

The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – February 2022

The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report summarises information on livestock diseases and conditions observed by rural service providers across Tasmania.

Sheep abattoir data from the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project is also summarised.

See www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health for previous reports and to register for free email subscription.

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

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

If you need more information on this project, please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or ria69392@bigpond.net.au.

Also see the Resources section at the end of this report.

Seasonal Disease Alerts

Flystrike: Blowflies are very active now. Report any apparent shortening of protection period of flystrike prevention chemicals to the chemical manufacturer or your vet.

Lucerne red gut: Lambs on pure irrigated lucerne and clover are at risk now.

Footrot and scald: are still actively spreading in wetter areas and on irrigation.

Pulpy kidney: make sure a full vaccination program is maintained. Lambs may need a third vaccination if they are on rich feed.

Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD): don't place cattle on paddocks that have a lot of rough dog's tail weed in them.

Facial eczema: can be seen in dairy cattle on irrigated ryegrass in NE and NW Tasmania. Monitor spore counts in pasture samples for another month.

Ryegrass staggers: Ryegrass staggers is severe and widespread. Keep young cattle and sheep off paddocks with a history of staggers.

Liver fluke: Adult fluke are now in the bile ducts of the liver, so you can monitor for fluke eggs with a Fluketest (add to Wormtest request).

Brown stomach worms: are still present but the black scour worm will soon start to take over.

Barbers pole worm: If they are going to make their presence felt, it will be over the next month. Look for pale conjunctiva (inside of eyelids), very high worm egg counts, bottle jaw.

Nematodirus: are showing up in WORMTESTS on weaners now. Egg counts may not be high in heavy infestations, so if weaners are scouring, not growing well and have Nematodirus eggs present, drench.

Biosecurity story of the month

Once I was asked to give a talk to some vets about rabies. I borrowed a friend's dog and brought it into the room and told the gathering that I was concerned about the dog and asked for their help diagnosing it before we started the talk. I described nervous system signs typical of rabies. The vets made a number of suggestions as to what could be afflicting the dog. Then I asked – "Could this be rabies?" The reply from them was: "We don't get rabies here".

Japanese Encephalitis (JE) has recently been diagnosed in QLD, NSW, VIC and SA (see outbreak.gov.au). Doctors are now diagnosing JE in retrospect in a number of human cases of encephalitis in people – why didn't they test for JE earlier? – “we don't get it here”?

There have been Anthrax outbreaks on the mainland and Lumpy Skin Disease has just been diagnosed in Indonesia. African Swine Fever is present in New Guinea and African Horse Sickness is in SE Asia. We have to ask, “could this be an Emergency Animal Disease?” every time we see livestock with strange clinical signs.

So, if you see any signs of disease in your livestock that you have not seen before, or if there is anything unusual about the features of what looks like a common disease, call your vet or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

If an Emergency Animal Disease does enter Tasmania, we have a much better chance of eradicating it if we find it early.

Restricted Animal Material (RAM)

Restricted Animal Material (RAM) is any vertebrate animal product other than milk or milk protein, tallow and gelatin and includes fish meal and feather meal. Australia has banned the feeding of RAM to ruminants for decades as it was recognised as a risk for disease and to maintain our access to beef markets that have measures in place to prevent bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE, also referred to as mad cow disease). Every time someone sells cattle using the national vendor declaration (NVD), they are declaring that their animals have not been fed RAM.

A NW coast cattle finisher bought some steers. After he got them home, he was notified that one was under an F3 restriction and could not be processed at an export abattoir. The animal had been grazed on a paddock where fish waste had been used as fertiliser and some of the waste was still visible on the paddock, so the mob were classified as exposed to RAM.

A management tag was attached to the steer's ear showing its status, but this tag was lost. However, the F3 status had been placed on the steer's unique ID in the NLIS database and the buyer was alerted. The steer was returned to the original owner.

This incident shows the value of the NLIS tags, NLIS database and tracing system, and also the importance of not feeding RAM to ruminants.



