Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – February 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-April.

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 later in autumn.
Barber's pole worm: there have been reports of barber's pole worm from all around the state including the South-east and North-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 a summer/autumn worm 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 North, NE and NW Tasmania. Monitor spore counts in pasture samples.
Footrot and scald: is 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 should be showing up in Fluketests from now on.

Biosecurity story of the month – OJD

One Merino flock has been diagnosed with OJD in purple tag (2020 drop) ewes and wethers. A number had already faded away and died despite drenching and better feed, and about a dozen were affected out of a mob of 300 on the day of post mortem diagnosis.

This flock had not been vaccinated mainly due to concerns about accidental self-inoculation of staff vaccinating the sheep.

OJD is capable of killing up to 17% of adult sheep a year in unvaccinated flocks and we often saw mortality rates over 10% in Tasmania before vaccine became available.

The OJD vaccine may seem expensive but it is only one vaccination for the lifetime of the sheep. There is little point in vaccinating sheep that will be processed before 2 years of age but wethers that will be kept for wool production are worth vaccinating. You only have to reduce losses by 2% and you will be getting a positive return on investment.

Vaccination guns with a device to reduce the risk of self-inoculation are recommended and it is best if the person administering the vaccine at lamb marking only does that procedure and can focus on the one task. If someone does get jabbed, that person should go straight to a medical practitioner for treatment. The success rate in handling cases of self-inoculation has improved a lot in recent years.

The vaccine only claims to be 90% effective in reducing excretion of the Johne's disease bacteria and in reducing death rates, but some producers have not recognised a case in their vaccinated flocks for some years and are tempted to stop vaccinating. A number of studies and on-farm experience in Tasmania have shown that the disease will still be present, and if vaccination stops it will re-emerge.

OJD spreads through whole catchments, emerges slowly on individual farms and is often only recognised once significant numbers of sheep are dying. At that stage a decision is usually made to start vaccinating but the hard part is deciding whether to vaccinate some older age groups. The scientific work on this question did not come up with a clear answer but anecdotal reports from Tasmanian producers who have vaccinated older sheep indicate that it is worth doing.

Further information on OJD vaccine:

https://www.zoetis.com.au/all-products/portal-site/beef-dairy-sheep/sheep-gudair.aspx

https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/sheep/best-practice-videos/gudair.aspx

BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) and the Ruminant Feed Ban

China has stopped accepting beef from Brazil while a case of Mad Cow disease (BSE) undergoes further testing in Canada.

BSE is usually transmitted by feeding meat meal to cattle but the odd case of a very similar condition that occurs naturally can disrupt trade briefly while a full diagnosis is obtained. If a case of true BSE is diagnosed there could be long-term trade implications.

In Australia we have access to premium markets based on our ban on the feeding of any vertebrate animal product (apart from tallow, gelatin, milk products or oils) back to ruminants such as cattle, sheep, goats and deer. Check that any mixed feed you give your ruminants does not contain "restricted animal material' (a statement should be on the invoice or bag label)

We also have a surveillance program for BSE type diseases in sheep and cattle that also helps protect our market access. Producers who get a veterinarian to post mortem a case of nervous disease can claim an incentive payment if the animal is in the right age group and displays the right clinical signs. See the Bucks for Brains program details on: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains_Jun16_WEB.pdf

Diseases and conditions seen in February 2023

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abdominal abscess	One wether in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Found at post mortem.	Diagnosis may be difficult. Surgical draining by a veterinarian may also be difficult and antibiotics usually ineffective unless abscess is drained.
Arthritis, degenerative	Two rams ram in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Aged rams lame with hard swollen joints	Anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Arthritis infectious	Five weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joints. Whole leg will usually be removed at slaughter, often making carcase worthless or dropping it into a lower price grade on the grid.	Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock then you can consider using Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Barbers pole worm	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums, bottle jaw, very high egg counts.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Black scour worm	Widespread	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.

