Barn Report : Advanced

Air Space

A *Site* is made up of one or more *Airspaces*.

An air space is a grouping of logged data parameters. Although each data parameter - such as temperature sensors - is recorded individually, there are many cases where one parameter is related to another. For example, the reading of a particular temperature sensor is related to other temperature sensors in a room, and the corresponding set temperature.

One of the most powerful features of Barn Report is to draw these related data parameters together into a single view or summary. We call such a grouping an "Air Space" - since it is usually one "room" and it isn't always one particular Dicam unit. There may be several airspaces in a single controller, or several controllers in a single air space, and even several airspaces in a single room.

Each air space has a "tab" in the Report Page. Different air spaces may have different details in the Report page, according to the type of air space and logged parameters. An air space may have one or more charts pages. (See more in Air Space setup later.)

Report Page : Columns

Barn Report automatically formats column width to show the text header. To adjust width of columns (such as to show more columns on the screen), move your cursor to the join between the columns and left-click/drag the join. (Note : This formatting will be lost if the site setup is updated or if you use Site : Restore Default User Settings.)

Report Page : Current Batch

A Batch is defined as a particular period of time in the selected air space. By default the Current batch is regarded as 30 days (so the Current Batch line shows the same as the 30 day line.) To set the actual start date of the current batch, right click on the Current Batch row and set the actual start date in ISO format (YYYY-MM-DD) such as 2000-10-15 meaning 15th October 2000.

File Menu : Preferences : General

This sets the Main Logging Directory - this is where the program automatically looks for sites, and where folders are created for new sites which are added.

For most users, we recommend you use the default location of C:\BrLogging.

More advanced users may decide to use other locations, possibly on a networked drive.
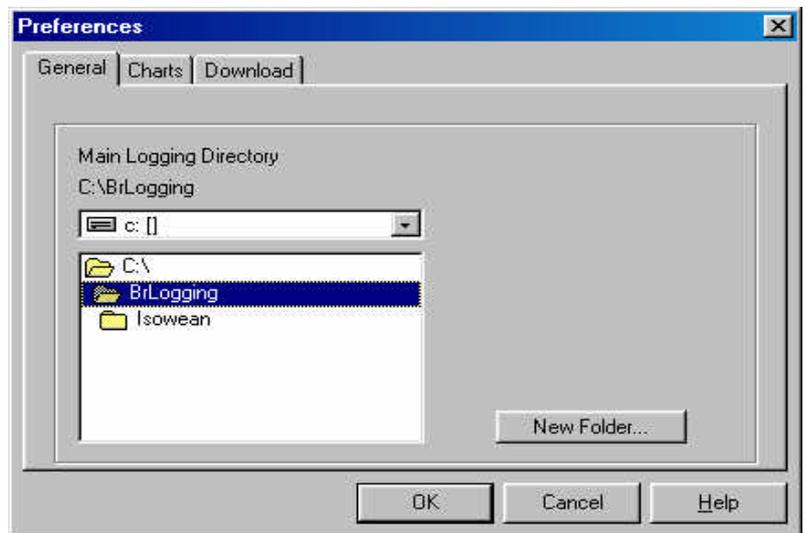
Preferences : Charts : Display Time

By default, the program uses Logger Time - that is, the time and date set on the Logger itself. If the user has made an error in setting the time and time, this can produce odd results (for example, a completely wrong date shown, such as year 2070) and or later data being treated as being before earlier data, or large gaps in the logged data.

To correct this, change the display time. Uncheck the "Use Logger Time" box. Depending on where you are in the world, you may then need to set an Offset from GMT. Not many people know this, but all PCs actually use GMT (Greenwich Mean Time), with an offset of so many hours. (This is to avoid otherwise errors of time differences and daylight saving in time/date stamps.) So if you need to use this facility, set the offset to the local offset from GMT.
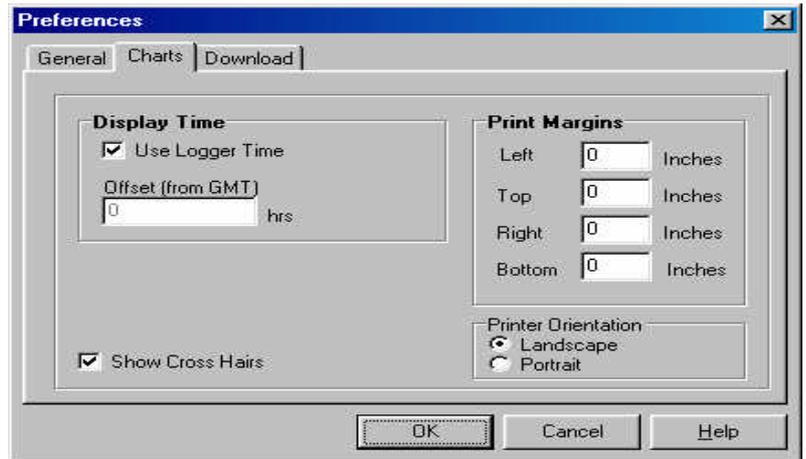
Preferences : Download

If the User Connection box is checked, Barn Report will only use the displayed connection when trying to download data. If the box is unchecked, it will use the one shown when trying to make a connection, but it will try to use any Dial Up Connection, if the connection is already connected.

