The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – June 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, 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-August.

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 Alerts

Foot abscess: both heel abscess and toe abscess are common now and will continue with wet conditions underfoot in rams and heavy ewes, especially those with multiples.
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in most areas now.
Black scour worms: losses have already been significant and the risk will increase over winter. Monthly worm egg counts may be warranted as this is a bad year for black scour worm.
Pregnancy toxaemia: ewes in the last 7 weeks of pregnancy are at risk, especially if carrying multiples and if energy intake does not increase over this period or if they get foot abscess.
Hypocalcaemia ("milk fever"): in ewes that are held off feed for more than 12 hours in late pregnancy and those grazed on cereal crops or other lush feed.
Grass tetany: cows from 1 week before, to 4 weeks after calving that are on green grass that may have been fertilised with potash and or nitrogen. Cows that are overweight and off feed for handling are particularly at risk.
Phalaris poisoning: the acute form is occurring on freshly shot Phalaris now.
Abortions and stillbirths: will be seen in late pregnancy. Take the opportunity to have your vet investigate – often the sheep foetuses you find are the 'tip of the iceberg".
Body lice: in sheep will show up now. Good time to inspect.
Chorioptic mange in cattle: will show up from now on.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): will show up now in older ewes under stress.

Biosecurity story of the month – are we prepared for FMD or LSD?

Some rural news media have been asking whether Australia is prepared for an outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) or lumpy skin disease (LSD).

A comprehensive set of plans known as AUSVETPLAN have been in place for many years. These plans are whole manuals on how to respond to an outbreak of FMD and LSD (and thirty odd other diseases), including how to organise control centres, perform surveillance, clean and disinfect contaminated places and objects, how to humanely destroy and dispose of infected animals, how to value animals and compensate owners and how to carry out contact tracing and many other functions.

Animal Health Australia coordinates maintenance and updating of the manuals - the FMD manual is being updated now.

Each state and territory government is responsible for having up-to-date state response plans, including plans for where to locate control centres and dispose of carcasses if necessary. State Departmental staff are trained in the different roles needed in a control centre and are involved in national exercises.

Arrangements are in place to employ additional veterinarians and other staff as necessary in a response, and there is an agreement on how the costs would be split between the states, Commonwealth and affected industries.

Members of farming organisations have been trained in liaison roles in control centres. A number of industry members and Australian veterinarians have attended real-time FMD recognition training in Nepal in recent years and many vets who worked on FMD in the UK in 2001 and the equine influenza outbreak are still around. Australian animal health staff have dealt with a number of other outbreaks such a highly pathogenic avian influenza and Japanese encephalitis in recent times.

The Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) is a high bio-containment world-class diagnostic facility run by CSIRO at Geelong and it has the capacity to diagnose diseases like FMD and LSD very quickly and accurately. Many ACDP staff have worked with FMD virus.

So, there are plans, staff have been trained to the plans, the plans have been exercised. We have access to world-class diagnostics. There is a high degree of preparedness for an outbreak of any emergency animal disease within Australia.

For more information go to:

AUSVETPLAN: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/
Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness: https://www.csiro.au/en/about/facilities-collections/acdp

The Emergency Animal Disease hotline

Watch out for drooling of saliva, mouth or foot blisters/ulcers and lameness in pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, camelids and deer, or milk drop in dairy cows. Or anything unusual in any species.

Ring your veterinarian, or the EAD Hotline on **1800 675 888** any time - day, night, holiday, weekend - and you will be put in contact with a veterinarian who can give you advice and respond appropriately.

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in Tasmania in June 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/ condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abortion	Low % of ewe lambs in one large flock, small number of aborted lambs found in another	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Diagnosed at scanning or foetuses found in paddock	Best diagnosis is to submit 5 aborted lambs to lab through your vet for diagnosis. Your vet can take bloods for Toxo testing and vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion if no foetuses are available. Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.
Arthritis, degenerative	One aged sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Aged sheep lame with hard swollen joints.	Anti-inflammatory treatment under vet supervision. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Barren ewes	A number of ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	A number of ewes in very good body condition but with no udder development	Scanning, 'wet and dry" examinations at lamb marking and culling of empty/non-rearing ewes had not been practiced. May just be an accumulation of these or could be due to Toxoplasmosis or other causes of early resorption of the foetus.
Black scour worm	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval culture test at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Bottle jaw	Several sheep in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw usually caused by Barber's Pole Worm (Haemonchus) or liver fluke.	Diagnosis by post mortem (Barber's Pole worms easily seen in 4th stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver) or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	One flock.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with low worm egg count but high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs. Prevention by good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Condition score, low	Many flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Body condition scores (BCS) lower than optimal for breeding and production	Most common cause is insufficient energy in the diet, but specific deficiencies (selenium etc), broken mouth, worms, fluke, pneumonia, kidney disease, liver disease, etc can also be responsible.
Cough, persistent, in lambs.	One flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench	If little response to lungworm drench, then probably an infection. May be virus, bacteria, mycoplasma or combination. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 6.5% of	NW, Southern and	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached	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)

