Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – January 2023

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-March.

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 to graze off paddocks that have grown a lot of rough dog's tail weed, so that cattle can graze safely in autumn.
Barber's pole worm: there have been reports of barber's pole worm from all around the state including the South-east. 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.
Brown stomach worm in sheep: is shaping up as a problem this summer but is a poor egg producer so egg counts are not always high when production loss starts.
Campylobacter abortion in sheep: vaccine course or booster should be completed before joining.
Facial eczema: can be seen in dairy cattle on irrigated ryegrass in NE and NW Tasmania. Monitor spore counts in pasture samples from now on.
Footrot and scald: is still spreading in many areas due to rain showers, warm weather and dew on the grass in the mornings.
Flystrike: Is in full swing in most areas. 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. Some may even need a third vaccination.
Lucerne red gut: seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcase on irrigated lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay or straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.
Ram check: Check your ram's testes, teeth, feet, and condition score. Consider some high protein supplement from now until mating.
Ryegrass staggers: watch for signs of nervous system problems and keep young sheep off paddocks with a history of staggers.
Scabby mouth: in lambs on their feet and mouth.
Nematodirus: Seen as scouring and poor growth rates in lambs. Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect the worm burden inside the weaner.
Liver fluke: immature fluke are migrating through the liver now, so make sure Black Disease vaccination is up to date. Eggs could start showing up in Fluketests from now on.

Biosecurity story of the month – Sheep measles

One producer has had 10 lamb carcases condemned for sheep measles out of one consignment.

Sheep measles is the intermediate stage of a tapeworm that lives in the intestines of dogs. The adult tapeworms lay eggs that come out in the dog's faeces and the lamb is infected by eating pasture contaminated by infected dog faeces. The egg hatches inside the lamb and forms small nodules in the muscles. If there are more than a small number that can easily be trimmed out, the whole carcase will be condemned at the processing plant.

The dog gets infected by eating raw sheep meat that contains the nodules and so the cycle goes on. Affected sheep cannot spread sheep measles directly to other sheep.

Most Tasmanian sheep producers are aware that it is illegal to feed untreated offal from sheep (and cattle, goats and pigs) to dogs because of the risks of spreading hydatids. The sheep measles tapeworm has a similar life cycle to hydatids, but the risk is in the meat rather than the offal.

If you want to feed meat from sheep to dogs on your property, deep freeze the meat for a week, thaw it out and then feed it. The freezing and thawing will kill the immature tapeworms in any nodules in the meat. Commercial dog food kibble products have all been heat treated and cannot spread sheep measles.

Dogs can also be infected by eating sheep carcases, and while it is important to dispose of sheep carcases as soon as you find them, it is also wise to treat dogs with praziquantel every 30 days to kill off any young tapeworms before they mature and start laying eggs.

Stray dogs can also spread the tapeworm eggs and measures should be taken to keep stray dogs off your paddocks. Pet dogs should also be included in any control program.

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in January 2023

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abscess	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Discharge from side of neck in this case.	Surgical draining by a veterinarian and antibiotics usually effective.
Algal bloom deaths	A number of wethers in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Wethers found dead. Algal bloom on dam. Bloom and fresh liver can be tested to confirm.	Algal blooms cause liver damage so photosensitization may be seen in survivors. Water is discoloured and bloom may wash to one side of dam with wind. Remove stock from paddock. Straw placed in dam can help absorb the toxin.
Arthritis, degenerative	One ram in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Aged ram lame with bony lumps over	Anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. Euthanasia if not responsive.

			back of knee and elbow	
Barbers pole worm	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums, very high egg counts.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Black scour worm	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval differentiation test at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Bloating and death after 24 hours.	A number of sheep and lambs in one medium flock while on double-chopped silage	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to Clostridial disease, frothy bloat, but could also be acute botulism.	Treat with calcium injection under skin, drench with 20 ml vegetable oil if on legumes, tablespoon of bicarb in 1 L of water if on concentrates or very rich pasture. Boost mob with 5-in 1 if not vaccinated recently. Veterinary investigation if a number of cases and poor response to treatment.
Body condition score (BCS) low	A small number of ewes in two large flocks and some rams in several flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Worms, fluke, OJD, broken mouth, cancer and specific deficiencies and diseases eg footrot may also be involved. Old age/broken mouth, foot problems. Immaturity/low in pecking order in some 2T rams run with older rams.
Broken mouth	Several rams and a number of ewes on a number of properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing, loose, food impaction.	Cull.
Campylobacter abortion	One large flock scanned 120%, marked 65%	Northern Tasmania	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion, these outbreaks caused by the "fetus" strain.	Post lamb marking blood testing results from spring. A vaccine is available and covers both strains, but the course should be completed before joining.
Cheesy gland (CLA)	One unvaccinated ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania.	Bacterial infection that causes abscesses in the glands – seen as lumps full of pus in front of shoulder, thigh, in groin and internally	Use of six in one vaccine has made this disease rare now but would become common if producers stopped using the vaccine.