Diseases and conditions seen in Tasmania in February 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Black udder scars in ewes	One ewe in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	One half of udder goes cold and grey, blood-stained fluid can be milked out of teat. Usually caused by a Staph bacteria.	Acute cases caught early – treat with antibiotic and pain relief (under vet supervision) If teat is cold and dead, remove it so toxic fluids can drain. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision help. Isolate from flock. A lot of udder tissue will die, must be gently cleaned out and the udder can heal up over time as this one has, leaving scars.
Cachexia (very low condition score)	A number of weaners and adult sheep on several properties	Several flocks across Tasmania	Weaners: usually parasites and poor nutrition. Adult sheep as for weaners plus possibility of OJD	Use effective drench and do follow-up WORMTEST. Improve feeding. If only a few adult sheep in the mob are very thin, talk to your vet about testing for OJD.
Copper deficiency	One flock.	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, capsules or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Cough, persistent, lambs.	Several flocks	NW, Northern, Southern Tasmania	Lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench. Pneumonia on post mortem.	If little response to lungworm drench, then probably an infection. May be virus. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cud stain	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	May be caused by paralysed cheek (sometimes due to vaccination injuring facial nerve) causing grass to impact between cheek and molars, loss of molar teeth, parasites of tongue/food pipe (oesophagus).
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 10% of lambs and 11.8% of mutton carcasses.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania.	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver, intestines, or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep at abattoir. Causes liver to be trimmed or condemned, 'runners' condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm.	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 sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Dags	Wide-spread	NW, Southern and	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (e.g. Salmonella, Yersinia), nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count

		Northern Tasmania		done and ask the laboratory to culture for Yersinia and Salmonella if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at www.wool.com/flystrike/latest .
Dermo (lumpy wool)	One property	Northern 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.
Ear tag infection	3 lambs, from one medium mob	Northern Tasmania	Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where tag goes through ear	Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Fly strike	Widespread	Widespread in NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Mostly breech strike but body strike too.	Prevent: Identify and correct causes of scouring. Chemical preventative treatments. Report if protection period appears shorter than label claim. Correct tail length. Select against sheep prone to dermo, fleece rot. Select for less wrinkles, barer breech, less dags. Treat: frequent inspection and early treatment of strikes. See: https://www.wool.com/sheep/welfare/breech-flystrike/ and the FLYBOSS web site
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	A few carryover cases on one property. Healing slowly.	Southern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage. May affect all 4 feet in some cases, but usually one foot.	Most are old, healing cases now. Treat: Pare away hoof to allow drainage of pus, inject long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics and anti-inflammatories (under vet supervision), keep feet dry e.g. on slatted floor of shearing shed, place epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported. Prevent: Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin or 10% zinc footbath weekly. See https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314410/Foot-abscess-in-sheep.pdf
Foot lice	A number of sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Sheep bite at pasterns a lot.	Treat all sheep twice with an ivermectin 28 days apart and move to paddocks which have not had sheep on them for at least a month.
Footrot (virulent)	A number of flocks.	Widespread	Active spread has continued on some wetter properties and on irrigation. Chronic cases only in drier areas.	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine, cull chronic cases. Too late to attempt eradication this autumn. 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 fences. 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 (intermediate)	Confirmed in three large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Under - running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof (score 3) in most affected sheep. Can be eradicated but causes less production loss than	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed but too late to start this year. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B3 and 4 confirms flock is free of 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

			virulent footrot.	
Footrot, benign ('scald')	A number of reports. Confirmed by laboratory testing in some.	Widespread	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Also called benign footrot but can be due to Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID) as well. Re-check in 14 days to ensure not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to footbathing and dry conditions underfoot.
Footrot vaccination lesions	High proportion of Persian sheep in small flock	Northern Tasmania	Swelling, wool loss, some discharge from vaccination site. Usually heal up and flatten out over 6 weeks.	Footrot vaccine often causes lumps under skin so place vaccine where this will not affect sheep ie side of neck. Lesions don't usually become infected or flyblown so usually best left alone to heal. Be aware that self-injection must be treated promptly – go straight to your doctor if you accidentally vaccinate yourself.
Fractured leg	One adult sheep after transport, one healed case.	Northern Tasmania	Trauma suspected cause but bone fragility may be underlying cause.	Broken bones in sheep heal well if skin unbroken, but must be splinted properly. Must have padding between splint and leg, splint must extend one joint above and one joint below the break. Antibiotic cover and pain relief under vet supervision. Feed well balanced diet.
Grass seeds in eyes, mouth and under skin.	Several properties. 1.3% of mutton carcasses trimmed due to seed.	Southern Tasmania	Grass seeds (usually barley grass) get under third eyelid and cause irritation of cornea (surface of eye) causing discharge down cheeks, or get under skin.	Grass seeds must be removed manually from eye, then use a spay or ointment to control infection. Can also lodge in mouth and can be manually removed. Shear or wig sheep to reduce seed pickup. Barley grass can be controlled with strategic grazing, herbicides or slashing.
Laceration to lip	One sheep in one mob	Northern Tasmania	Suggests dog bite	Muzzle dogs that bite when handling sheep.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot.	Could be footrot, scald, foot abscess, scabby mouth of feet, arthritis, injuries, toe abscess, laminitis, standing on concrete surfaces too long. Identify cause and treat accordingly.
Lice (body lice)	A number of flocks	Southern Tasmania.	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by	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.

			parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	
Liver damage	Three sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	These mainly lay down and died, a few showed photosensitisation.	Liver fluke, blue-green algae on dams, poisonous plants such as ragwort and St Johns' wort, copper poisoning all ruled out so possibly fungal toxins in pasture.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 3.8% of lambs and 3.4% of mutton carcasses. Also found in Fluketests.	NW, 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.	Pickup of immatures is continuing, and mature fluke will be in bile ducts now so Fluketest monitoring from now on is logical. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke but has 63 days ESI. Treat slaughter stock then keep them on paddocks with trough water until slaughter if possible or use albendazole at higher recommended dose rate even though it only kills adults (10-day WHP/ESI). Consider treatment with a different flukicide family in late winter to kill adult fluke that may be resistant to triclabendazole (resistance has been demonstrated in Tasmania.) See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Redgut	A number of reports	Widespread through Northern and Southern midlands.	Redgut on lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on post mortem.	Provide access to roughage
Lumpy jaw	One outbreak on one property	Northern Tasmania	Bony swelling in jaw bone, usually front of lower jaw. Possibly due to chronic infection.	Cull affected sheep.
Nematodirus	Weaners in a number of flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Weaners scour with poor growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts may or may not be high.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. Post mortem a typical case and have a total worm count done or treat and look for response.
Nephritis (kidney damage)	Detected at abattoir in 7.6% of lamb and 7.4% of sheep carcasses	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Kidneys are swollen, white spotted or scarred.	Infection via urinary tract or blood stream. 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. Correct tail length and good hygiene at marking.
Ocular (eye) discharge, purulent, one eye	A number of weaners from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely barley grass seed.	Control barley grass with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping. Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible.

Overgrown hooves	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hooves long and toes may curl up ("slipper feet") or wall of hoof can roll under (differentiate from footrot)	Pare hooves back into shape. Hooves neglected for a long time may grow a lot of excess toe horn and require careful paring back to avoid bleeding.
Photosensitisation	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Skin peeled off back of ears.	May be caused by liver damage, blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antibiotic cover under vet supervision if necessary.
Pink eye	Several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg yarding)	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 under vet supervision. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pneumonia	One case diagnosed by post mortem in lamb	Northern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing, cough, slow growth rate.	Early cases in front part of lungs. Antibiotic treatment under vet supervision of cases (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors. See https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp- content/uploads/NSHMP-Pneumonia-Pleurisy.pdf
Pulpy Kidney in lambs	One outbreak	Northern Tasmania	Lambs on dry rape crop. Vaccinated only once. Sudden deaths.	Vaccinate ewes pre-lambing. Vaccinate lambs at marking and weaning. May need to use 8-in-1 or 3 rd vaccination if losses occur later, especially if on pure Lucerne or clover.
Ruptured udder	Small % of ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Seen as raw area after dead tissues fall off after very acute toxic mastitis earlier.	Some of these will heal if raw area is small and clean and raw tissue does not stick out too far. Otherwise should be culled.
Ryegrass staggers	Widespread and severe	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://dppwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity- tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal- health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.
Salmonella	Two large flocks affected	Northern and Southern Tasmania - about 50 deaths.	Sudden death. Scour. Inflamed gut seen at post mortem	Stress, overcrowding or antacids in formulated pellet feeds may predispose to infection. Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotic treatment. Prevent by reducing stress.

Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 0.2% of lamb/hogget carcasses and 9% of mutton carcasses.	NW, 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 seen in lambs. Deny cats access to sheep meat, burn or bury carcasses promptly, eradicate feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 8.7% of lamb and 9.5% of mutton carcasses	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small whitish mass about half the size of a 5 cent piece protruding from the muscle of the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Hearts condemned. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim.	This is the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm. 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/or treat all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. 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/
Skin cancer	A number of aged ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Any lump that grows over time and especially if it develops an ulcerated surface could be cancer.	Most lumps on eyelids, nose, vulva, tail (mulesed) and ears are cancers brought on by sun exposure. Other cancers are possible but rare. Mulesing with a "V" over the tail and cutting tails at vulva tip length helps prevent tail and vulval cancer, shade trees help prevent others. Some can be removed surgically if caught early but not usually economic.
Strawberry footrot	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Thickened skin, raw protruding flesh and crusts in wool of lower leg. May have been old cases.	Caused by same bacteria as Dermo (lumpy wool) and occurs when sheep are walking in long wet grass and lower legs are constantly wet. Can be treated as for dermo.
Sunburn scars	Several crossbred ewes in a medium mob	Northern Tasmania	Peeling of skin along topline.	Bare shorn British breed or XB sheep that are shorn very close to skin can suffer from sunburn if placed in paddock without enough shade.
Transport death	Two sheep from two flocks	Northern Tasmania	Found dead on unloading.	Many possible causes. Ensure correct loading density per pen to make sure sheep don't smother during transport.
Wool break	A few sheep in several flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection e.g. mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (e.g. heavy worm infestation) events.

Worms	Multiple reports, mostly on irrigation and wetter areas near East coast.	Widespread.	Scour, High faecal egg count. Some counts over 1000 despite grazing lucerne.	Brown stomach worm is predominant summer worm but Barbers Pole Worm can show up anywhere at this time of year. Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Bracken poisoning	One herd	NW Tasmania	Blood in manure, from nose, anaemic, can get secondary pneumonia	Usually calves or cattle new to bracken. Cases can start up to 6 weeks after exposure. Early fronds mostly eaten. Low white cell count. No really effective treatment, Vet may prescribe antibiotics to stop secondary infections. Usually die.
Corkscrew claw	One cow on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Eye cancer in Hereford cow.	One case in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in breeds with white pigmentation around eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid due to size of growth.
Hoof cracks	One bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Crack runs from coronary band to bottom of hoof wall	Could be due to damage to coronary band as hoof grows from coronary band. Dietary deficiency and genetic factors possible.
Horning wounds	Smallest steer in pen of 4 horned Friesian steers	Northern Tasmania.	Bruising due to horning during transport is a significant cause of trimming in abattoir.	Use polled breeds, dehorn, or at least 'tip' the horns so that less damage is done.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	Several cows from a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of Pink Eye.	May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.
Orchitis and epididymitis in bull testicle	One bull in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	One testicle larger than other, and tail of epididymis flattened. Other testicle was soft	Injury or infection of one testicle. Internal accessory sex glands felt abnormal as well. Bull was culled.

Photosensitisation and nervous signs	1 cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair.	Liver damage can cause brain damage too and some cattle react to tingling sensation in skin. May be caused by Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD), blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antibiotic cover if necessary. Neurological cases may qualify for Bucks for Brains subsidy if necropsied by vet.
Pink Eye	A number of young cattle co-mingled and transported.	Northern Tasmania	Usually both eyes inflamed, discharge.	Start treatment early. Separate affected cattle, use eye creams, antibiotic injection into eyelids, eye patches or vet can stitch eyelids. If cattle are not treated early, both eyes can rupture and animal has to be euthanased. There is a vaccine available that covers most of the strains of pink eye bacteria that occur in Tasmania.
Runty yearling	1 heifer on one small property	Southern Tasmania	May be due to pestivirus.	Calves that are infected at 30-90 days of pregnancy may be persistently infected and usually do not grow well and die before 18 months of age. Blood or skin tests can detect such PI calves.
Ryegrass staggers	Wide-spread in North, some in Southern Tasmania	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually more severe in young cattle - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and can 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.
Solar abscess	One bull in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Under-running and black tracts under sole of both front hooves.	Remove from mob, pare hooves to expose and drain all under-run areas. Anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision.
Sudden death, liver damage	2 cows in one large herd.	NW Tasmania	May be caused by ABLD, Facial Eczema, black disease, plant poisoning.	Have post mortem carried out by vet.
Transport deaths	A number of cattle in one consignment	NW Tasmania	May be due to transport tetany.	Magnesium water additives offered to cattle prior to loading can be used to help prevent transport tetany.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No reports				
GOATS				
Footrot (virulent)	One small herd.	Northern Tasmania	Harder to clinically diagnose virulence in goats as under-	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine, cull chronic cases. Could attempt eradication this summer if number of infected goats is low, but rain due to La Nina year may disrupt. Prevention: Ask for a Goat Health Declaration when buying goats and ensure section 3 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on

