

Livestock Health Monitoring Report – March 2021

The Livestock Health Monitoring program collects confidential/anonymous information on livestock diseases and conditions observed by rural service providers in Tasmania and produces a monthly report that is circulated as widely as possible amongst Tasmanian livestock producers and service providers. It is based on a successful pilot project conducted in 2018-19.

See www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health for previous reports.

The program is designed to keep Tasmanian livestock producers and rural service providers up to date on what livestock diseases and conditions are currently occurring in Tasmania. This should mean earlier diagnosis, more effective treatment and better prevention of future outbreaks.

Information from these reports may be used to help convince our overseas trading partners that we don't have certain livestock diseases that they are concerned about, thus keeping our valuable export markets open and stopping risky imports coming in.

This program should also help detect an outbreak of emergency animal disease earlier, allowing effective action to stamp it out or reduce its impact.

The program has a sheep industry emphasis, but all common livestock species are covered. The National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy lies at the core of the program (see www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs)

Funding is provided by Animal Health Australia (with support from Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia) and by DPIPW. Private veterinarians coordinate the project.

You are welcome to distribute this report to anyone you like. The next Livestock Health Monitoring report will be out in mid-May.

If you need more information on this project please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or rja69392@bigpond.net.au.

For farm biosecurity plans, animal health declarations and information on biosecurity practices see: www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/

Remember:

- Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease to the Hotline on 1800 675 888
- Never feed animal protein such as meat meal to any ruminant including sheep.
- Use NVDs and NLIS tags properly so that animals can be 'contact traced' quickly if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease.
- If you have pigs, don't feed them swill.
- Never feed raw untreated offal to dogs.

Seasonal Disease alerts

Barbers pole worm: More widespread due to higher rainfall – monitor for pale conjunctivae, do WORMTESTS with larval identifications.

Pink eye: reduce exposure of young sheep and cattle to flies, dust and long grass.

Flystrike: keep checking mobs even if treated with preventative chemicals as resistant flies more common now.

Footrot and scald: could spread actively after rain and grass growth.

Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD): don't place cattle on paddocks that have a lot of dead grass with Rough Dog's Tail weed present this autumn.

Nematodirus: Very common in weaner sheep in autumn. Scour, slower growth rate, Nematodirus eggs present but counts may or may not be high.

Ryegrass staggers: still active, especially in the NE, keep young sheep and cattle off high-risk ryegrass paddocks.

Calf scours: mainly in dairy calves, but beef calves can be affected.

Biosecurity story of the month

Drench resistance has been seen in both sheep and goats in March.

Worms develop resistance to any drench that does not kill 100% of all worms present. How quickly that resistance develops depends on how you manage drenching in your flock.

A few tips to delay the development of resistance (see WORMBOSS for a full list):

- Drench only when needed (use WORMTEST to monitor faecal egg counts)
- Use drenches that are at least 98% effective if possible (use DRENCHTEST)
- Drench to the heaviest in the group (can draft into light and heavy, weigh heaviest in each group)
- Maintain drench guns well and check they are delivering the right dose (a few squirts into the barrel of a syringe).
- Use effective combination drenches and rotate drench families every time you drench a particular mob.
- Use short-acting drenches if you can.

If you do these things, don't let introduced sheep undo all your good work. A Sheep Health Statement is very useful to help prevent entry of other diseases, but may not protect your flock from drench resistance.

So use a **Quarantine Drench** with a combination of no less than 4 unrelated drench actives with at least one of these being the newest drench actives: monepantel (Zolvix®) or derquantel (with abamectin—Startect®). This can be done using multi-active (combination) and/or single-active products concurrently—up the race with one product, then up the race again with the next. Hold in un-grassed yards (with water if it was a long trip) for 12 hours before release to isolation paddock. WORMTEST after 10-14 days in “hotel quarantine” to make sure that the drench has worked.



SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Abscess	Several reports.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Swelling on jaw brisket, shoulder etc, may leak pus. May be due to grass seeds or	Treat: Surgical draining and antibiotics usually effective. Prevent: controlled grazing or topping paddocks as seed heads form. Muzzle dogs that bite.

			secondary to dog bites.	
Arthritis aged ewe	Three ewes in three small flocks.	Northern and Southern Tas	Aged ewe lame with swollen elbow joints	Anti-inflammatory treatments. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Barbers pole worm	Confirmed in 3 flocks near Launceston	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums.	Seen as very high worm egg counts (2-4,000) deaths and no scouring. One flock confirmed (other 2 suspected) resistant to ML family of drenches. See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Blind weaned lambs	Two lambs in one medium flock, multiple cases in North on brassicas.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Eyes look normal.	Possibly PEM (a vitamin B1 deficiency if on rich feed). Large frequent injections of vitamin B1 can help recovery if detected early.
Brown stomach worm resistant to triple drench family drench	One large flock Southern Tasmania	Positive egg counts 10-14 days after treatment, Brown Stomach worm on larval identification test.	Scouring, high worm egg count. Brown stomach worm identified by larval differentiation test at lab.	Drench with newer drench families such as derquantel or monepantel and do Drenchtest after 10-14 days. Can conduct a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) where a number of different drenches are tested to identify effective drenches. See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies. Brown stomach worm more common in summer and are poor egg producers so egg counts not always really high. May be resistant to different drenches compared to Black Scour Worm, our main winter parasite, so drench resistance tests may give very different results in summer vs autumn in the same flock.
Campylobacter vaccine sales	A lot of vaccine has been used this autumn	Southern Tasmania	Indication that many producers have had Campylobacter abortion diagnosed or suspected.	Ewe lambs/maidens usually vaccinated just before joining starts and boosted as rams out. Adult ewes vaccinated just before joining. Abortions usually start from about 60 days of pregnancy.
Circling	Several sheep in a large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep walks in circles. Sometimes due to blindness, can be brain damage.	Check for pink eye or cataracts in both eyes. May also be seen with Listeria (usually with a head tilt as well) FSE (chronic form of pulpy kidney) or other brain damage. Treat as appropriate.
Cleft palate	One hogget in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Failure to thrive. Hole in roof of mouth	Cull.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 3.8% of lambs and 0.3% of mutton carcasses.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep	Prevented by stopping dogs from eating sheep offal and/or by treating all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated at least 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. These measures also prevent sheep measles and hydatids. See fact

			at abattoir. Causes liver to be trimmed or condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm.	sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Dags	Many weaners on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, coccidia, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia), nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to culture for Yersinia and Salmonella if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch and ensure fly prevention program is effective.
Deaths on grain re-growth.	Many sheep on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Cause may be grain poisoning if spilt grain present, plant poisoning if weeds present	Best to determine cause via post mortem.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	One property	Southern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Dog attack	One sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Bite wounds around head and neck and flanks, back legs	Treat: antibiotic cover, stitching (ensuring wound drainage), pain relief/anti-inflammatories
Ear tag infection	40 ex 400 lambs, some re-tagged ewes	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where tag goes through ear	Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Eye fold (lachrymal pouch) infection	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Yellow-orange discharge from pouch on one side, down cheek below fold.	Check for grass seed. Clean and apply antiseptic spray.
Fly strike	Moderate number of cases in crutched and un-crutched including body strike	Wide-spread in Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mostly breech strike but body strike too.	Identify and correct causes of scouring. Chemical preventative treatments or frequent inspection and early treatment of strikes. See FLYBOSS on http://www.flyboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ for details on treating, preventing and breeding aspects.
Foot abscess	Many flocks. Mostly chronic or healing cases at the moment	Wide-spread in Northern and Southern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage, Most in healing phase now but some active cases seen. May affect all 4 feet in some cases,	Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly. Pare away hoof to allow drainage of pus. Treat with long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.

			but usually one foot.	
Footrot (virulent)	A number of flocks.	Southern, Northern and North-West Tasmania	Most are now chronic cases persisting after spring spread period but in some areas there is spread even on non-irrigated pasture due to the good season.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival . Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Footrot (mild, "scald")	One flock in N, wide-spread in Huon.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
Goitre with secondary pneumonia	One lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Swelling (from just detectable to orange size) of upper front of neck plus respiratory distress.	May be caused by iodine deficient soil or some plants such as brassicas. Treat lamb with iodine and antibiotics. Give ewes 300 mg potassium iodide per ewe dissolved in water as a drench in last month of pregnancy to prevent.
Grain poisoning	Twenty lamb deaths in 1 large mob, sheep in containment feeding on another 2 properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead or bloated and down, some with "porridge" diarrhoea.	Treat: drench affected animals with bicarb mixed with plenty of water to combat acidosis. Prevention includes securing slides in lick feeders, introducing grain slowly, can feed buffers with grain, some contain bitter compounds to reduce risk of eating too much grain at one time.
Ill-thrift in weaned lambs	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Poor growth rates, pot bellies, lethargy.	This case sounded like Barbers Pole worm. Other possible causes may be other worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), chronic infections such as pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Food On Offer etc.
Knock-knees in lamb	One newborn lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Often caused by mineral deficiencies including Iodine deficiency (thyroid may not be visibly enlarged) or can be congenital or ingestion of toxic plants	Make sure ewe has adequate balanced diet, not forced to eat weeds such as wild radish. Give 300 mg potassium iodide in water as a drench in last month of pregnancy.
Lice (body lice)	Many flocks	Southern Tasmania	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away	See LICEBOSS: http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep.