Cough	Several lambs in several medium flocks. Nasal discharge as well in one flock.	Northern and Southern 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 post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cryptorchids ("stags")	A number of male lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Castration by elastrator, some testicles still under skin in groin.	Cryptorchid lambs of low value. Retained testes can be removed by veterinarian using anaesthesia and pain relief. Prevention: make sure both testes are in the scrotum after ring has been applied when marking lambs.
Dags	Widespread.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, Campylobacter), coccidia, nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to culture for Yersinia/Salmonella/Campylobacter and for coccidia 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 in dry sheep	A number in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Possibly OJD, worms, fluke	Vet investigation would be ideal if freshly dead carcase available.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Reported as widespread.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs can get dermo on muzzle, backs of ears, but mainly seen in young sheep as wool in hard blocks along topline.	Lamb muzzle lesions will generally heal naturally after weaning. Can treat generalised form with long-acting oxytetracycline under vet supervision 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	Northern 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.
Epididymitis in rams	A low number of cases in three medium to large flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle, but can be on side or top.	Can be due to trauma or infection. Ovine Brucellosis should be suspected if a number of rams have epididymitis. Ram may still be fertile if the other testicle is in good order.
Ewe deaths over lambing	Excessive deaths in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	More than 5% ewe deaths between mating and weaning.	Pregnancy toxaemia (often secondary to footrot or foot abscess), hypocalcaemia (milk fever), dystocia (difficult births) account for most deaths. Nutritional factors can usually be adjusted to reduce losses.
Fractured leg	One weaner in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Caught leg in fence.	Broken bones in sheep heal well if the skin is unbroken, but must be splinted properly. Must have padding between splint and leg (baby nappies are good), PVC pipe cut in half longitudinally makes a good splint but must extend one joint above and one joint below the break. Antibiotic cover and pain relief must be given under veterinary supervision. Feed well balanced diet during recovery.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep from several properties	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc.

Fly strike	Many cases	Wide- spread in Northern NW and Southern Tasmania.	Mostly breech strike but body strike too.	Identify and correct causes of scouring. Chemical preventative treatments or frequent inspection and early treatment of strikes. See https://www.wool.com/sheep/welfare/breech-flystrike/flystrikeresources/ for comprehensive information on treatment and control.
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	Moderate % in composite ewes and rams in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania.	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge puss in acute stage, Most in healing phase now.	Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly. Treat with long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Footrot, virulent	Widespread	NW, Southern, Northern Tasmania	Spread is still occurring on a number of properties where rain showers and morning dew have occurred.	Almost too late to try to eradicate this summer by repeated foot inspections and culling of infected sheep. Footbathing and vaccination, paring, culling "chronics" that don't respond to treatment will help. Long-acting oxytetracycline antibiotics under veterinary supervision can be effective if paddock conditions are very dry. 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, benign (mild, "scald")	Several sheep in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but less than 2mm of under-running of heel of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
Grass seeds in eyes, mouth and under skin.	Several properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Grass seeds (usually barley grass) get under third eyelid and cause irritation of cornea (surface of eye) causing discharge down cheek	Grass seeds must be removed manually from eye, then use a spay or ointment to control infection. Can also lodge in mouth and can be manually removed. Shear or wig sheep to reduce seed pickup. Barley grass can be controlled with strategic grazing, herbicides or mowing.
Hooves overgrown	A number of sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming. Control scald/footrot if present.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One ram in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Horn has grown into and damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows horn to be removed safely. Prevention: Dehorn lambs so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.
Ill-thrift in lambs	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Poor growth rates	Possible causes may be worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), chronic infections such as pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Food On Offer, etc.