	lambs and 17.9% of mutton carcases.	Northern Tasmania.	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.	must be treated about 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	Widespread	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (e.g. Salmonella, Yersinia), nutritional factors. Have a WORMTEST 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. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at www.wool.com/flystrikelatest.
Deaths on mouldy silage	A number of sheep in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually due to Listeria, in which case nervous signs are seen	Cease feeding silage. Have post mortem and lab testing carried out. Veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics for affected sheep if Listeria is suspected but response is often poor unless cases are caught early.
Downers, deaths and nervous signs in weaners	A number of weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	History of access to Phalaris.	Get weaners off the Phalaris. Some will recover with nursing, severely affected may die or never fully recover. For the chronic staggers syndrome, cobalt can be preventative.
Ear cancer	One sheep in one medium sized flock	Northern Tasmania	Crusty swelling or ulceration starting anywhere on bare parts of the ear.	Vet can remove the cancerous section under local anaesthetic if caught early enough. Check for 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.
Empty ewes at scanning	20% of ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually low % empty	Failure to conceive suspected. Veterinary investigation under way.
Empty ewe lambs at scanning	50% of ewe lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually 20 % empty	Failure to conceive suspected. Worm problems reduced growth rates and critical body weights for joining were not reached.
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	Widespread	NW, Northern and 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.	Fresh cases showing up 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 if possible, 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
Footrot (virulent)	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Active spread has started in most areas.	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine, cull chronic cases. Too late to attempt eradication now but can plan for this coming summer. 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)	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Under -running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof. Can be eradicated but causes less production loss than virulent footrot.	Control over winter/spring by paring, footbathing, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this coming 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 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, benign ('scald')	10% of hoggets in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Also called scald but Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID) shows same signs. Re-check in 14 days to ensure it is not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to footbathing and dry conditions underfoot.
Grain poisoning in weaners	A number of weaners in one large flock	Southern Tas	Porridge-like scour, deaths.	Treat: drench affected weaners with bicarb mixed with plenty of water to combat acidosis. Prevention includes introducing grain slowly, can feed buffers with grain.
Hind leg weakness	One adult sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	A number of possible causes.	Phalaris/ryegrass staggers, injury, toxicities, spinal abscess, fractured spine can cause hind limb weakness. Paddock move is a good start.
Ill-thrift in lambs	Two medium and one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Poor growth rates	Possible causes may be worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), chronic infections such as pneumonia/pleurisy, kidney damage, liver damage etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Food On Offer, etc.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one leg.	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)	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	See LICEBOSS: http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Ask for Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep. Isolate and treat or check introduced sheep.
Liver fluke	Detected in one large flock. Also seen in 2.6% of lamb and10.2% of mutton carcases in the abattoir.	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	Pickup of immatures should stop this month, and mature fluke will be in bile ducts now so Fluketest monitoring is worthwhile. 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/

			heavy infestation.	
Lumpy wool (dermo)	A number of properties	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period (with vet supervision), wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Nasal discharge, both nostrils	Several sheep in several flocks	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections or nasal bots.	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Nasal discharge, blood-stained, both nostrils	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to injury, viral or bacterial infections or nasal bots.	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Nephritis (kidney damage)	Detected at abattoir in 5.7% of lambs and 6.8% of mutton carcases	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Kidneys are swollen, white spotted or scarred.	Infection via urinary tract, via the blood stream or due to other factors. Prevention: make sure sheep have access to good quality water and lambs have been trained to drink if source of water (e.g. troughs vs dams) changes at weaning. Remove tails at third joint and treat any infections such as pneumonia early.
Off-shears losses	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Recently shorn sheep found dead after cold, wet, windy night	Fill sheep up with plenty of roughage (eg hay, silage) and a small amount of grain as well if possible. Place in most sheltered areas available – ideally a shed, otherwise lee side of hill, with vegetation cover to break wind.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	Multiple deaths in older un-vaccinated age groups in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	Quickest diagnosis is by post mortem. Prevent by vaccinating lambs at marking with Gudair vaccine. If confirmed present in the flock, euthanase any sheep over 18 months of age that waste away and don't respond to drenching. See factsheet on: http://www.ojd.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/OJD_factsheet.pdf
Phalaris staggers (acute)	Thirty sheep in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Staggering, down, bright alert. Recently introduced to phalaris pasture	Drift the mob off the phalaris paddock. Affected sheep can recover with good nursing but may take several months.
Photo - sensitisation	Three sheep in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peeled off ears.	Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics under veterinary supervision if necessary, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pleurisy	Seen in 1.6% of lamb and 4% of mutton carcasses.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall due to previous bout of pneumonia. Usually results in major trimming in abattoir. Deaths on farm as well.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics (under vet supervision). Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Pink eye	Two flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long	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.