			from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	
Liver damage	Three sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	May result in bottle jaw, jaundice, photosensitisation, poor growth rates	May be caused by liver fluke, blue-green algae on dams, poisonous plants such as ragwort and St Johns' wort, copper poisoning, possibly fungal toxins in pasture.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 3.2% of lambs and 12.5% of mutton carcasses. Also a new detection on lower Meander river	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Abattoir detection, farm post mortem or Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year but pickup of immatures will continue till July. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to June as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Lump under chin	One sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Huge mass under chin.	Fatty tumour diagnosed by vet.
Lumpy wool (dermo)	Wide-spread	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting oxytetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Mastitis (acute or chronic)	One case in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed (acute) or hard (chronic) with abnormal milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency)	Acute: strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment by injection. If only one half of udder is affected ewe can produce nearly as much milk from the other half if she recovers. Chronic cases with hard udder should be culled.
Nephritis (kidney damage)	Detected at abattoir in 1% of lambs	Northern Tasmania	Kidneys are swollen, white spotted or scarred and are condemned	Infection via urinary tract. Prevention: make sure lambs have access to good quality water and have been trained to drink if source of water (eg troughs vs dams) changes at weaning.
Nose cancer	One aged ewe in small flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty or ulcerated lesion anywhere on nose.	Vet can remove the cancer if caught early enough. Check no swelling of the gland (lymph node) that drains that area as cancer can spread to the gland. Make sure it is 'fit to load' if transported.
Ovine Interdigital dermatitis (OID)	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Reddening between toes. Looks similar to scald (benign footrot).	Take smears on glass slides so lab can stain and examine for footrot bacteria. If no footrot bacteria, OID is diagnosed. Treated by footbathing or by antibacterial sprays.

Photosensitisation	Two sheep in confinement feeding in bush block plus others on brassicas.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reddening then peeling of skin on nose, ears drooping.	Can be due to eating certain plants such as St John's Wort or due to liver damage (eg from blue-green algae or severe infection). Remove from paddock, provide good access to deep shade, good water and feed. Antihistamines, multivitamin and antibiotic injections can help prevent secondary complications. 'Pink zinc' on bare areas if small number/valuable animals. Brassicas cause photo if fed off too early.
Pink eye	Wide-spread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on surface of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg yarding, trucking)	If low prevalence and on good feed and water leave alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections if have to be yarded. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in 0.2% of sheep	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Respiratory condition	One sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Difficult breathing may be due to pneumonia or pleurisy	Some of these will respond to antibiotics.
Ryegrass staggers	One flock in S, wide-spread in North	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have high mortality.	See https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention. Feed with additives to absorb the ryegrass toxin in the rumen may be worth a try.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 7% of mutton carcasses and 0.2% of lambs.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Small 'rice grain' whitish raised lesions on outside of food pipe (oesophagus), diaphragm and in skeletal muscles. Carcase trimmed or condemned.	Spread by cats. Takes a long time to grow so not usually seen in lambs. Deny cats access to sheep meat - burn or bury carcasses promptly, persistently control feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Scouring	15% of one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Can be nutritional, worms, coccidia, yersinia, Salmonella.	Make sure the problem is not worms or coccidia (WORMTEST), bacterial culture if start to die. Offer hay/cereal straw if on lush feed.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 6% of lambs and 8% of	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small whitish mass about half the size of a 5 cent piece protruding	Prevented by stopping dogs from eating raw sheep meat. Freeze sheep carcase meat for 2 weeks before feeding to dogs, burn/bury sheep carcasses promptly and treat all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days.