Interdigital fibroma	One ram in one large flock, several ewes in one small flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lump of skin between the toes, red and raw due to scald/ Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID).	Treat the scald/OID by footbathing and/or anti-bacterial sprays and get skin over the fibroma to heal so it is less painful.
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.
Long-acting injectable drench short persistence	Several large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Some managers had to drench ewes at marking even though LA had been given pre-lambing.	Black scour worm only controlled for up to 7 weeks by LA injection. Moxidectin resistance also possible. Conduct WormTest at 30 and 60-70 days after injection to check for resistance, black scour worm.
Lamb deaths - newborn	A number of lambs on one large property.	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead.	Wind chill factor when wet is one killer. Providing shelter, plenty of feed for ewes and keeping ewes in good body condition can reduce losses. Check for Toxo and Campy.
Lamb losses from scanning to marking	30% of twin/triplet scanned pregnancies did not survive to marking	Southern Tasmania	This figure is actually good for multiples, especially as 2/3 of foetuses were triplets.	Food on Offer, shelter and ewe condition score could possibly be adjusted to improve lamb survival.
Liver damage, mild	2% of weaners in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	May result in photosensitisation, suboptimal growth rates	May be caused by blue-green algae on dams, poisonous plants such as ragwort and Pennyroyal, copper poisoning, possibly fungal toxins in pasture.
Low lamb marking %	One medium and one large flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Normally expect about 90% lambs marked in singles and 140% plus for twins 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 10 dry ewes at lamb marking and test for Campylobacter and Toxo, review feeding levels, shelter at lambing, and calcium supplementation of ewes in third trimester. Low ram % is rarely the problem but best to mate at 1.5% (1 ram to 70 ewes) or more.
Mastitis (acute or chronic)	Several cases in two small flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed (acute) or hard (chronic) with abnormal or no milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency)	Acute: strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment by injection. If only one half of udder is affected ewe can produce nearly as much milk from the other half if she recovers. Chronic cases with hard udder should be culled.
Medial flap defect	One case in one sheep in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	Flap of hard horn inside toe of hoof is separated.	Can sometimes be due to footrot, injury, over-zealous foot-paring. Remove loose horn and apply spray or footbath.
Mouldy hay and silage	Possible health problems	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Toxicities possible	Fungal toxins in mouldy hay and silage can damage liver, kidney, reproductive tract (can cause embryo loss, abortion) and gut. Safest to discard safely. Testing for excessive level of mould spores is readily available.

Nematodirus	Weaners in many flocks	Northern and Southern 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. Have your vet do an autopsy and total worm count, or treat and look for a response.
Ocular (eye) discharge, one eye	One weaner from one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely barley grass seed.	Control barley grass with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping. Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	A number of ewes died or culled in one large flock, first case in the Huon in a small 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, cull 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
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 back, 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.
Pink eye	Several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg yarding)	If low prevalence and on good feed and water leave alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pizzles, cut	Several wether lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Some pizzles shorn off, others with a hole into the sheath	Shearers need to take care.
Pizzle rot	Several wethers in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Scab on end of pizzle or whole sheath swollen	Bacterial infection usually associated with grazing wethers on legume-rich pastures. Prevented by testosterone injections (see your vet).
Pneumonia	A single adult wether in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Difficulty breathing, cracking lung sounds.	Early cases in front part of lungs. Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatment of cases under vet supervision (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors. See https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NSHMP-Pneumonia-Pleurisy.pdf
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	One ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Caused by illness eg Footrot/foot abscess or insufficient energy in diet in last 7 weeks of pregnancy. Usually in ewes carrying multiples or very a large single lamb.	If heavily pregnant ewes go down in last 6 weeks, inject 1/5 milk fever pack under skin and massage in well (to differentiate from milk fever). If ewe does not get up within an hour, twin lamb disease is most likely cause. Oral treatments rarely work unless you catch them while still able to walk but dropping out of back of mob and 'star-gazing".
Rectal prolapse	One lamb in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	May be due to tail butted off very short at	Remove tails at third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs). Treat any causes of coughing.

			marking, coughing.	
Sebaceous gland blockage	"Pea" on back of ear of aged ram	Northern Tasmania	Gland which produces the oily layer on skin gets blocked and swells up.	Can be surgically drained or cut out by vet.
Scald	A number of reports	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Also called benign footrot but can be due to Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID) as well. Re-check in 14 days to ensure not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to footbathing and dry conditions underfoot.
Scour, green, in prime lambs	3% of lambs in one medium mob but no growth check	NW Tasmania	Can be due to grain overload' worms, coccidia, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Worms are most common cause. WORMTEST or drench and see if they respond. Check for sudden diet change to lush feed, plants such as capeweed.
Scour, poor growth rates	High % of weaners on one large property and reported as widespread	Northern and southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, did respond to Zolvix. Test for coccidia, Yersinia, Salmonella, Campylobacter	Worms probably main factor but bacterial and coccidia scours can be a problem in summer. See WORMBOSS web site for good worm treatment and prevention strategies.
Scrotal hernia in ram	Southern Tas	One large flock	Intestines come through into scrotum which becomes very large.	Could be repaired surgically, but is heritable so ram should be culled.
Shelly toe	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of 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.
Stifle ligament degeneration	One aged ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Leg angled inwards at stifle and unstable	Most likely degeneration of bones or ligaments of stifle. Euthanase.
Soft testes in rams	A number of rams in several medium and large flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Testicles both soft. Rams should have full, springy testicles.	If soft because the ram is old, broken mouth, poor feet etc then cull the ram. Ram may have been ill and could recover full fertility. If young or recovering from illness, over-heating, offer rams high protein and energy feed for 8 weeks prior to joining aiming for BCS 3.5 at joining.
Sub-solar foot abscess	One ewe from one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Foot looks normal but pus may leak out around edge of hoof horn. Horn of sole of foot under run. Differentiate from footrot – may need vet opinion and	Pare the hoof to remove all hoof horn over the shallow pool of pus under the sole. Apply antiseptic spray to affected area.

