

Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – November 2024

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

See www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health for previous reports and to register for a free email subscription, or join the [Tasmanian Livestock Health Facebook group](#)

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-January.

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

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

Seasonal Disease Alerts

Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD): use sheep now to graze off paddocks that grow a lot of rough dog's tail weed, so that cattle can graze safely in autumn.

Arthritis in lambs: If you have a significant number of cases, it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.

Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis abortion in sheep: If you are unhappy with your lamb marking %, blood tests on dry ewes at weaning can detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection. Talk to your vet.

Barber's pole worm: will start to build up from now on, especially on irrigated pastures. Watch for anaemia, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts.

Bloat: has been seen in lambs on lucerne on misty overcast days.

Brown stomach worm: resistance to macrocyclic lactone (ML) drench family is common. Should become more dominant with warmer weather.

Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear and macrocyclic drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail.

Flystrike: Body and breech strike common now.

Footrot and scald: when transmission stops eradication inspections can start.

Liver fluke: Eggs can be present in Fluketests now if animals have not been treated since last autumn, but immature fluke will start migrating through livers from now on, so blood tests may be the best way to detect liver fluke in live animals.

Lucerne red gut: seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcass on lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay, straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.

Pleurisy: is common, slowing prime lamb growth rates and resulting in trimming at the abattoir. Check MLA's [myFeedback](#) to see if there is any data on your consigned lambs.

Pulpy kidney (PK): Make sure lambs get an extra booster if going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne.

Ryegrass staggers: Graze off paddocks with a history of staggers before the season starts and plan to place weaners on safer pastures.

Scabby mouth: in lambs on feet and mouth, may be on ewe’s teats as well.

Biosecurity story of the month – Mexico live cattle exports to USA banned due to screw worm

The United States has shut its border to live cattle imports from Mexico following the detection of a pest called New World screw worm in a cow in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas, close to the border with Guatemala.

Screw worm flies are like blowflies on steroids and the larvae burrow deep into the flesh of any animal (including humans) that suffers any break in the skin. They are tropical and sub-tropical parasites, and we are unlikely to see them in Tasmania.

The point of this story is that the Mexican state of Chiapas is thousands of kilometres from the USA border, but the whole of the Mexican cattle trade with the USA was stopped. Similar reactions by our major trading partners are likely if an emergency animal disease such as foot and mouth disease was found anywhere in Australia. An outbreak in far North Queensland would stop exports of Tasmanian animal products.

We have plans (AUSVETPLAN) for a rapid and decisive response to any detection, and early eradication would be our goal. Early notification is critical – if we can ‘nip it in the bud’ the damage will be far, far less.

Contact your vet or ring 1800 675 888 if you see any unusual condition in any animal or bird.



Diseases and conditions seen in November 2024

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Arthritis, infectious	Several lambs in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joints. Whole leg will usually be removed at slaughter, often making carcass worthless or dropping it into a lower price grade on the grid.	Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Make sure orphan lambs receive sufficient colostrum within 24 hours of birth. Early antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock, then use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Body condition score low	A small number of adult sheep in several flocks	Northern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, and specific deficiencies (copper, selenium, B12) and diseases eg footrot may also be involved.
Black udder in ewes	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	One half of udder goes cold and grey, blood-stained fluid can be milked out of	Acute cases caught early – treat with antibiotic and pain relief. If teat is cold and dead, remove it so toxic fluids can drain. Isolate from flock. A lot of udder tissue will die, must be gently cleaned out and can heal up over time. This one found late, dead dried skin and tissue hanging out. Trimmed and removed, ewe healed up well.

			teat. Usually caused by a Staph bacteria.	
Body strike	A number of sheep and pot-bellied lambs in a number of flocks	Statewide	Usually over shoulders. Can be low over ribs if sheep has footrot.	Risk factors are fleece rot, dermo, age (lambs and hoggets) and footrot. Fleece rot can be selected against, dermo less so. Cull sheep with 'devil's grip'. See: https://flyboss.com.au/susceptibility/body-strike/
Breech strike	A number of daggy lambs in a number of flocks	Statewide	Risk factors are dags, breech wrinkle, urine stain etc	Dags are the biggest risk factor. See: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/research-publications/welfare/non-invasive-management-practices/gd2428-2019-managing-flystrike-manual_11.pdf
Campylobacter abortion	A number of older unvaccinated ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion, this outbreak caused by the "fetus" strain.	A vaccine is available and covers both strains, but the course should be completed before joining. Aborting ewes can be run with unmated ewe weaners to give them immunity, but this will only be to one strain. Humans can also be affected so women of child-bearing age should not be exposed to aborting ewes or afterbirth.
Cast	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Maternal ewe in good condition.	Maternal ewes can get very fat and if they get on their back in late pregnancy and have short necks, cannot regain their feet. Often attacked by crows etc when down. Keep ewes at condition score 3.3 – 3.6. Check them frequently if they are overweight and getting cast. Mark ewes that get cast and cull them.
Coccidiosis in unweaned lambs.	One large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with low worm egg count but high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs. Prevention by good worm control and nutrition. Don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Copper deficiency	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver (best) or blood tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease. Can cause "steely wool", white bands in black wool, swayback in lambs. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Cough	One lamb in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench	If little response to lungworm drench then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as Mycoplasma. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and postmortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cud stain	Two young sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	Teething, tooth abnormalities, nerve damage (eg from vaccination), tongue infection, parasite damage to oesophagus (food pipe) can be involved. Many young sheep seem to recover on their own.
Dags	Widespread, often affecting a large proportion of the mob.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), nutritional factors. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to check for coccidia, 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/flystrikelatest .
Dermo (lumpy wool)	A small number of young sheep on one small 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. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf
Ear cancer	One sheep in one medium sized flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty swelling or ulceration starting anywhere on bare parts of the ear.	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.