To select a different primary connection to use, click on Use Connection, and select the connection you want to use normally.

FTP timeout defines how long your program will wait to get a response when downloading files. If your server is slow at getting through to the Barn Report server, it may give up before it gets a response. Setting a longer FTP timeout may help.

Dial Up Connections : Barn Report needs a standard Dial Up Connection. Some service providers (such as AOL) offer normal facilities, but with non standard software. Check in you're My Computer : Dial Up Connections folder. If your service provider isn't shown, although you have an Internet connection, it's non-standard and may not work.

If yours doesn't work, or gives poor performance, it's a good idea to install another. (You can have several installed on your computer.) Many service providers now offer free subscription accounts (such as Freeserve the UK) or anonymous accounts (such as BTClick).

File menu : Add/Remove Sites

You can use this menu to remove sites that you no longer need or use. It does not
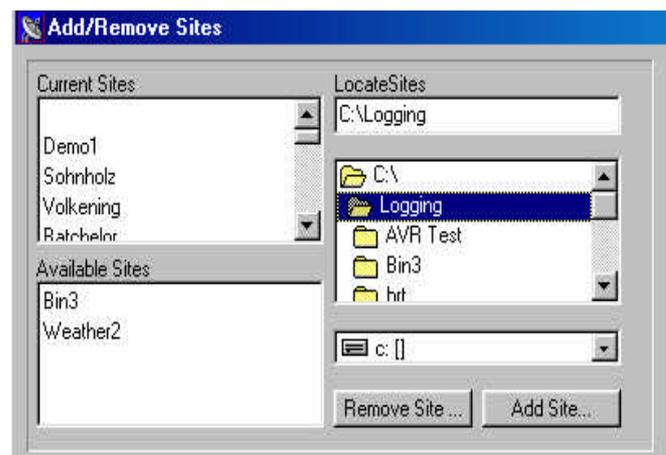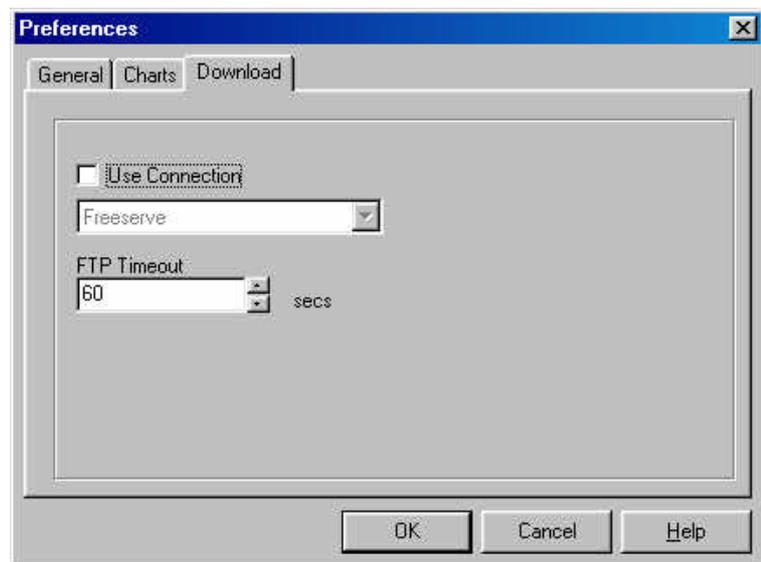
delete the data files for the site, so you can add it again later.
Sites are normally "installed" using brinit.dat (see Installation), but you can also add sites by copying the relevant files from another PC, or accessing the folder over an office network.
Note : Installing a site manually in this way does not give access to new data from the Barn Report server.

Site menu : Restore Default User Settings

 This option clears modifications you have made to the display of this particular site, such as changing column widths, chart scaling and so on. If a site set up is changed (on the server), user settings are automatically restored to default values.
If you find that there are problems or limitations with the site set up (so you want it changed on the server), make a request by email.

Airspace menu : Save Data

This gives the option of saving the current report page as a .csv file.
You can open this file with a spreadsheet such as Excel, or even a word processor.
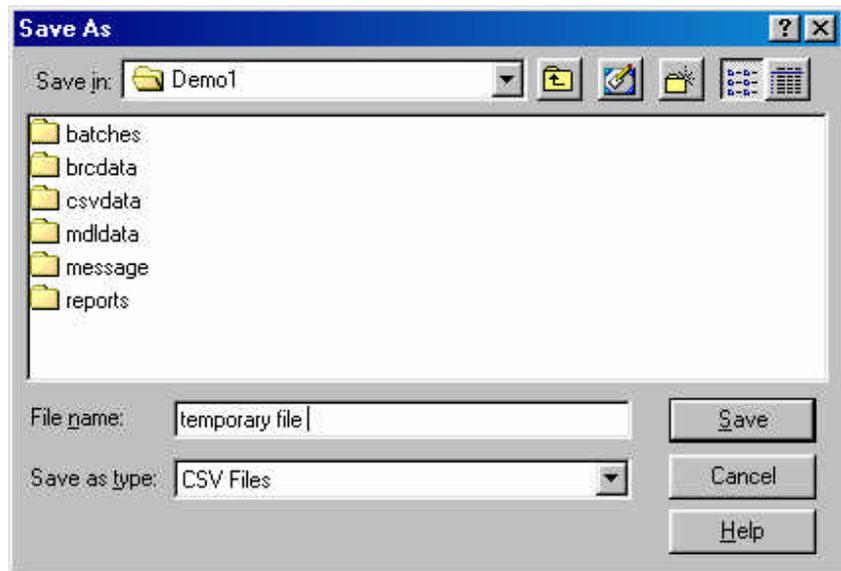
Here's an example of the type of data you'll get :

	Ext1	Wind	Set	Mean	Min	Max
1	16.7	5	19.7	20.3	19.3	22.1
7	16.4	5	20.1	20.8	19.3	23.1
14	15.2	6	20.5	20.8	19.6	22.6
30	17.6	7	21.4	22.1	20.3	24.7
Current Batch	17.6	7	21.4	22.1	20.3	24.7

Airspace menu : Define Batch

This is an important feature of the program. A Batch normally means a batch of animals - that is, between a certain date and a certain date - though it can be used for any time period. For example, you might use it to give the summary for a whole year of operation.
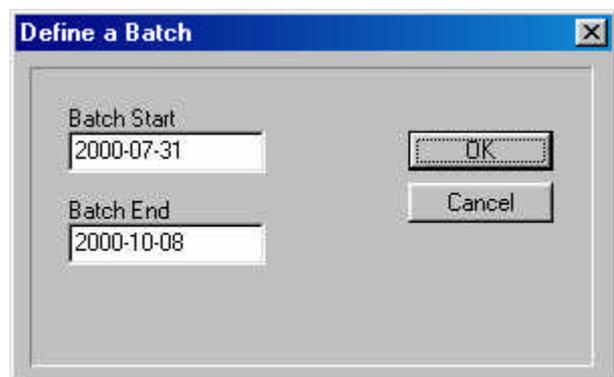
Set the Batch Start and End dates using ISO date format. That is YYYY-MM-DD.
For example, the dates shown are 31ˢᵗ August 2000 to 18ᵗʰ October 2000.

The press OK. This function creates a summary for the air space between the dates shown.

You will see that you have a new line on the Report Page, labelled with the batch start date - values shown are in italics.

[Note : If you can't see the new report line, select Air Space and check *Show Batches*. If the batch is still not shown, uncheck it and check it again.

If you select Quick View, note that the X axis shows day numbers relative to the start day of your batch.

If you then double click on this row (to see Charts), the day numbers (at the bottom

	Ext1	Wind	Set	Mean	Min
1	10.0	5	20.9	**20.6**	19.8
7	11.3	8	21.3	**20.7**	19.7
14	13.2	7	18.9	**19.7**	17.6
30	15.1	7	16.1	**19.2**	16.7
Current Batch	15.1	7	16.1	**19.2**	16.7
31/07/00	*16.7*	*6*	*17.6*	*19.8*	*17.4*

Mean

Batch Start : 31/07/00 00:00   Batch End : 08/10/00 00:00

of the screen are relative to this start date).
As well as showing this in Barn Report, the program creates an additional data file, which can be opened using a spreadsheet. The file can be found in the folder C:\BrLogging\<sitename>\batches and has a name such as U136130.bch. In this case, the name is made up of "U1" - being the Unit number on the network and 36130 (which is the start date 31ˢᵗ July 2000 in serial format). To view this in a spreadsheet, open it as if a .csv file. On opening the file, you will a row for each day of the batch, with an entry for each parameter shown in the report page like this :

Date	Ext	Set	Mean	Min
01-Feb-99	34.5	70.7	68.8	54.7
02-Feb-99	34.4	72.0	70.8	69.6
03-Feb-99	35.3	72.0	70.9	69.9
04-Feb-99	25.0	72.0	70.0	67.2
05-Feb-99	37.4	72.0	67.9	66.2
06-Feb-99	32.5	72.4	70.1	63.4
07-Feb-99	41.2	72.0	74.4	73.1
08-Feb-99	42.5	72.6	74.2	72.6
09-Feb-99	39.4	73.0	73.5	70.3

To remove a batch, right click on the batch and choose *Delete*.
If you create a new batch (in an air space) with the same start date as an existing one, the new batch will replace the old one.