			maybe lab work.	
Toe abscess	A small number of ewes in two medium flocks	NW and Northern Tasmania	Very lame but no swelling, heat or under-running. Small amount of grey pus in toe area.	Carefully pare back the toe, following any black track up front of toe until pus released. Usually no further treatment needed apart from antiseptic spray.
Toxoplasmosis abortions	Only 50% of scanned foetuses were present as lambs at marking	Northern Tasmania	Ewes positive at high levels to the blood test at marking	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
Udder dropped	One ewe in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Ligaments holding udder up become stretched and udder hangs low even after lambs weaned	Cull. See https://www.mla.com.au/fittojoin for guidelines on assessing ewes after weaning to estimate their potential to potential to rear another lamb.
Udder hard	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Udder feels hard a month after lambs have been weaned.	Chronic mastitis is or was present. Cull
Vulval cancer	Individual ewe in several flocks	NW and Northern Tasmania	Chronic erosive raw area on vulva. Usually older 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 wooled skin on top of tail when mulesing will help prevent.
Whipworms	One sheep detected on autopsy in one medium flock.	Moderate infestation observed on postmortem. Eggs don't show up easily on Wormtest.	Can cause diarrhoea and ill-thrift.	Most registered drenches will kill whipworms.
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 in larval ID tests lately though many egg counts generally low to medium. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Arthritis in a number of joints in a calf (polyarthritis).	One case in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Lame, swollen joints. Had an infected navel earlier.	Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision or euthanase.

Bleeding and low platelets in a calf	One calf in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Calf bleeds from anywhere including skin	Caused by pestivirus, calf is Persistently Infected (PI) and should be culled.
Botulism	A number of cattle in a number of herds.	North-West Tasmania	Cows down, paralysed, tongues hanging out.	A carcase (eg wallaby) contaminating a bale of sileage can be the cause. Phosphorus deficiency can also make cattle chew bones and become affected. Cattle can be vaccinated against botulism but will continue to die for 30 days. Prevented by ensuring carcases are cleaned up especially in sileage paddocks and by using a preventative botulism vaccination program. Correct phosphorus deficiency.
Corkscrew claw	One cow on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Fracture	One cow in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Lameness, part of leg at odd angle. This one caused by loading ramp trauma.	A vet may be able to apply a cast with a chicken wire layer or similar as reinforcement. Euthanase immediately if the bone is shattered or protruding through skin.
Nasal discharge and crusty nostrils	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections, allergy or photosensitisation.	If animal is otherwise bright and alert, just keep under observation. If any other signs of ill-health use antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) from one eye	One cow from one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Usually grass seed or an injury or foreign body if just one eye.	Examine in crush for foreign bodies and remove. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.
Red urine in aged cows	Two cows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	The red colour was blood and cancer was found in the bladder at post mortem.	Bracken fern exposure can result in bladder cancer. If older cows exposed to bracken have blood in the urine and a mass can be felt in the bladder per rectum then cull.
Ringworm	One steer in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Scaley 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.
Stifle injury, leg buckles.	One cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Ligaments probably torn and joint surfaces probably damaged.	Euthanase, not fit to load.
Swollen leg with scars	One cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Wire injury scars and leg swollen up to elbow	This one in healing phase. Often a residual lameness results and cow has to be culled.
Swollen leg with no visible injury or scars	One steer in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Whole leg swollen up to shoulder, no sign of infection.	Maybe toxic bite. Responding to anti-inflammatories under vet supervision.

ALPACAS and CAMELS				
Pelvic fracture	One alpaca in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Could get hindlegs up, standing on knees at front but then too painful to get right up. Very sensitive over pelvis.	No response to anti-inflammatory drugs under vet supervision so euthanased
GOATS				
Anaemia, weight loss in an adult goat	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Goat with anaemia, not drenched for 3 years, possibly Haemonchus (Barber's pole worm)	Goats metabolise drenches faster than sheep – see your vet for advice on dose rates for goats.
Death and collapse after drench	One death and one affected in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Sudden reaction within a few minutes of being given one of the newer drenches orally.	Not many drenches are registered for goats, so sheep drenches are used at different dose rates. These reactions were reported to the drench manufacturer. 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.
PIGS				
Nil this month				

POULTRY				
Nil this month				

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, 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
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/