Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – November 2022

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 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

Barber's pole worm: high worm egg counts due to barber's pole worm have already been recorded in Northern Tasmania. Watch for anaemia (pale gums, conjunctiva), dropping to back of mob when mustered, bottle jaw, sudden deaths. Ask for a larval ID if a worm egg count is over 1500 epg.
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in most areas.
Mycoplasma ovis anaemia: may be seen in lambs about 4 weeks after marking. Leave them alone to recover naturally if possible.
Scabby mouth: in lambs on their feet and mouth, may be on ewe's teats as well.
Arthritis in lambs: If you have more than the odd case it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.
Campylobacter in cattle: Consider vaccinating your bulls this year.
Pestivirus in heifers: Consider vaccinating your heifers to prevent pestivirus abortions, stillbirths, 'dummy' calves and poor doers that die before 18 months of age. You may like to talk to your vet about having some blood tests done to see what the herd pestivirus risk profile is.
Flystrike: has started and will ramp up soon. The sheep blowfly gets active as soon as the temperature is over 15 degrees, and due to wet conditions causing dermo and fleece rot, you may see body strike even in short-woolled sheep and lambs.
Pulpy kidney: Make sure lambs get their second vaccination at weaning if going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne.
Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD): use sheep to graze off paddocks that grow a lot of rough dog's tail weed, so that cattle can graze safely in autumn.
Ryegrass staggers: Graze off paddocks with a history of staggers before the season starts.

Biosecurity story of the month – Containment Feeding

After boom comes bust. After La Nina comes El Nino. Good seasons will not last forever and now is a good time to be thinking about actions you can take to insure yourself against the dry times that will come later.

One strategy is to use containment feeding. Containment feeding is defined as any method whereby you provide the full ration for animals and includes drought lots, sacrifice paddocks and feedlots.

The advantages over simply trail feeding grain in paddocks are that:
- you preserve the topsoil and pasture plants in the paddocks so that recovery is faster when it does rain,
- pastures may persist longer thus saving on re-establishment costs,
- you don't spend as much time and fuel carting grain out to paddocks,
- the feed is utilised better as the livestock are not walking all day searching for grass,
- weed seeds in imported fodder are not spread around your paddocks,
- water infrastructure may not need to extend to all paddocks, and
- you can monitor animals more closely.

On the 'con' side there is an investment in time and money setting a facility up, grain has to be introduced gradually and vaccination against Campylobacter and pulpy kidney may be necessary. Shy feeders must be identified and managed, and other health problems such as pink eye must be acted on promptly.

There are a number of other uses for a containment facility, especially if built close to your other infrastructure:

- Quarantine facility for new introductions where drench resistant worm eggs and weed seeds can empty out in a no-graze area.
- Safe haven if fire threatens and an area to feed livestock if you are burnt out.
- Curfew area where good quality hay can be fed before transport to ensure good MSA grading.
- Weaning facility to quieten weaners down and get them used to being fed.
- Pre- and post-shearing where sheep can be fed roughage and provided with shelter and water.
- Finishing lambs when paddock feed runs out, but lambs are close to meeting weight requirements for a more profitable part of the grid.

If you are interested in learning more about containment feeding, or already have a facility and would like to refine your practices, join the Tasmanian Containment Feeding Network by ringing Eve Lazarus on 0429 170 048 or email on eve@derwentcatchment.org

"Hotel" Quarantine wins again

A sheep producer who runs a footrot free flock recently purchased a new ram from the mainland. When it arrived, it was unloaded straight into the shearing shed where it was fed for a couple of weeks. It became lame, a foot swab was taken and the presence of footrot bacteria was confirmed by the laboratory.

If the ram had been mixed with the other rams straight off the truck, then a major problem would have developed.

Quarantining all introduced animals for at least 2 weeks is a really good policy. They can be treated for drench resistant worms and body lice, footbathed and inspected for footrot, tested for diseases such as Ovine Brucellosis and Mycoplasma, vaccinated for OJD and Clostridial diseases if not already vaccinated, they can empty out weed seeds from the gut, and be observed for any signs of disease.