			running is variable.	arrival. Maintain good boundary fences. 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 vaccination lesions	High proportion of goats in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Swelling, hair loss, some discharge from vaccination site. Usually heal up and flatten out over 6 weeks.	NOTE: this is an 'off-label' use of the footrot vaccine. Consult with a veterinarian before using on goats. Footrot vaccine often causes lumps under skin so place vaccine where this will not affect goat ie side of neck. Lesions don't usually become infected or flyblown so usually best left alone to heal. Be aware that self-injection must be treated promptly – go straight to your doctor if you accidentally vaccinate yourself.
PIGS				
No reports				
POULTRY				
No reports				
DEER				
Itchy skin	A number of deer in one small deer farm	Northern Tasmania	Deer spend a lot of time rubbing against objects.	Could be lice, mites, grass seeds, or maybe have not lost winter coat properly due to cool spring.
Large bowel worms	One deer in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Affected by another chronic condition, so may have lost immunity.	Well-fed adult deer usually relatively resistant to worms. Can use cattle drench products under veterinary advice.
Slow loss of condition, losing cud.	Three or 4 deer every year in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Post Mortem showed incisor teeth worn down to gums. Molar teeth also very worn and irregular.	Only 9-12 years old. Bones brittle as well. Possibly mineral imbalance or chewing on hard objects.

Resources

Farm biosecurity plans

Everything you need to know about farm biosecurity, for example to make a biosecurity plan for LPA accreditation, can be found on: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>

Animal health declarations

Provide an animal health declaration when selling sheep, cattle, goats and camelids, and ask to see declarations when purchasing or moving these animals onto your property. See: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/>

Livestock Data Link (LDL) allows you to access information on carcase data, diseases and conditions detected in your sheep at slaughter through the National Sheep Health Monitoring

Project. See: <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/globalassets/isc/pdf-files/ldl-pdf-files/about-livestock-data-link.pdf> for more details.

Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease

Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease, especially slobbering/lameness in ruminants and pigs, sudden death in multiple pigs, to your vet or the Hotline on 1800 675 888. Early detection is critical if eradication is to be successful.

Comply with the Ruminant Feed Ban

Protect access to our export markets by never feeding animal protein such as meat meal to any ruminant including sheep, cattle, goats, deer and alpacas. See:

<https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/australian-ruminant-feed-ban/>

Maintain market access through strong tracing systems

Use NVDs and NLIS tags properly so that animals can be 'contact traced' quickly if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease or a chemical residue problem. Especially important to list all PICs on NLIS tags in sale mobs of sheep on the NVD. See:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/animal-industries/identifying-selling-moving-livestock>

If you have pigs, don't feed them swill

Check whether waste food you want to feed to pigs is "swill" or not. Swill which contains food from overseas can introduce devastating diseases such as foot and mouth disease or African swine fever into Tasmania. For more detail see:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/pigs/swill-feeding>

Never feed raw untreated offal or sheepmeat to dogs or cats.

Untreated offal from sheep, goats, cattle and pigs may spread hydatids if fed to dogs. Sheep offal or sheep meat may spread diseases such as sheep measles and bladder worm in sheep if fed to dogs, or Toxoplasma and Sarco if fed to cats. See:

<https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/>

Bucks for Brains

If you have a sheep or cow showing neurological (nervous) signs you may be able to claim a subsidy for a post mortem investigation (https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains_Jun16_WEB.pdf)

Maintaining Tasmania's export markets:

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. For example, Tasmania exported approximately \$100 million worth of sheepmeats and wool in 2019-20. See:

<https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/facts-figures/tasmanian-agri-food-scorecards>

The National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy

The National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy lies at the core of this program, see:

www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs