

Livestock Data Link – linking supply chain partners

Livestock Data Link (LDL) is an online application that enables the flow of carcass information between processors and their suppliers with the aim of optimising supply chain performance. This information can be used to assess individual carcass performance against market specifications in terms of compliance, which is linked to a library of solutions to address non-compliant issues on farm.

Non-compliance with market specifications costs the beef industry an estimated \$127-\$163 million per annum, according to research conducted by MLA across four key markets in 2011/12. This includes value lost due to:

- downgrades (discounts) for out of specification carcasses (\$51 million per annum)
- carcass condemnments (\$64 million per annum)
- loss of meat and offal value due to animal health and disease (\$12 – 49 million per annum).

Significant improvements could also be achieved by reducing the loss of meat and offal value due to animal health and disease issues. As an illustrative example, if 20% of beef livers in a plant processing 800 head per week are unable to be sold due to health issues, this would equate to a weekly cost of around \$1,920 (160 livers x 8kg x \$1.50).

Key benefits for industry and individual enterprises

- ✓ Improved supply chain performance enabled by enhanced information flow relating to carcass performance
- ✓ centralised information depository which enables performance benchmarking at an enterprise, regional, state or national level
- ✓ tailored research, development and extension activities for supply chains and geographic areas facing particular carcass performance.

Carcass performance analysis

Users can create customised grids based on individual market specifications, as shown in Figure 1.

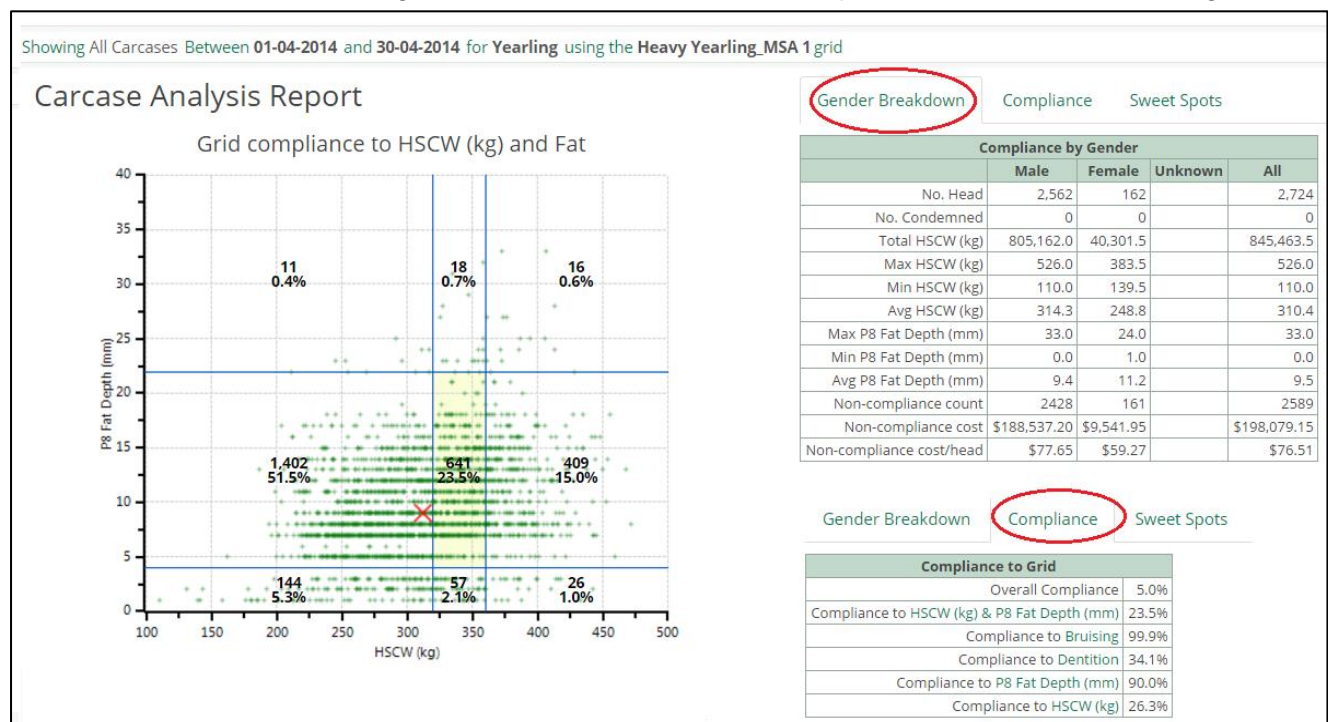


Figure 1: An example of carcass performance analysed against a customised grid based on individual market specifications

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The total number of animals that are ‘underspec’ and ‘overspec’ for each trait can also be determined. Individual animal slaughter data can be downloaded for further analysis using proprietary software or excel.

Carcase performance against a grid can be analysed and the cost of non-compliance for each trait calculated based on the discounts that would be applied for carcasses falling outside of market specifications. An example is provided in Figure 2.

Benchmarking

Carcase performance can be benchmarked against average regional, state or national performance data. An example is shown in Figure 3.

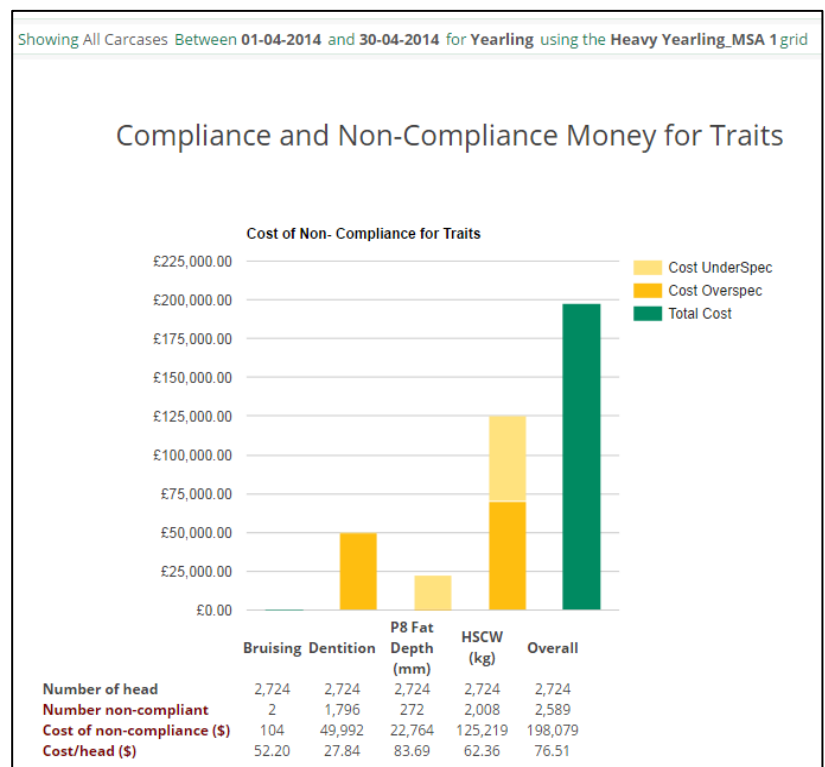


Figure 2: Compliance and non-compliance data

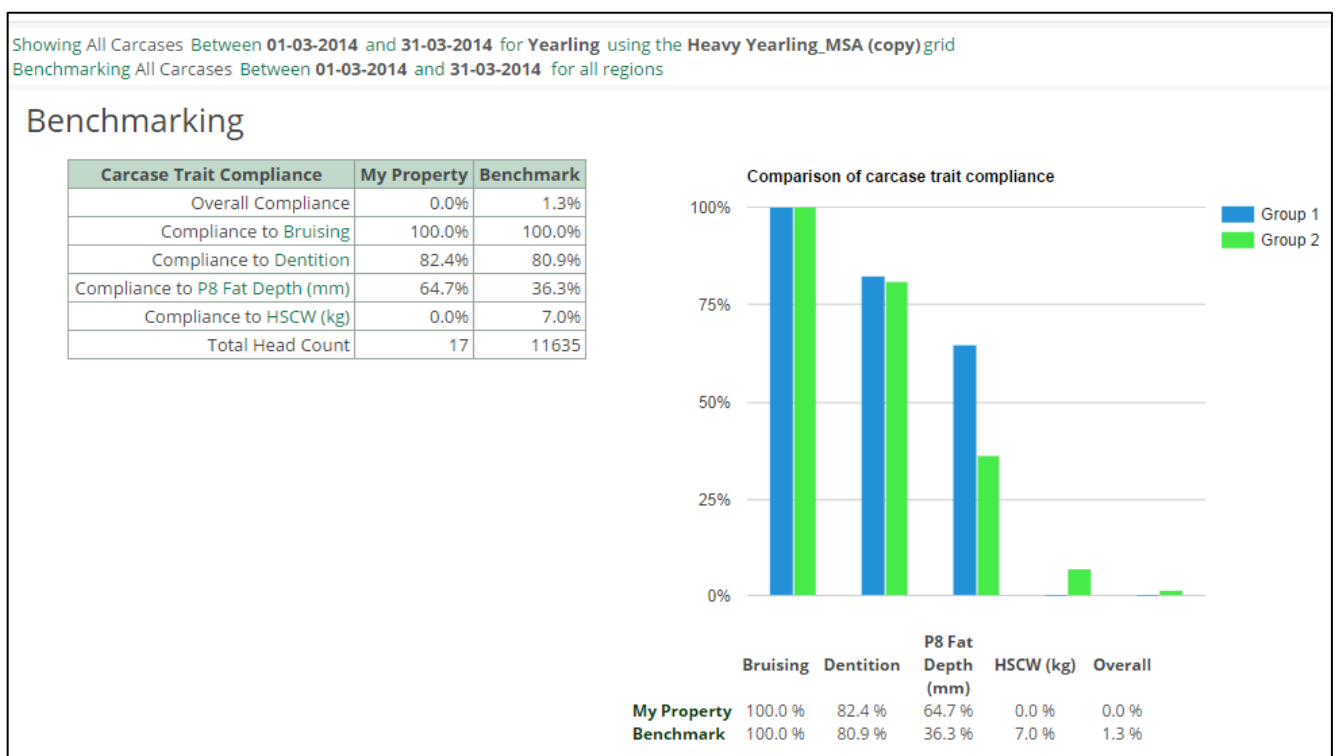


Figure 3: Example benchmarking data

Supplier performance

Processors are able to compare and benchmark supplier performance across a range of traits that reflect a processors market specifications. Supplier performance can be assessed at a shire, region, state or national level. An example is shown in Figure 4.

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Showing All Carcasses Between 01-04-2014 and 30-04-2014 for Yearling using the Heavy Yearling_MSA 1 grid

Supplier Ranking

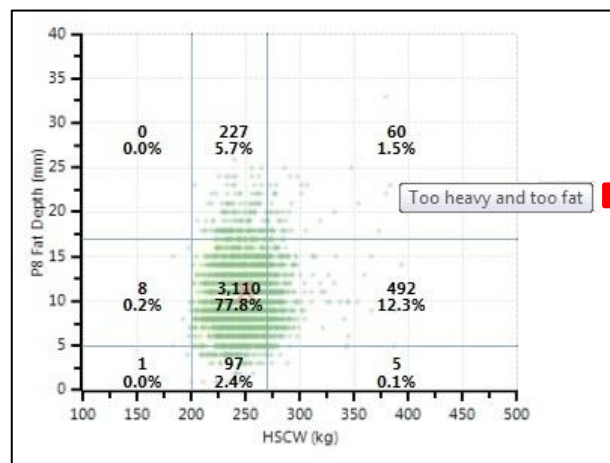
Ranking Method Compliance ▾

	Compliance % (Overall)	No. head	Property	Supplier	Compliance (%)				Location			
					HSCW & P8	HSCW	P8	Dentition	Bruising	Shire	Region	State
1	100.0	1	PICT1775	Unknown	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Deloraine	North East	TAS
2	66.7	6	PICT0851	Unknown	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	Deloraine	North East	TAS
3	50.0	2	PICT0374	Unknown	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Delatite (Benalla & Mansfield)	North East	VIC
4	50.0	2	PICT1068	Unknown	50.0	50.0	100.0	50.0	100.0	Deloraine	North East	TAS
5	37.5	8	PICT0765	Unknown	37.5	37.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	Ballarat	South West	VIC
6	33.3	6	PICT1108	Unknown	33.3	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	Deloraine	North East	TAS

Figure 4: Example supplier ranking

Solutions to Feedback

Reporting tools include links to an online library of solutions to help address issues that may improve market compliance. An example is shown in Figure 5.



Solutions to feedback

Cattle

Weight and fat

- ▶ Too light and too fat
- ▶ Too fat
- ▶ **Too heavy and too fat**
- ▶ Too light
- ▶ Correct weight and fat
- ▶ Too heavy

Too heavy and too fat

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Compared to the target specifications, carcasses in this box on the grid are too heavy and too fat.

This means retail and primal cuts will be bigger than the processor wants for this market, and will require considerable trimming of excess fat to make them acceptable to their customers.

The cattle were probably just overdone - they would probably have hit the target if they were sold earlier.

Doing it better next time:

- [Improving cattle that are too heavy and too fat for the market](#)
- [Am I aiming at the right target?](#)
- [Help with assessing fatness and carcass weight in live cattle](#)
- [Reducing variation in the sale group](#)
- [Take care before making major changes!](#)

Figure 5: Solutions to Feedback example output

For more information or to register interest in participating in a pilot, please contact:

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