Diseases and conditions seen in November 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abortion	One abortion in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Aborted lambs found	Best diagnosis is to submit up to 5 aborted lambs to lab for diagnosis, can take bloods for Toxo testing and vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion if no foetuses available. Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.
Arthritis degenerative	One aged ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Aged ewe lame	Anti-inflammatory injections. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Barber's pole worm	Very high post drench capsule payout egg counts in ewes in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Worm egg counts over 2,000 epg, ewes looked OK.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs for barber's pole worm. Drench resistance very common, best to do a Drench Test to find out which drenches will still be effective on your property.
Black scour worm	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval differentiation test at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Bony growth on hock	One sheep in one flock	Southern Tasmania	A large hard lump on side of hock in this case. Probably caused by an injury to membrane over the bone.	Ewe was lame. Anti-inflammatory medication under veterinary supervision.
B12 deficiency	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Slow growth rates, anaemia, may be discharge from eyes.	Blood or liver test to diagnose. B12 injections usual treatment, last several months. Cobalt bullets, cobalt in fertiliser on pastures can be used to correct.
Copper deficiency	One medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may cause bone fragility, poor growth rates, steely wool, reduced immunity to worms and other disease. 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 is time-consuming.
Dags	Wide-spread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia), coccidia, nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to culture for Yersinia/Salmonella/Campylobacter if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch and ensure fly prevention program is effective. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at www.wool.com/flystrikelatest.
Deaths just after drenching	Ten young sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Salivation and died on way back to paddock	May have been selenium toxicity if drench drum had not been shaken before drenching started. Maybe toxic plants eaten on way from yards if yarded for some time and very hungry.

Deformed hock	One ewe in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Swollen hock	Most likely an injury to bones or ligaments or chronic arthritis. Treat with anti-inflammatories under vet supervision or cull.
Deformities in lambs	A small percentage in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Legs, tails, ears, nose, mouth, back can be deformed. May be genetic or toxic plants.	Look for association with particular rams, breeds or strains within flock and select against if trend seen. If toxic plants suspected, then check paddocks where more lambs have been deformed.
Deformed front leg	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Leg angled outwards at knee and unstable	Most likely an injury to bones or ligaments. Cull.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	A quarter of lambs in one large flock, and low percentages in three other flocks. Reported as widespread.	Widespread	Lambs get dermo on muzzle and also seen as wool in hard blocks along topline.	Lamb muzzle lesions will generally heal naturally after weaning. Can treat generalised form 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
Drench resistant worms	One medium flock and one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Faecal worm egg counts not reduced by more than 95% 10-14 days after drenching with moxidectin and white drench.	See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance.
Ear tag infection	One sheep in one large 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.
Footrot, virulent	Seen in four large, one medium and one small flock	NW, Southern, Northern Tasmania	Spread is well under way on a number of properties	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine. Prepare for eradication this summer by keeping number of infected sheep low. 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
Footrot (intermediate)	One medium 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	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival . Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare

			than virulent footrot.	/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Fractured leg	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Probably fighting injury. Abscess around this one, so unlikely to heal.	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 veterinary supervision. Feed well balanced diet.
Frothing, off food, teeth grinding	One lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Maybe pulpy kidney, mouth ulcers, obstruction.	Check mouth for ulcers. Treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision. Vaccinate against Clostridial diseases.
Growth rates low in lambs	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs weaning 4 kg lighter than normal despite good season	Possible causes may be worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), liver damage/photosensitisation, recent scabby mouth, Mycoplasma ovis, chronic infections such as pneumonia, pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Feed On Offer. Low sunlight intensity due to cloudy days may have reduced soluble carbohydrates in feed and slowed growth rates.
Lameness	Widespread, particularly in older rams.	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, strawberry footrot, injuries, toe abscess, laminitis, standing on concrete surfaces too long. Identify cause and treat accordingly.
Lame in front legs in ewes	Ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Maybe same as 'kangaroo gait". Seen in ewes up to 6 weeks after lambing, due to damage to nerves in front legs	Ewes very 'tender' on both front legs. Severe cases move by hind leg action alone so look like a kangaroo hopping. Cause not known, will often recover if nursed.
Lame in front legs lambs	Lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to contracted tendons in front legs.	May be due to copper or manganese deficiency or ingestion of wild radish by ewes during pregnancy.
Lice (body lice)	Several small flocks	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. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep.
Lumps in skin, lower jaw	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Chronic thickened skin in some spots on lower jaw.	May be infection, injury/scar tissue. Keep under observation.