	mutton carcasses.		from the muscle of the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim. This is the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm.	Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Swollen elbow joint	One sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	This one looked like infection	Antibiotics and pain relief/anti-inflammatories may help.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne or clover	Wide-spread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up.	May be caused by 'lucerne red gut', Pulpy Kidney (PK) or frothy bloat. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, don't place hungry lambs on irrigated legumes, offer good quality hay ad lib. Some mineral loose licks may help prevent problems.
Tape worm	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Tape worm segments (large rice grain size) seen in dung	Most scientific studies show that sheep tapeworms do not affect growth rates so drenching for tapeworms may not be justified. Are thought to slow passage of food through intestines and predispose to pulpy kidney, so ensure that vaccination is up to date.
Vaccination lesions	Detected at abattoir in 3% of sheep	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Caused by vaccinating into the muscle, armpit, top of neck etc. Trimming can involve removing the whole hind leg or front leg.	Extra care must be taken with Gudair as large lumps often result. Vaccinate under the skin high on the side of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf
Vaginal prolapse	6 ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Multiple foetuses, short tails, steep uneven paddocks can be risk factors	Vet can replace, suture in. prevent by docking tails at third joint level with tip of vulva, run ewes with multiple pregnancies on flatter paddocks close to lambing.
Wasting	One ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	This one negative for OJD and worms	Worn teeth (including cheek teeth – feel through cheeks), internal cancers (especially if bracken in paddocks), internal abscesses, partial gut blockage, chronic kidney or liver damage can be cause.
Weak newborn lamb bleeding from nose	One lamb in one small flock	Southern Tas	Ewe nutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, diseases such as Toxo and Campy could cause weakness, Blood from nose could be crow peck.	Check ewe nutrition. Consider Campylobacter vaccination next year.
Wool break	A few sheep in a number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender

			out. Mostly related to lambing.	wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	Egg counts in S Tas low – 150 to 200.	Southern Tasmania	Low faecal egg counts.	Nematodirus and Brown stomach worm common in summer and may not produce a lot of eggs so still drench if scouring or weight gain not what it should be. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Abscess	Two calves in one small mob	Southern Tasmania	Swellings on jaws, suspected to be due to grass seeds.	Surgical drainage and antibiotics usually effective.
Bull failure - subfertility	One bull in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Aged bull only got one calf	Feel the testes of bulls before mating – should be firm and springy. If soft may be infertile or sub-fertile. Make sure cows are not still bulling late in mating period, swap bulls during mating if possible. Replace bulls before they get too old.
Bull failure – corkscrew penis	One bull in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Penis is diverted to one side when bull attempts to serve cows.	Observe bulls mating early in mating period and replace any bulls that cannot serve properly.
Eye cancer (early)	One cow	Southern Tasmania	Small white growth on side of both eyeballs.	Small lesions can often be removed easily by a vet, more advanced may require removal of eye. If cancer gets into glands draining the eye area (below the ear), then treatment unlikely to be successful. Make sure fit to load if culled (eyelids must be able to cover/protect the growth). If not fit to load or operate on may be suitable for destruction on farm for pet food.
Eye cancer (more advanced)	Delivered to abattoirs	N, NW and Southern Tasmania	Cattle must not be delivered to abattoirs if the eyelid cannot cover the eye cancer.	These animals may be condemned in which case the owner will not be paid. Animal welfare penalties may be applied. Such animals are not fit to load and must be dealt with on-farm – many will be suitable for pet food.
Cripples	Delivered to abattoirs	N, NW and Southern Tasmania	Animal is severely lame, wasting of muscles.	May result in animal welfare penalties if animal cannot bear weight on all 4 feet. May be condemned or severely trimmed. Best dealt with on farm. Most will have value as pet food.
Gut pain	1 heifer in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Kicking at abdomen, groaning, scour later	Had been left in a paddock a bit too long, may have eaten weeds. Removed from paddock and recovered.
Haemolytic anaemia	A number of deaths in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Pale gums, collapse if mustered. Deaths.	Toxic compound in brassicas (broccoli stubble in this case). Anaemia seen after 3 weeks of brassica only feeding. Prevention: provide run-off or feed hay.
Hock injury and infection	One cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Hock hot and swollen, may discharge.	Antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, vet may drain wound.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	Cattle delivered to abattoirs	NW, N and Southern Tasmania	Horn has damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows horn to be removed safely. Prevention: Dehorn calves so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.