			grass and close contact (e.g. yarding)	
Ruptured udder	Small % of ewes in a number of large flocks	Northern and Southern 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. Otherwise, should be culled.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 13.2% 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/
Scabby Mouth	5% of one medium mob	Northern 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. Can prevent with vaccine at marking.
Scour and deaths in pre-lambing ewes	10% affected in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Ewes lose resistance to worms just before lambing	This one could be worms or a gut infection such as Salmonella or Yersinia or both.
Scour in prime lambs with zero egg counts	10% of lambs in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to immature worms, coccidia, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Yersinia, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Immature worms most common cause. Drench with one of new drench groups and see if they respond. Check for sudden diet change to lush feed, plants such as capeweed. May need veterinary involvement if growth rates are low.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 6.9% of lamb and 8.6% 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 carcases 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/
Shelly toe	75% of one mob of weaners	Southern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition. Is heritable and can be selected against. Best to pare off under-run hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.

			wall near front of hoof.	
Shelly toe abscess	A number of weaners in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Wet dirt and faeces pack up into the shelly toe cavity and an abscess forms next to the top of the defect.	Pare off under-run hoof wall and allow abscess to drain. Spray with antiseptic spray. Vet may prescribe antibiotics.
Soft testes in ram	A number of cases in two large flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Testicles both soft. Rams should have large, full, springy testicles.	Rams build up for the mating season and testes may become soft in "off" season. Shear rams more than 8 weeks before mating and offer high protein and energy feed for 8 weeks prior to joining aiming for BCS 3 to 3.5 at joining.
Sub-solar foot abscess	One ram from one large flock and one ewe from another large flock,	Southern Tasmania	Foot looks normal but pus may leak out around edge of hoof horn. Differentiate from footrot – may need vet opinion and maybe lab work.	Pare the hoof to remove all hoof horn over the shallow pool of pus under the sole. Apply antiseptic spray to affected area.
Sudden deaths when moved	A number of sheep from one large flock	Southern Tasmania	May have been on phalaris, possibly barbers pole worm or other acute anaemia.	Stop driving mob and let them walk at own speed. Post mortems may identify cause.
Sudden lameness and shivering in ewes off-shears	Thirty ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Some evidence of arthritis so could have been infection.	Most of these recovered on their own.
Testicular abscess	One testicle in one ram in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lumps in testicle.	Surgery impractical, may try antibiotic under veterinary supervision. Ram may still be fertile if other testicle unaffected.
Toxoplasmosis	Many foetuses lost in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Difference between scanning and marking. Blood test dry ewes at marking or weaning.	Toxo causes foetal and neonatal lamb losses if ewes are infected during pregnancy. Ewes may become barren if infected in first 60 days of pregnancy. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Vaccination lesions	Detected at abattoir in 3.1% of lamb and 7% of sheep carcases	NW, 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 and other oily vaccines 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
Wasting in small numbers of adult ewes	A number of adult ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Cold be OJD, worn teeth, worms, fluke, cancer, liver or kidney damage, pneumonia.	A post mortem of several typical cases may identify a common cause. Gudair vaccine claims to reduce OJD losses by 90% so an odd OJD case in fully vaccinated flocks is not uncommon.