Mycoplasma ovis anaemia in lambs	Deaths of lambs at marking in one large flock. Suspected in another flock in unmarked lamb.	Southern Tasmania	Usually seen several weeks after marking, can be at marking. Lambs can't walk far when mustered, pale gums, deaths.	Bug 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 all lambs in mob with oxytetracycline antibiotic under vet supervision if have to be yarded.
Osteomalacia	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Legs bent out at 18 months of age	This one had low blood calcium and very low blood phosphorus so probably a calcium phosphorus imbalance in the diet. If sheep are supplemented with grain it is important to include 1% ground limestone in the diet. Young growing sheep in full wool on cereal crops in winter benefit from vitamin D injections.
Photosensitisation	Very common in a number of flocks in both lambs and older sheep.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Mostly just peeling of skin of back of ears but also face and ears and legs in severe cases.	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, if necessary (under vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock. Older sheep with scars – make sure they always have access to shade or cull.
Scabby Mouth	Small % of lambs at marking in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on lips, sometimes on feet and on the ewe's teats as well.	Caused by a tough virus that persists on a property once introduced, but skin injury is needed to allow virus to establish. Best left to heal on their own. Can prevent with vaccine at marking. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf
Scald	One imported ram and a number of sheep in one medium flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate. May be first stage of virulent footrot or virulent footrot in sheep with genetic or vaccinal resistance.
Selenium deficiency	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), 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
Toxoplasma abortions	50% of maiden ewes showed evidence of recent Toxo abortion in one large flock.	NW Tasmania	Ewes scanned in lamb but dry at marking, abortions or lamb deaths soon after birth.	Toxo is spread by cats. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Vaginal prolapse	A number of Several ewes in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewes and also sometimes after lambing. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.	Treat: Give 1/5 pack of 4-in-1 calcium under skin. There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. If post lambing, vet can replace and insert a stitch to keep it 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.

Vulva twisted	A high % of ewe lambs at marking in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Vulva twisted to one side.	Could be genetic/inherited. Look for association with strain/breed/individual rams.
Wool break	One ram in one large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out. Caused by photosensitisation in this case.	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	Widespread	NW, Northern, Southern Tasmania	Worms can be diagnosed by scouring, anaemia, poor weight gain which respond to drenching, or by WORMTEST with or without larval identification, or total worm count at post mortem.	Trichostrongylus (black scour worm) numbers still high now and do a lot of damage. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php Drench resistance suspected in some cases. See WORMBOSS to see how to conduct a DrenchCheck or DrenchTest.
CATTLE				
Abscess	One calf in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Swelling over thigh, lameness	Surgical drainage and antibiotics/anti-inflammatories usually effective if no crucial structures have been damaged by the infection. See your veterinarian.
Ataxia (wobbly)	Two cows in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Swaying gait, staggering	Could be due to anaemia, PEM (though usually blind), lead poisoning, Listeria, other internal disease. Usually best to get a vet to diagnose and treat accordingly.
Bleeding from nose	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Large volume of blood from nose when head bailed	Suspect ruptured abscess near blood vessel. Release cow and leave alone until bleeding stops.
Bovine Johne's disease (BJD)	Several cows in several dairy herds	Northern Tasmania	Cattle over 18 months of age that scour and waste away and don't respond to any treatments.	Notifiable disease, must test if suspected, euthanase if confirmed. Prevent with vaccine. Comprehensive info at: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/johnes-disease-in-cattle/
Calving deaths	A small percentage of cows in several dairy herds	Northern Tasmania	Normally some cows die of dystocia (difficult birth) acute mastitis or metritis, milk fever, grass tetany, BJD over the calving period.	Transition diets, close supervision, early treatment can reduce deaths.
Chorioptic mange	Three steers from 2 properties	Northern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head Rough scaley skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	Most cases should recover over the next month or so. A number of registered treatments are available including ML drenches and pour-ons.