Airspace : Properties

This feature is used to set properties such as "scaling" of certain logged parameters. For example, if a count of 1 for the feed auger represents a feed delivery of 0.23 pounds of feed, you can set a scaling of 0.23, so the display will be in pounds.

(You can also use this to check the current scaling that is being applied.)

The scaling may be lost if the site set up is updated. If you have a particular scaling value you are using, we suggest you inform you Barn Report service provider so that the value can be changed in the default set up, and other users/viewers of the same site will be updated accordingly.
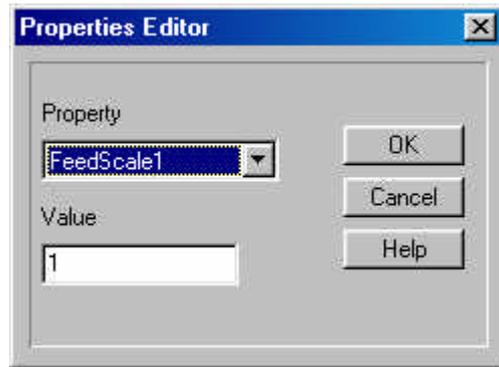
Tools : CSV Editor

As well as logged data, Barn Report has the ability to incorporate files of manually entered data.

Shown right is a typical example containing the number of animals.

In this case, a user might have the optional "CsvEd" program allowing this data entry.

[Note : In this case, we recommend that the related file is emailed to us so we can install it on the server.]
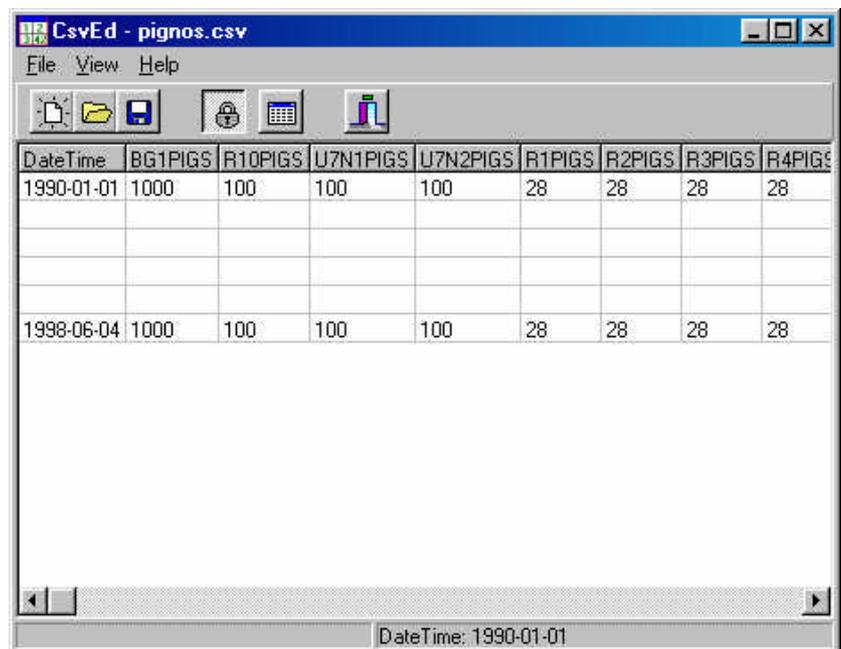
Folders

Sites are referred to by names - usually the name of the farm or owner. Data files for a particular site are held in a folder called C:\BrLogging\<sitename>. (With subfolders for auxiliary files such as batch data.)

If you want to backup the data, make sure you backup the whole folder structure along with subfolders intact.

You should not move or rename these folders, because this may break the links for downloading files.

Site Setup

Key features of the Barn Report system are ease of use, and a "shared" view of information. For example, if a farm manager wants to discuss a particular issue with his adviser for a particular matter, they have a common information base.

Each site has a set up which defines what is displayed, and in what way. Site set ups can be modified on the individual user PC - such as chart scaling and so on - but these are generally over written if the set up is changed on the server.

Where possible, we use a common way to present data, so it is easier to compare one farm with another, if they are similar. We aim to get the most out of each situation within its limitations, but sometimes we are short of specific information. For example, we might name a room according to a guess on what type of room it is, or use a name such as U1R1 (meaning Room 1 in control Unit 1.)

It helps if we have feedback and comments on preferences. For example, if you have names for particular rooms, or don't see things shown in the way you want them. In this case, email nick@farmex.com with your comments or suggestions and we will try to comply with your requests.