Ear tag infection	Several lambs in two large flocks	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 and avoid piercing the thick ridge inside the ear.
Electric fence death	One lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lamb became caught in the fence	Keep fences taut.
Flystrike	Widespread in Tasmania but not high numbers yet.	NW, N and Southern Tasmania	Breech, body, shoulder, poll strike in rams, pizzle strike. Foot strike (secondary to footrot or foot abscess). Sheep with footrot struck over ribs from lying on infected foot.	Observe for wet, grey areas of wool, tail flicking, separation from mob, lying down. The AWI web site has a large number of resources and runs workshops on flystrike. See: https://www.wool.com/simplify
Focal symmetrical Encephalomalacia (FSE)	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	A form of chronic pulpy kidney where sub-lethal levels of toxin damage the brain	Lambs show signs of blindness, 'head-pressing' – stand with head pushed onto a hard object such as a fence -, circling, wandering, convulsions, paddling, head stretched back, no response to Vitamin B1 injections, eventual death. Prevention: booster PK vaccinate ewes pre-lambing, PK vaccinate lambs at marking, control tapeworms, correct copper and selenium deficiencies. Use 8-in-1 vaccine (contains a lot more PK component) if you still get cases.
Footrot, virulent	Ongoing problem in one medium large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Active spread re-ignited after rain.	At this time of year footbathing is the most useful short-term treatment strategy. Long-acting oxytetracycline antibiotics under veterinary supervision are useful to treat chronic cases when conditions are dry. Summer paring and eradication inspections can start soon. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath, quarantine, and check feet on arrival. Footbath sheep returning from shows. 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
Hock injury	Small numbers of sheep and lambs	Southern Tasmania	Hock injury or hot and swollen, may discharge.	Dog bites, projections in yards. Antibiotics, anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, vet may drain wound. Prevent: muzzle dogs that bite, fix yards.
Horn avulsion	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Hard outer case of a short horn gets knocked off usually in yards.	Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover.
Injured ear	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Injured while trying to get up when cast	Treat with some antiseptic spay. Prevention is by preventing ewes getting cast.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of flocks.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on one leg.	Can be due to footrot, foot abscess, toe abscess, arthritis, injury and a number of other conditions. Examine foot and leg thoroughly, treat appropriately.
Leg injury	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Leg caught while jumping out of yard	Handle sheep calmly. Increase height of top rail.

Low lamb marking % compared to scanning	Several large and medium flocks	Southern Tasmania	Normally expect 10% less lambs marked in singles and 30% less in multiples compared to scanning in Merino ewes	Abortion (early to mid-term abortion often not observed by managers), neonatal losses (slow birth or large lamb, exposure, mis-mothering etc) are usual causes. Blood test 8 dry and 8 wet ewes at lamb marking or weaning and test for Campylobacter and Toxo, review feeding levels and calcium supplementation of ewes after scanning.
Lumpy wool (dermo)	A number of lambs in one large flock	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.
Mycoplasma ovis anaemia in lambs	One lamb diagnosed in one large flock, several lambs suspected in another large flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually seen several weeks after marking, rarely at marking. Lambs can't walk far when mustered, pale gums, deaths.	Bacteria spread by marking equipment or insects destroys red blood cells resulting in anaemia. Lambs will recover if left alone on good feed and water for 4-6 weeks. Can treat whole mob with oxytetracycline antibiotic under veterinary supervision if they have to be handled.
Nasal discharge, bloody, one side only	One lamb each in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Blood seen running from one nostril.	Could be injury or foreign body (eg a stick or grass stalk) caught in the nostril. Examine closely. Check that dogs are not biting noses. Rest and re-examine.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	A number of young sheep in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections. Rarely due to nasal bots.	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Nematodirus	Lambs in one large flock	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. Autopsy and total worm count or treat and look for response. See WORMBOSS web site for details on control. Note that worm egg counts may be artificially elevated if an animal has been off feed for a period of over 12 hours.
Nostrils crusty	A small number of lambs in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	May be photosensitisation or recovering from purulent nasal discharge	Appeared to be in recovery stage.
PEM (polioencephalomalacia) or FSE (focal symmetrical encephalomalacia) suspect	One lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	'Star gazing', blindness, other neurological signs, die on side with head thrown back.	Need a postmortem and brain samples to determine which disease and what treatment/prevention to use.
Photosensitisation	A number of lambs and some adult sheep in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Skin reddened and peels off nose and ears. Most of these mild and only effecting backs of ears.	Check paddock for poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medics). If severe, treat with anti-histamines, antibiotics if necessary (under vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock. Small numbers can have zinc cream smeared over ears.
Pivot wheel death suspect	One lamb from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Chest full of blood at postmortem	Lambs sleep in pivot irrigator wheel rut and get crushed by the wheel. No prevention yet