Deaths with haemorrhage or paralysis	Heifers in one medium herd	NW Tasmania	Sounded like bracken fern, botulism or both.	Bracken can cause haemorrhage from nose. Paralysis usually due to botulism. Best to involve a vet to obtain a diagnosis.
Dermatitis of lower legs	One bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Hair loss from hock down	Could be reaction to irritant, photosensitisation, dermatophilosis skin infection.
Difficult breathing	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Making snoring sounds as she breathed	Upper respiratory tract obstruction, probably due to an abscess, most likely due to Actino. Vet can locate and drain the abscess and/or treat the infection.
Eye cancer	One Hereford cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eyeball, third eyelid 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 over the growth.
Foot abscess	1 steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Swollen foot, may discharge, very lame. Wet conditions.	May respond to antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision and move to dry area. Sometimes need surgical drainage and curette and gluing a wooden block under the sound toe.
Grass tetany (hypomagnesaemia)	Two cows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitable.	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevention: Feed Causmag on hay in the last week before calving starts and during calving especially if potash and nitrogen fertilisers have been used on grass dominant pastures. Don't let cows get overfat - calve cows down in condition score 2.5 to 3. Link: 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.
Kidney abscess	One cull cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Recorded at abattoir	May have been due to blockage of a section of the kidney or generalised infection filtered out in kidney. Cow was in good BCS.
Lameness	A number of cows in several dairy herds	Northern Tasmania	Foot abscess, sub-solar abscess, injuries etc	Remove cow from mob if possible, rest in small paddock or yard, give anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, check for foot injuries and infections. Veterinary attention advisable if not quickly resolved.
Liver abscess	Several cull beef cows from one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Recorded at abattoir. May reflect low grade acidosis, rumen wall damage and bacteria leaking into blood stream.	These cows in good condition. Cattle can wall off abscesses, recover and continue to thrive. Prevention: care with feeding rich diets such as grain.
Liver fluke	Several cull cows from one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Live fluke detected in cattle at abattoir	Strategic treatments in autumn and late winter with effective flukicides depending on challenge. Keep stock off areas where fluke snail survives (dam edges, lagoons, areas that flood in spring) if possible. Sheep run on same areas will also need treatment. See; https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/114691/liver-fluke-disease-in-sheep-and-cattle.pdf