Inter-digital dermatitis, lameness and hoof cracks	One bull in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Skin between toes is inflamed.	Antibiotic injections, antiseptic spray between toes or footbathing. Hoof cracks can be pared out.
Mass on top of head plus neurological signs	One cow in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Mass could be a cancer or due to injury, neurological signs could be secondary	Biopsy mass, treat for an injury. If cow dies/is destroyed and is over 30 months of age, brain can be submitted under Animal Health Australia "Bucks for Brains" program and farmer can receive \$300 payment.
Pink Eye	Wide-spread especially in yard-weaned calves.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	White area on eye, discharge down cheek. Dust, flies long grass, dusty hay, close contact eg yard, transport) spread it.	Start treatment early. Separate affected animals, use spray, antibiotic injection into eyelids, eye patches or vet can stitch eyelids. There is a vaccine available that covers most of the strains of pink eye bacteria that occur in Tasmania.
Ryegrass staggers	Wide-spread in North	Northern Tasmania	Usually more severe in young cattle - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have mortalities.	See https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention. Feed with additives to absorb the ryegrass toxin in the rumen may be worth a try.
Scouring in calves	Wide-spread	Northern Tasmania	May be caused by diet changes, a number of bacteria, parasites and viruses. Worms in older calves.	Oral rehydration (6-10 litres of electrolyte per day in 2-3 feeds). Keep feeding milk in small frequent amounts. For full details see https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/dairytas/animal-management-and-milk-quality/animal-health/calf-scours#.YHZTSegzY2w
Weight loss, anaemia and diarrhoea.	One cow in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Possibly BJD, worms, fluke, pestivirus, internal cancer or endocarditis.	Vet tests to determine cause.
GOATS				
Drench resistant worms	Several goats in one medium herd.	Northern Tasmania	Egg counts not reduced by more than 95% 10-14 days after drenching	Goats break down some drenches much faster than sheep. Some off-label treatments repeated after 12 hours can be effective – see your vet. See WORMBOSS for sheep and goats for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance in goats.
Chorioptic mange	One goat in one medium herd.	NW Tasmania	Loss of hair in head area.	May also be seen as hair loss, on legs and body, itchy. There are some 'off-label' treatment that can help - consult your vet.
Colic	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Showing signs of gut pain. Was down as well.	This one euthanased.

Sudden death	Several goats over a month	Northern Tasmania	Found down or dead.	Plant poisonings (many garden plants very toxic for goats – beware well-meaning neighbours feeding your goats). Pulp Kidney, acute grain poisoning, Anthrax (if you see bleeding from mouth, nose and anus call your vet or hotline on 1800 675 888). Best to have a post mortem done by your vet.
Worms	Several goats in several herds.	N and NW Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vets instructions. See WORMBOSS for sheep and goats for general worm control strategies.
PIGS				
Arthritis, (degenerative)	One pig in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	May be due to old age, previous injury or infection.	Anti-inflammatory treatments.
Foot abscess	One grower	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen foot with discharge above hoof	Can treat with antibiotics, surgical drainage if appropriate, bandaging.
Stillbirths	Several sows on one property	Southern Tasmania	Piglets born dead	Could be parvovirus which can cause stillbirths, mummified foetuses, foetal death and infertility. A vaccine is available to prevent Parvo, Erysipelas and Lepto in pigs.
Swollen ear	One grower on one property	Southern Tasmania	Ear looks like a small pillow full of fluid. Later becomes crinkled and deformed.	Usually a blood clot between layers of ear (aural haematoma). Can be treated but usually OK if left to heal naturally.
Sub-fertility	One sow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Only one piglet born	Very old sow.
CHICKEN				
Egg peritonitis	One hen in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Hen stops laying, becomes depressed	Antibiotics can help. Euthanasia may be required.
Injury with secondary infection	One hen in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Heat and swelling and discharge from wound.	Antibiotics, surgical drainage,.
Neurological signs	One hen in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Hen showing neurological signs. Could be due to Marek's disease, Newcastle Disease, Avian Influenza, toxicity or malnutrition.	Malnutrition in this case. Recovered with nursing and extra feed.
ALPACAS				
Tear duct blockage	One adult alpaca on one property	Southern Tasmania	Clear discharge down one cheek	Vet may be able to flush blockage out.

Tear duct blockage and chronic conjunctivitis	One adult alpaca on one property	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down one cheek, reddened conjunctiva.	Vet may be able to flush blockage out, antibiotic treatments for conjunctivitis.
Wasting, diarrhoea, down	One aged adult alpaca on one property	Southern Tasmania	Probably just old age but worms, Johne's Disease could be involved.	Euthanasia may be justified.