White muscle disease in lambs	Two deaths and a number affected in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lamb stiff with hard muscles. Whitish areas in main muscle groups would be seen if post mortem conducted.	Treat ewes with selenium in pre-lambing drench or vaccination, with intra-ruminal pellets every 3 years, long-acting injection every two years or add selenium to fertiliser every 2 years. Affected lambs can be given oral selenium and can recover with good nursing.
Wool break	One large flock	Northern 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) events.
Worms	Multiple reports. Significant weaner and ewe deaths on some properties	Wide-spread	Scour, High faecal egg count. One count over 10,000 in lambs. Most counts moderate to high.	Black scour worm dominating now. Barbers Pole Worm can also still be present at this time of year if no effective treatment since autumn. 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 pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
"Bottle" teats	One cow from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Teats too large for calf to get into mouth resulting in calf loss soon after birth.	Check cows at marking or weaning and cull.
Chorioptic mange	One young bull in a small mob.	Northern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. Rough scaley skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	More common as winter progresses. Can become severe if cattle are stressed and short on feed. A number of registered treatments are available including ML drenches and pour-ons. See: http://www.liceboss.com.au/cattle/lice-mites/species-of-mites.php
Condition score low	A number of cows in several herds	Northern Tasmania	Ribs showing in beef cattle, quite sunken between pins and tailhead in dairy cows	Possibly due to age/teeth, under-nutrition, fluke, worms or chronic disease.
Corkscrew claw	Three cows in two medium herds	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Can pare hoof back into shape to finish and sell progeny and cull cow when convenient
Grass tetany (hypo-magnesaemia)	2 cows in one medium herd and a number of cows in another large herd	Southern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitable.	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevent with Causmag on hay or magnesium boluses. Magnesium blocks may not ensure all cows get protective dose every day. See: https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/grass-tetany-beef-cattle-prevention-and-treatment#:~:text=Grass%20tetany%20is%20a%20highly,Angus%20cattle%20and%20their%20crosses.
Grass seeds in eyes	5-10% of cattle in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down one cheek. Mistaken for Pink Eye until	Removal of grass seeds. Prevention; barley grass can be controlled with intensive rotational grazing, slashing, herbicides.

			closely inspected.	
Nasal discharge	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections or allergy.	If animal is otherwise bright and alert, just keep under observation. If any other signs of ill-health use antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
Paralysis	A number of steers in a large finishing herd	North-West Tasmania	Steers get ataxic, aggressive, go down, paralysed, tongues paralysed.	Most likely botulism but has not been confirmed yet. Steers could be vaccinated against bolulism but may continue to die for 30 days. Botulism is prevented by ensuring carcases are cleaned up especially in silage paddocks. Preventative vaccination is available, but botulism is rare in Tasmania.
Pestivirus	One blood test positive out of 20 heifers in a beef herd.	Northern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age	Herd status can be assessed by blood tests or milk tests. PI animals can be detected by blood or skin sample tests. Control programs based on vaccination or exposure to PI before mating. In this case the heifers are susceptible and exposure to known PI or vaccination advised. For more information see: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and- https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration.pdf
Photosensitisation	1 bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair.	May be caused by Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD), blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, certain plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antibiotic cover under vet supervision if necessary.
Stifle injury	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Wasted muscles of affected leg, swollen stifle joint, lame.	Cull. Must be able to take weight on leg to be fit to load.
Sudden death on fodder beet, whole carcase rapidly becomes gassy.	Four weaners in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	May be caused by pulpy kidney, Clostridial bacteria.	Best to have a post mortem carried out. Ensure Clostridial vaccination up to date, consider use of 8-in-1 Clostridial vaccine, check for poisonous plants or nitrate levels of crop.
Warts	Several steers in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Cauliflower-like growth anywhere on body but often around head.	Normally only seen in young cattle. Will normally self-cure if left alone. A vaccine can be made up if warts persist or are very extensive.
Yersinia enteritis	Watery scour and a number of deaths in young cattle	Northern Tasmania	Watery scour, deaths. Typical pathology and culture of Yersinia. Usually associated with stress.	Antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Reduce stress (provide shelter, better feed)
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No reports				

GOATS				
Stones blocking urinary system	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Usually male animal becomes very depressed and may get big belly full of liquid ("water belly")	Sometimes a stone is stuck in tip of penis and can be squeezed out. Otherwise, surgery can be attempted but often unsuccessful. Prevention usually depends on changing diet, usually by adding more calcium and a little salt to grain-based diets.
Worms	Three dead in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight, anaemia	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per veterinarian's instructions.
PIGS				
Barren sows	Several sows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Sows have not produced a litter for some time. Overweight.	Could be due to parvovirus foetal resorption and mummification or just aged and need culling.
Foot abscess	One grower in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen foot.	Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory treatments under veterinary supervision.
Paralysed hind legs	Two growers in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be due to spinal abscess or possibly fracture.	Reduce risk of injury/tail biting. Check mineral balance in ration.
POULTRY				
No reports				
DEER				
No Reports				

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 sheep meat 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 hydatids, 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 sheep meats 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