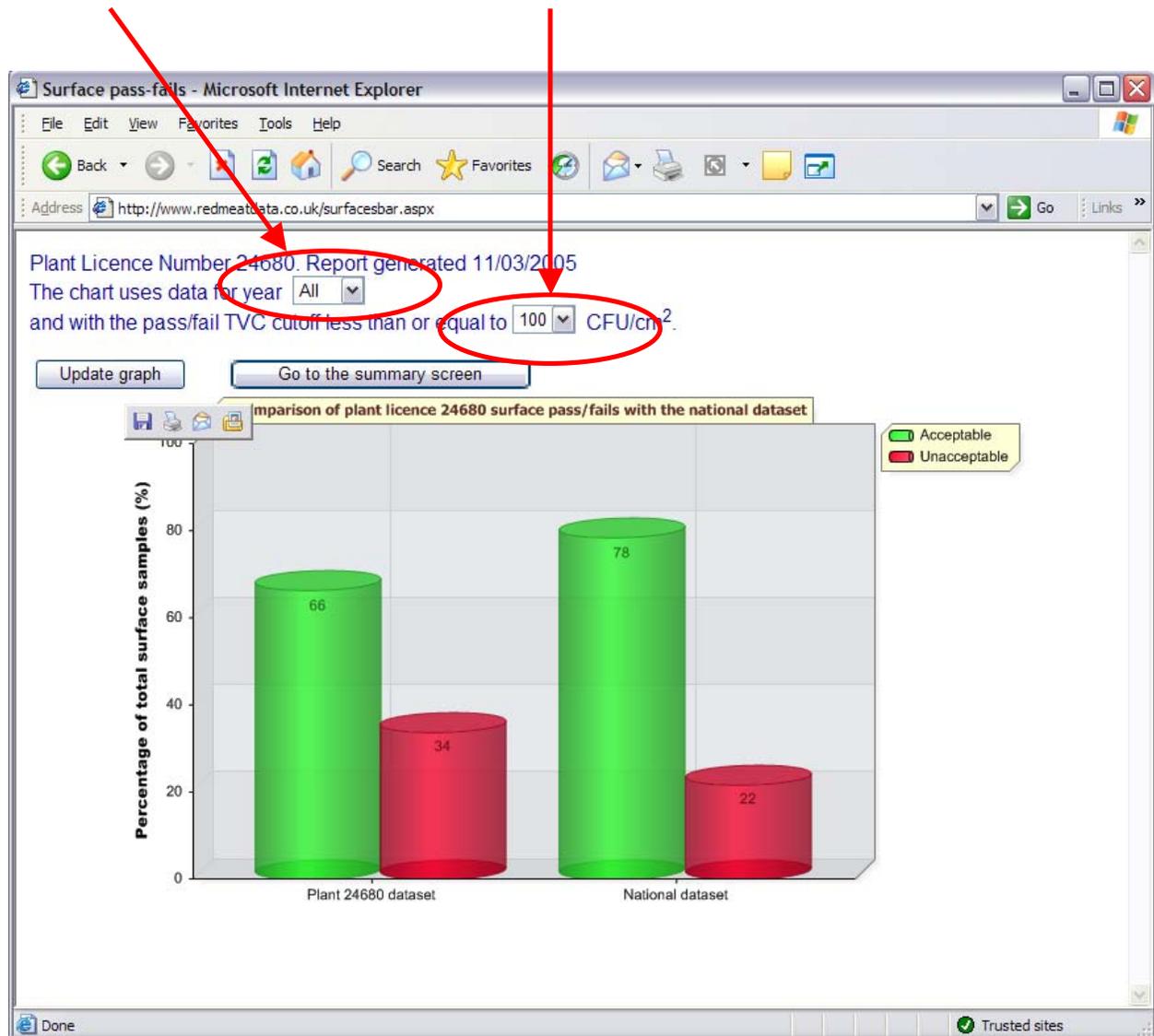
Clicking on the 'go to summary screen' button will return you to the 'National Comparison Charts' page.

Plant surface pass/fail comparisons with national pass/fails

This report shows the percentage of surface passes and fails from your plant and how these compare with the national dataset in the form of a colour-coded bar graph.