Pulpy Kidney in ewes (suspected) and lambs	Small number of sudden deaths in one large flock of ewes, and one lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Ewes fat and not vaccinated for years. Lambs were vaccinated but only one lamb died.	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 grain, lucerne or clover irrigated pasture.
Raw area on side of muzzle	One ewe in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Probably from being cast	Prevention as for cast.
Redgut	Several lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Redgut seen on pure lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on postmortem.	Provide access to roughage.
Respiratory distress with grunting	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Difficult breathing may be due to pneumonia or pleurisy	Some of these will respond to antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.
Sarco (dog form)	One lamb in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Detected in sections of brain, skeletal and heart muscle, usually as an incidental finding	A species of Sarco that cycles through dog and sheep. Can cause nervous symptoms in sheep (rare). Usually does no harm.
Selenium deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Detected by tests on blood or liver (best).	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), newborn lamb deaths, slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Scabby Mouth	Small numbers of lambs from several flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on lips, sometimes on feet as well.	Caused by a tough virus that persists on a property once introduced, but skin injury needed to allow virus to establish. Best left to heal on their own but emollients or iodine can be applied. Can prevent with vaccine at marking. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf
Scarring on topline	One ram in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Bare strip of skin along top of spine	Can be due to sunburn in close shorn British breeds or due to photosensitisation or occasionally reaction to topline pour-on chemicals.
Shearing cuts	A number of sheep on one large property	Statewide	Wrinkly merinos more susceptible	Good board hygiene to prevent infection. Prior vaccination with 5 in 1 vaccine. Can use pain relief products with veterinary advice. Serious cuts should be sutured, pressure to stop haemorrhage. If "hamstrung" rarely regain full function in that leg, valuable sheep can be operated on, otherwise best to euthanase.
Staggers and deaths in ewes and lambs	A number of ewes and lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Ewes and lambs had eaten paddock out.	Most likely a plant poisoning, possibly sorrel or docks causing oxalate to bind up calcium and damage kidneys.
Staggering in marked lambs after mustering	Several lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Possibly Mycoplasma ovis anaemia	These recovered. If Mycoplasma ovis is suspected, best to leave lambs alone to recover before mustering.

Toxoplasma abortions	A number of ewes in one medium and one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Late abortions and lamb deaths soon after birth were both seen.	Toxo is spread by cats. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Udder malfunction	Three ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Whole udder, or one half is hard and fluid cannot be milked from teats.	Chronic mastitis, best to cull.
Vaginal prolapse after lambing	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in lambing ewe.	Treat: There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. A vet can stitch these in. Prevention: Remove tails at third joint (tip of vulva) when marking ewe lambs, keep pregnant ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last few weeks of pregnancy, keep BCS 3 to 3.3. Don't feed salt or swedes in last 1/3 of pregnancy. Offer hay if on low dry matter feed. Shear in last third of pregnancy. Maintain steady body weight from start of mating to scanning. See https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes.
Vulval cancer	Several older ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually older mulesed sheep.	Best to cull such animals immediately. Destroy on farm if not fit to load. Docking tails long enough to cover tip of vulva and leaving a 'v' of woolled skin on top of tail when mulesing will help prevent.
Warts	One young ewe in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Crusty growth on haired skin of face or legs	Best to leave alone, usually self-heal. Can use pharmacy products to eat it away but regular application needed. Vet can remove surgically under local anaesthetic.
Wool break	Individual animals in a number of flocks	NW, 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 eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation)
Worms	A number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mainly moderate egg counts. Black scour worm still dominating, but some barber's pole worm starting to show up.	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

Calving paralysis	A number of heifers in a number of herds	Southern Tasmania	Calf is stuck in pelvis for too long and damages some nerves to hind legs.	Heifer bright but unable to get up on one or both hind legs – tend to splay outwards. Some heifers will recover after a number of weeks if kept on a thick bed of sawdust or straw, turned so that the opposite hind leg is underneath every 6 hours, fed, watered, massaged, lifted every day and treated early with anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision early.
Corneal scarring	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	White irregular marks on cornea (front of eye) but no inflammation or discharge.	No action required. Be aware cow will have limited vision on that side when handling.