Low body condition in adult beef cows	Two cows in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Loss of condition	Check teeth, treat for worms, liver fluke. Test for Johne's disease and other chronic conditions if no response to drenches.
Malignant catarrhal fever (MCF)	Twelve cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Sudden deaths, nervous system signs, eye changes	A virus spread from sheep (who don't show signs) to cattle. These shared a turnip crop so contact was high. Usually sporadic and with eye signs but this outbreak interesting in that sudden death and nervous signs were seen early and the high number of cases.
Mastitis	A number of cases in several dairy herds	Northern Tasmania	Udder or milk abnormal. High cell count.	Antibiotics via teat canal or by injection. See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/en/animal-management-and-milk-quality/mastitis-and-milk-quality#.YFq2Z68zY2w
Mycoplasma abortion	One dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Late abortions, can have mastitis as well.	Practice good hygiene when administering dry cow intra-mammary drying off products. Prevention: isolate and test introduced cattle. More information: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/mycoplasma-bovis-look-after-your-herd-and-your-back-pocket/
Nervous signs and weight loss	One cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Possibly ketosis where fat breakdown products affect the brain.	Look for possible underlying problem causing cow to stop eating. Oral products such as ketol can be used to correct the ketosis.
Penile adhesion	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Penis stuck to inside of sheath	Surgery unlikely to be successful. Usually cull.
Phosphorus deficiency	Dairy heifers in one medium herd	NW Tasmania	Bone chewing and low soil and blood phosphorus levels.	Poor fertility, 'peg-leg' lameness especially in first calf heifers. Downers at calving time. Feed a phosphorus supplement and if possible use more superphosphate on pastures. Vaccinate against botulism and clean up carcases and bones promptly.
Salmonella bovismorbificans	One herd	Northern Tasmania	Dairy calves scouring and dying	*Salmonella bovismorbificans* can cause diarrhoea, deaths. Not specific to cattle and can infect humans. Treat with oral rehydration, antibiotic/anti-inflammatory under vet supervision. Prevention: hygiene, isolation of introductions, all in, all out calf shed management, reduce all kinds of stress, vaccine.
Salmonella	A number of cases in one large dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Calves affected. Deaths, illness/fever, depression, diarrhoea (sometimes with blood/mucous.	Treat: Vet samples to diagnose, treat with correct antibiotics (resistance common), fluid therapy etc. Prevent: there is vaccine against some types of salmonella. Reduce stress. Hygiene. May need to reduce levels of buffers in concentrate ration. Keep wild animals, rodents and birds from contaminating feedstuffs.
Scrotal swelling after ring castration	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Scrotum swells and skin becomes hard after ring castration	Rings can be used up to 2 weeks of age on bull calves but in older calves may not cut blood supply off to all the scrotal contents. Use other methods of castration in calves over 2 weeks old.
Sudden death	Sporadic deaths in dairy cows in several large dairies.	Northern Tasmania	May be caused by pulpy kidney, ABLD, blackleg, plant poisoning, bloat, snake bite, Anthrax, grass tetany, hyperacute	Best to have post mortem carried out. Ensure Clostridial vaccination up to date, check for poisonous plants, legumes. If blood from nose/mouth/anus could be anthrax so contact vet or ring hotline on 1800 675 888.

			infections such as Salmonella.	
Sudden weight loss	One weaner in one small herd	NW Tasmania	Weaner was growing well then suddenly started to lose weight.	Test for pestivirus. Could be an internal abscess or blockage. Vet diagnosis advised.
Tender in both hind feet	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Bull taking weight on front legs, walking gingerly on both hind legs.	Probably an interdigital dermatitis. May respond to footbathing.
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.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
NIL this month				
GOATS				
Barber's pole worm (BPW)	One large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Bottle jaw seen in late summer, BPW larva identified in faecal samples now.	Diagnosis WORMTEST with larval identification. Or by post mortem (Barber's Pole worms easily seen in 4th stomach). Treat with effective drench – do DrenchCheck or Drenchtest to find what drenches work in your herd.
Black scour worm	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval differentiation test at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Drench resistant worms	One large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Egg counts not reduced by more than 98% 10-14 days after drenching	Goats break down some drenches much faster than sheep. Some off-label treatments can be effective – see your vet. See WORMBOSS for sheep and goats for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance in goats.
Scald (mild footrot)	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
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.
Paresis, progressive	Two growers in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Slow progressive hind leg weakness	May have been a spinal problem due to diet factors.

Paralysed front or 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				
Lice	Several small flocks	Northern Tasmania	Lice seen on skin when feathers are parted.	Powders and washes are available. Treat all birds with appropriate insecticides. Check, clean, remove loose material and treat coop as well. Prevent by regular routine treatment of birds and coop, "hotel quarantine" introduced birds and treat during quarantine. Prevent wild birds from accessing food, water or coops.
Mites	One small flock of chickens	Northern Tasmania	May be seen along feather shafts or on legs ("scaley leg") but can live in coop and feed off birds at night. Can suck blood and cause anaemia.	Treat all birds with appropriate insecticides. Check, clean, remove loose material and treat coop as well. Prevent by regular routine treatment of birds and coop, "hotel quarantine" introduced birds and treat during quarantine. Prevent wild birds from accessing food, water or coops.

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

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/