Clicking on the drop down boxes allows you to choose:

The year that is shown and what 'cut-off' value is used to assess pass or fail.



If you change the year that you want to display, or the cut-off value, clicking on the 'update graphs' button will refresh the graph.

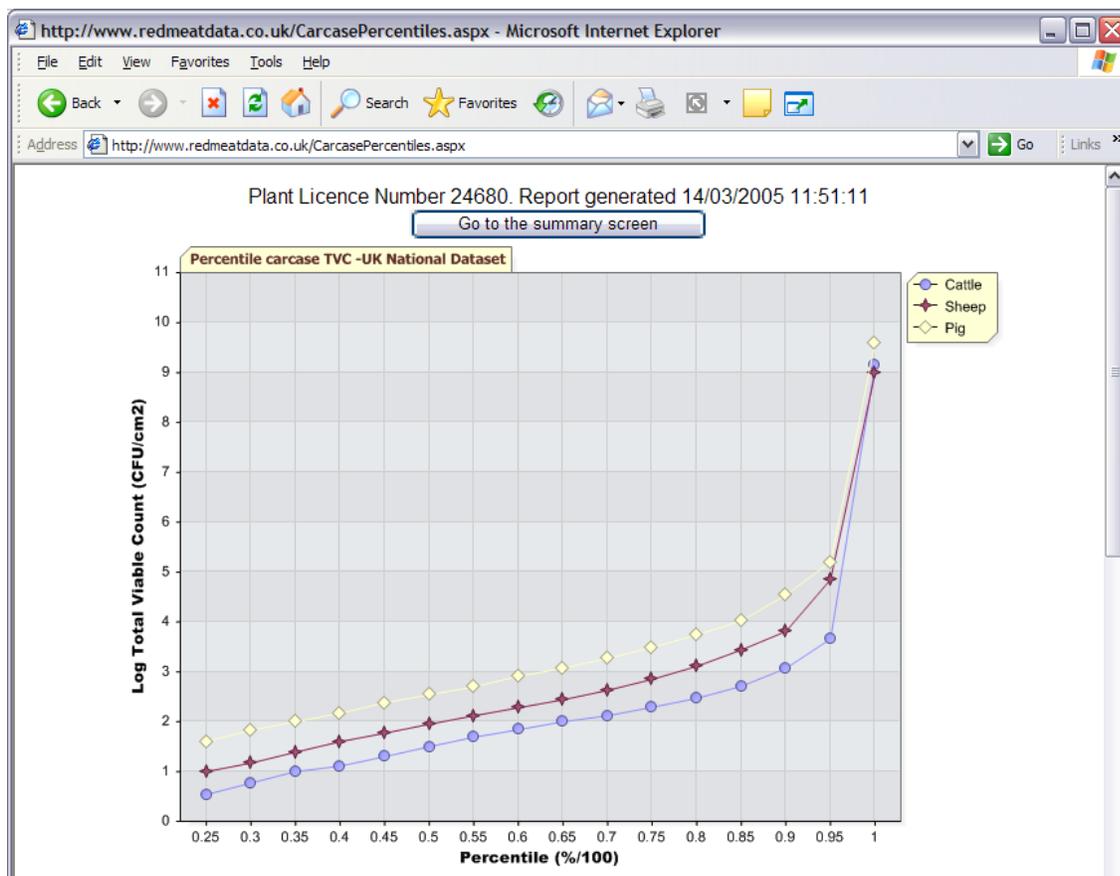
Clicking on the 'go to summary screen' button will return you to the 'National Comparison Charts' page.

Producing reports of everyone's results: Carcasses

The carcasses reports relate to both TVC and *Enterobacteriaceae* because all plants have to test for these. As a rule, the reports in this section all show two graphs, one for each bacterial group. The TVC graphs are always drawn above the *Enterobacteriaceae*. You may have to scroll down the screen to see the *Enterobacteriaceae* graph.

National Carcass Percentile Summaries

The first report in the list shows you a percentile-based summary of the national carcass testing results. Click on the 'National Carcass Percentile Summaries' link to view this report.