Cough in young cattle	Several yearlings in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to lungworms, bacterial or viral diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover under vet supervision if show signs of pneumonia.
Dags/scour	A number of young and adult cattle in a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair, many with evidence of fresh scour.	Scouring is the problem. Worms, nutrition (low dry matter diet, toxic plants eg capeweed), viral and bacterial diseases can all be involved.
Downer cows	Several cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Grazing lush pasture, calved recently.	Grass tetany suspected. Magnesium supplementation commenced.
Eye cancer, early, or pre-cancerous lesion.	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eyeball or eyelid, but not typical of eye cancer. More common in breeds with pale pigmentation around eye.	These very early lesions can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off before they turn into a cancer.
Eye cancer (more advanced)	A number of cows from a number of farms	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 but may be salvaged by surgery or may be suitable for pet food.
Hair loss, side of upper hind leg	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	May be healing of chorioptic mange or injury	This one probably a rub injury from loading or transport. Skin scrapings may be worth taking if seen as a problem worth investigating.
Hide damage	Several cattle in two small herds	Northern Tasmania	Horned cattle damage the hide of other cattle in the pen	Pen horned cattle together. "Tip" horns. Dehorn or breed polled cattle.
Inter-digital fibroma	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Crusty hairless mass protruded from top/front of interdigital cleft	Caused by constant wet conditions underfoot and excess spreading of toes. A vet can surgically remove the mass.
Lead Poisoning	A number of cattle in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Nervous signs, blindness, 'head-pressing'.	Cattle licked lead off an old battery in the paddock. See your vet for treatment.
Leg fractures	A number of cattle in a number of herds	Southern Tasmania	Lameness, part of leg at odd angle. Can be due to trauma. Copper deficiency can make bones brittle.	Casts and splints can work in calves. Correct copper deficiency if present. Humane euthanasia for older cattle.

Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	Several young cattle in several herds	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections	If cattle are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	A number of cattle 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.
Preputial prolapse	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Soft tissue of sheath hangs out. If injured while out, becomes swollen and can't go back in.	A veterinarian may be able to operate even if damaged.
Ringworm	A number of weaners in two large herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scaly circular areas of hair loss with thick whitish crust usually around head and neck.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can spread to people so precautions must be taken.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
No cases reported				
PIGS				
Thin sow syndrome	A small number of sows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Sows are thinner than the rest of the breeding herd	Sows segregated from other sows and preferential fed on a high energy diet have not returned to an acceptable condition score. There may be lung damage from pneumonia, or other internal damage stopping them performing.
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
No cases reported				

Resources

Farm biosecurity plans

Everything you need to know about farm biosecurity, for example how 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/>

myFeedback 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: MLA's [myFeedback](#) 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, abortion or nervous signs 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

Any feed containing material of placental mammal origin (other than milk and milk by-products, properly rendered meat meal, or tallow) is swill. 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 sheep meat to dogs or cats.

Untreated offal from sheep, goats, cattle and pigs may spread hydatids if fed to dogs. Untreated sheep offal or sheep meat may spread other diseases such as sheep measles and bladder worm in sheep if fed to dogs, or Toxoplasma and Sarco if fed to cats. See: <https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2023/07/sct-disease-factsheets-all.pdf>

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/dlm_uploads/2024/09/Bucks-for-Brains-Brochure.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 \$272 million worth of sheep meats and wool in 2021-22. 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

Phone A Vet

A telemedicine app that caters for production animals. Download the app from your usual provider. Can use video, photos, texting, you can select your vet. Experienced sheep, cattle, goat, camelid and pig vets are available. See: <https://www.phoneavet.com.au/>

Farm Biosecurity Apps

If you want to know who is coming and going, warn visitors of risks and areas to avoid without spending your whole day on your mobile, you may like to consider an app that combines with a QR code on your farm entrances. See: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/biosecurity-at-your-fingertips/>

Paraboss

The previous WormBoss, LiceBoss, and FlyBoss websites are now all in one place and have a wealth of information on, and tools to manage sheep, goat and cattle parasites.

<https://paraboss.com.au/>

Includes an online learning resource: <https://wormboss.com.au/learn-about-sheep-worm-control-in-australia/online-learning-tasmania-introduction/>