A report is shown that will be similar to the one shown above. This is a static report (you can't change the information that is displayed). Remember that you can scroll down to see the *Enterobacteriaceae* summary graph below. Clicking on the 'go to summary screen' button towards the top of the page will return you to the 'National Comparison Charts' page.

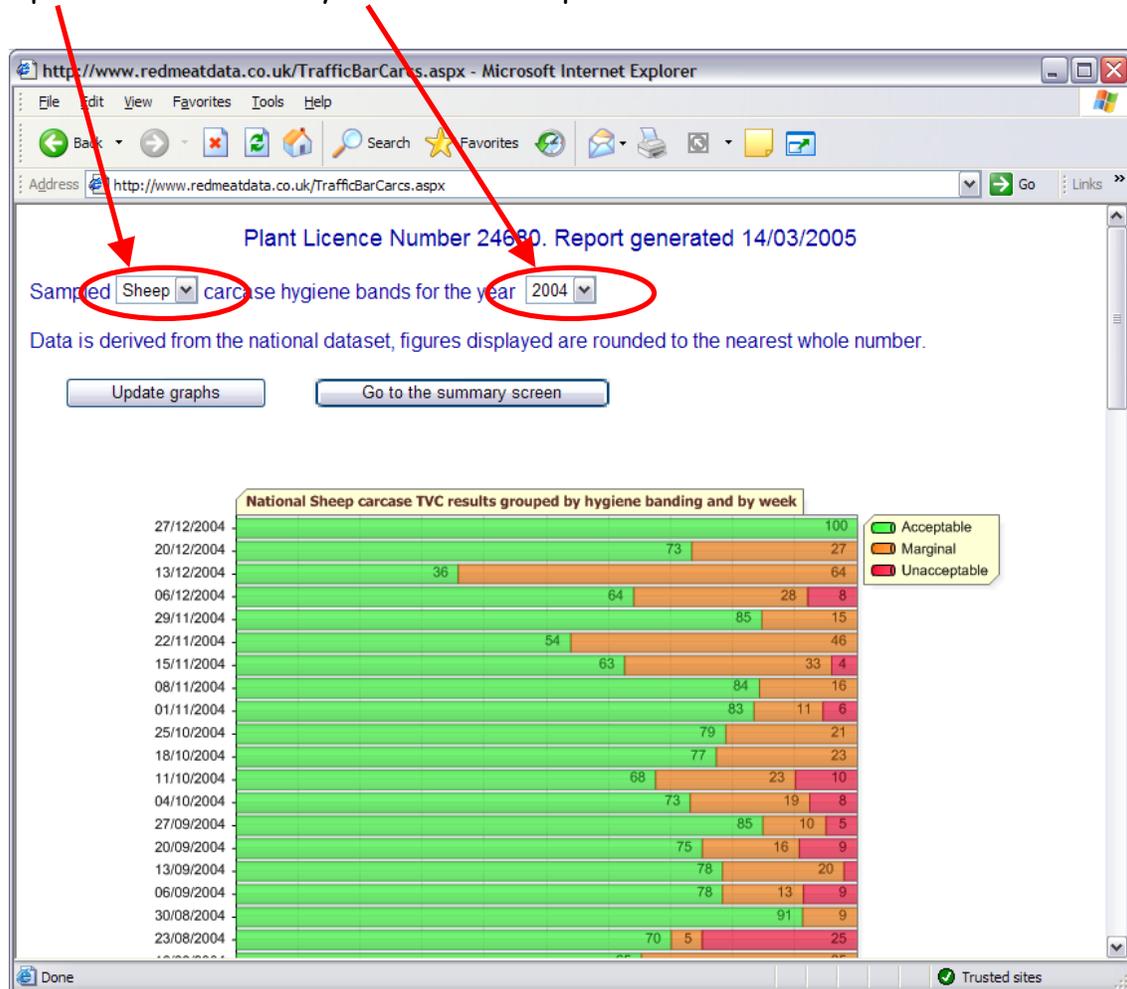
National carcass hygiene bandings shown by week

The percentage of carcasses that were acceptable, marginal or unacceptable derived from the national carcasses results can also be reported broken down on a week by week basis. To view this report, click on the "National carcass hygiene bandings shown by week" link.

A report similar to the one shown below will be produced.

Clicking on the drop down boxes allows you to choose:

The species and also the year that are reported.



As before, if you change the year or species that you want to view, clicking on the 'update graphs' button will refresh your graph. The *Enterobacteriaceae* summary graph is drawn below the TVC graph.

Clicking on the 'go to summary screen' button will return you to the 'National Comparison Charts' page.

Plant carcass percentile comparisons with national data set

This report is similar 'National Carcass Percentile Summaries' report except that it is interactive and allows you to compare your plant's results with those from the nationally-derived dataset. Three groups of data can be shown at any one time.

Clicking on the drop down boxes allows you to choose:

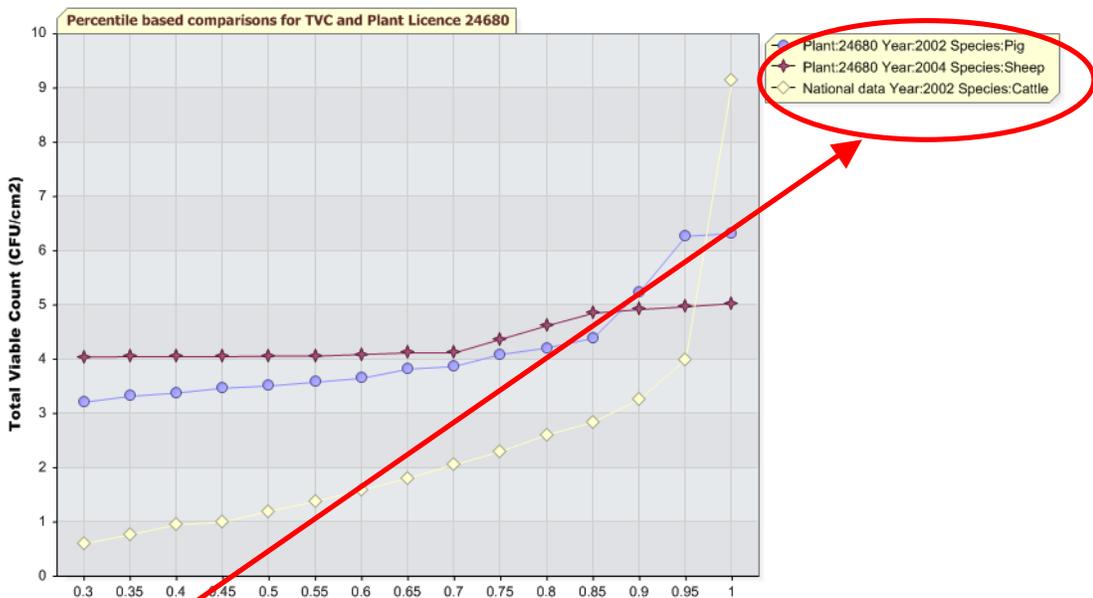
The year and also the carcass species that are reported for each of the graphs.

Plant Licence Number 24680. Report generated 14/03/2005

Trend graph 1 is plant-derived from using carcasses

Trend graph 2 is plant-derived from using carcasses

Trend graph 3 is nationally-derived from using carcasses



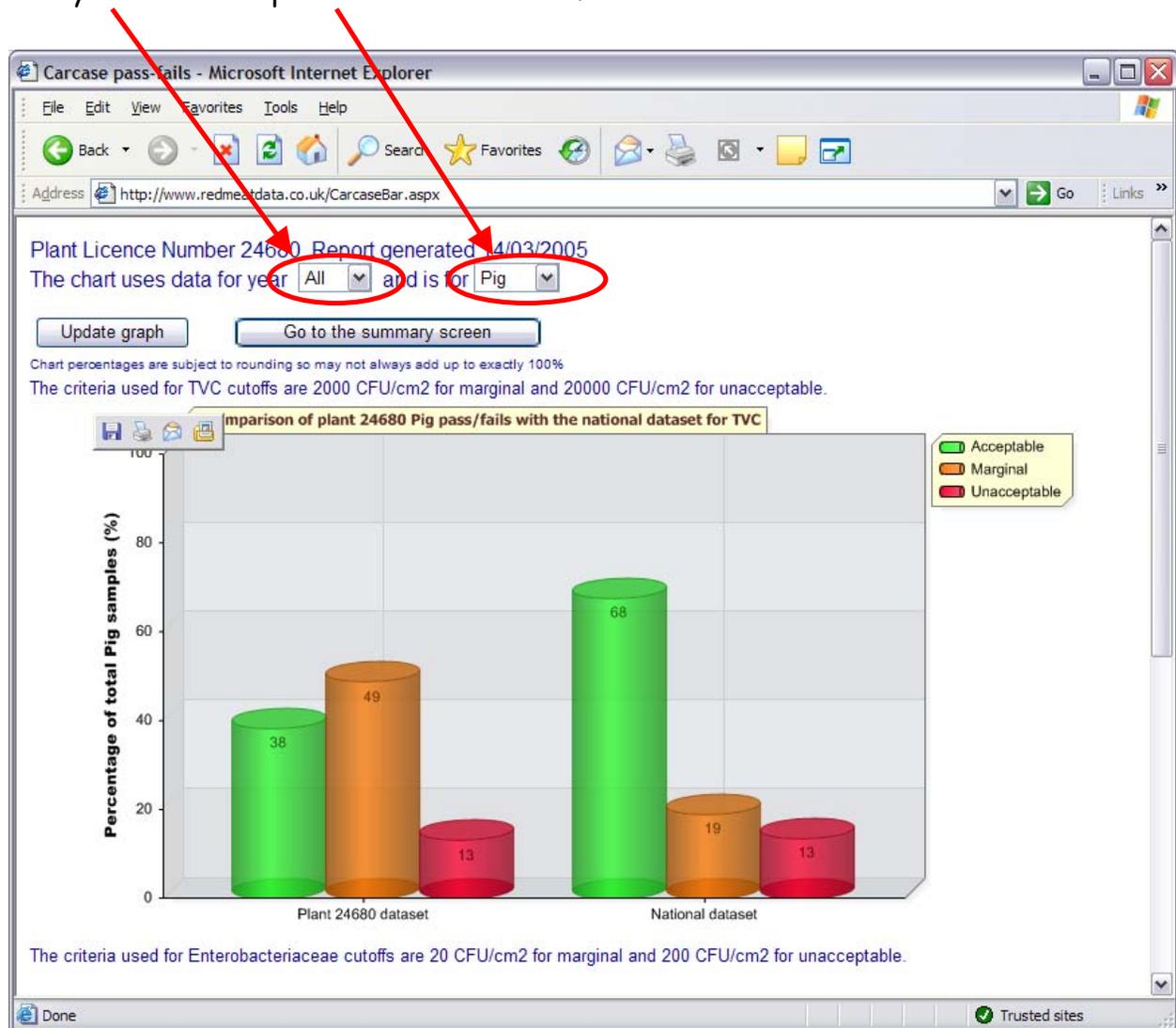
The chart legend shows what the different coloured lines correspond to. As before the corresponding *Enterobacteriaceae* chart is drawn below the TVC chart.

Clicking on the 'go to summary screen' button will return you to the 'National Comparison Charts' page.

Plant carcass pass/fail comparisons with national pass/fails

This report shows the percentage of acceptable, marginal and unacceptable carcasses from your plant as a comparison with the national dataset. The report takes the form of a colour-coded bar graph similar to the one shown below.

Clicking on the drop down boxes allows you to choose:
The year and the species that are shown.

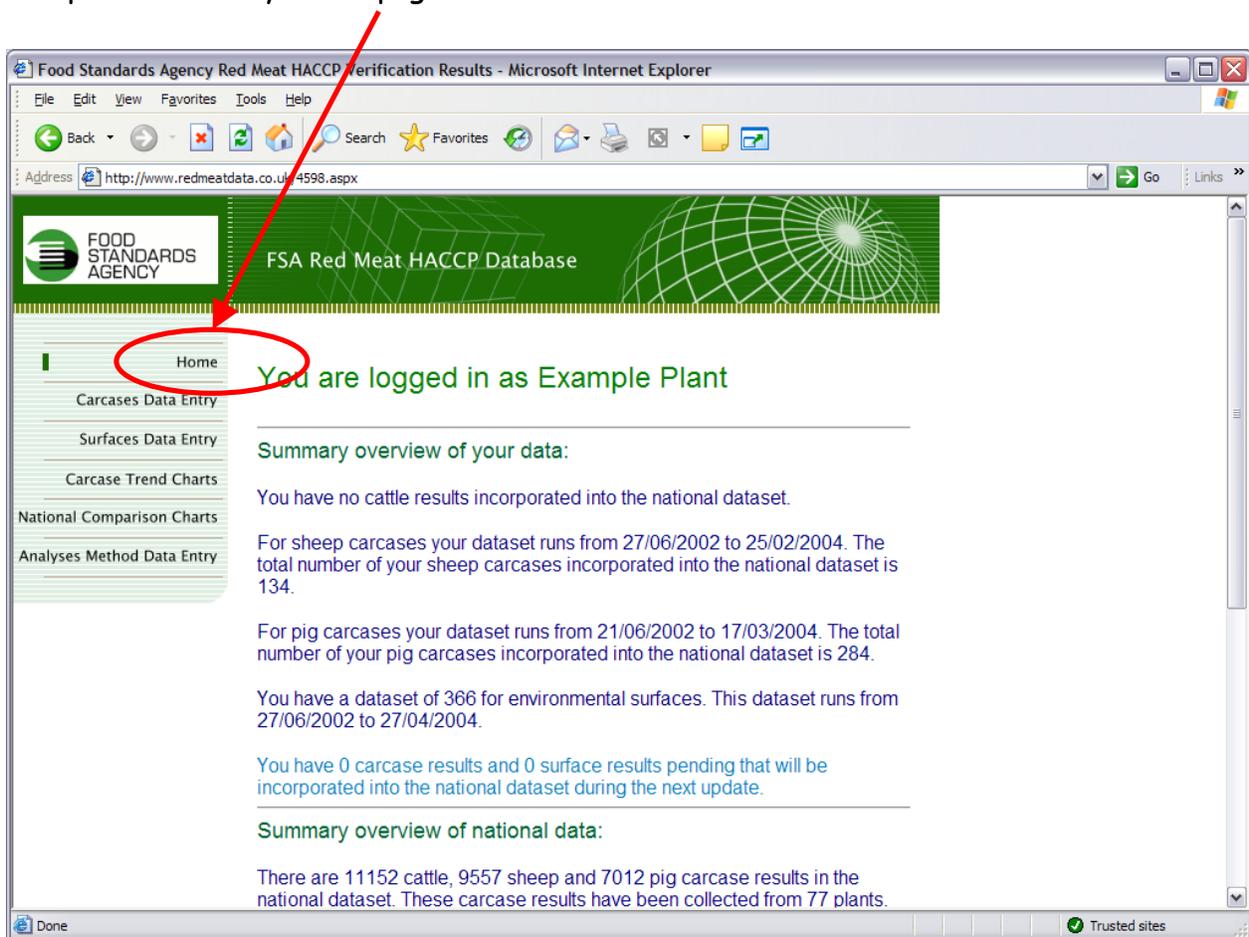


The hygiene bandings are different for pigs compared with cattle and sheep. The report automatically takes account of these differences and shows what the criteria that have been used are.

Clicking on the 'go to summary screen' button will return you to the 'National Comparison Charts' page.

How to Logout and end your secure session

Once you have finished using the database you can end your session by returning to the plant summary home page



Scroll to the bottom of the page and logout by clicking on the logout 'here' button. This will end your secure session with the database.

Comments and suggestions

If you have any general comments, niggles about how the database operates, or would like to see additional reports added, you can let the project team know about it by sending them an email from within the site. There is a button towards the bottom of the plant summary home page which allows you send to your message.