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.
Bottle jaw	A number of sheep in 3 medium to large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw usually caused by barber's pole worm (Haemonchus) or liver fluke, occasionally by OJD.	Diagnosis by post mortem (Barber's Pole worms easily seen in 4th stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver, OJD causes thickened lower small intestine), or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench.
Cobalt/B12 deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Poor growth rates, crusts around eyes	Mostly on sandy soils in Tamar, NE, Bass Strait islands. B12 injections or cobalt rumen boluses are common treatments.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	About 30% of weaned lambs in two large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Scouring with low worm egg count but high coccidia count and coccidia damage to intestines seen in laboratory.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs under veterinary direction. Prevention by good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Copper deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease, cause swayback and fragile bones in lambs, 'double crimp' or steely wool, white bands in black wool, poor lamb survival. 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 too time-consuming.
Cud stain	Three weaned lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	Various possible causes but grass seed damage to tongue or mouth suspected here.
Dags	Widespread.	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 look 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.
Devils grip	One sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Depression just behind the shoulder blades	Causes moisture to pool and predisposes to fleece rot.
Drench resistant worms	Severe resistance to abamectin, slight to moxidectin, suspected to Startect in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Egg counts reduced by less than 98%, 10-14 days after drenching	See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance.
Dog attack	A number of sheep bitten on three	Southern Tasmania.	Dog bites are often more serious than	Best assessed by vet who may drain wounds, give antibiotics and anti-inflammatories/pain relief.

	separate properties.		apparent on surface.	
Fleece rot	One case in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Greenish, blue-ish or pinkish discoloration of wool at skin level.	Caused by constantly wet fleece plus some genetic pre-disposition mainly in Merinos. Pre-disposes to body strike. Use flystrike preventative measures/chemicals during fly season and select against this trait.
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.
Foetal loss	Large discrepancy between scanning and marking percentages.	Southern Tasmania	This flock vaccinated against Campylobacter, very few lambs picked up at lambing.	Toxoplasmosis, Listeria or Chlamydia pecorum abortions possible. Have bloods taken for Toxo and Chlamydia testing.
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	Two rams in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania.	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage.	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.	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 weaners in one large flock	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 spray 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	Regular trimming. Control scald/footrot if present.

			be underlying cause.	
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.
Lice (body lice)	Many reports	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. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep.
Lumpy eye	One XB weaner in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	A number of discrete swellings in skin around one eye.	Unknown cause.
Mastitis (acute or chronic)	One case in one small flocks.	Southern Tasmania	One half of udder had sloughed off and a raw wound was still present	This one should heal up completely in time but should be culled.
Mycoplasma ovis anaemia in lambs	Several weaners died in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually seen several weeks after marking, these deaths seen immediately after mulesing. Usually seen as lambs not able to walk far when mustered , pale gums, deaths.	Bacteria spread by marking equipment or insects destroys red blood cells resulting in anaemia. Lambs will recover if left alone on good feed and water for 4-6 weeks. Can treat whole mob with oxytetracycline antibiotic under veterinary supervision but handling can cause more deaths.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	Several sheep in several flocks	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Nematodirus	Weaners in one large flock flock	Northern Tasmania	High. Nematodirus egg counts.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. If counts are low and lambs are scouring and not growing well, 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 eyes as soon as possible.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	A number of 2020 drop ewes and wethers affected	Northern 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, 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 (eg Penny Royal) 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.
Photosensitisation on brassicas ("rape scald")	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Peeling of skin on back of ears and also down back of recently shorn XB lambs.	Immature grazing brassicas contains a substance that causes photosensitisation. Best to take lambs back off once you see first cases if alternative feed is available, wait 2 weeks and re-introduce. Livers are not damaged and lambs continue to grow. Processor may penalise due to skin damage.
Pink eye	Widespread	Northern and 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 yarding can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections under veterinary supervision. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pour-on scald	Several ewes in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Some pour-on products applied in very hot conditions can damage the skin – can leave a permanent scar.	Avoid using pour-on products when temperatures exceed 35 degrees.
Ryegrass staggers	Affecting mainly young sheep but also some mature ewes on a number of properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have high mortality.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.
Sebaceous gland blockage (sebaceous cyst)	Walnut sized swelling on top of shoulder of one aged ewe in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Gland which produces the oily layer on skin gets blocked and swells up. Usually on shedding sheep.	Usually harmless but can get infected if get too large. Can be surgically drained or cut out by vet.
Selenium deficiency	Two large flocks	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), newborn lamb deaths, slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Scour, poor growth rates in weaners with very low worm egg counts.	30% of weaners in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, low worm egg count.	Test for coccidia, Yersinia, Salmonella, Campylobacter or treat a dozen with a sulfa drug under veterinary supervision. to look for a response.

Scrotal swelling	Northern Tasmania	Scrotum enlarged and hanging down low	Can be caused by swollen and inflamed testes (orchitis) varicose veins in the cord or herniation of intestines into the scrotum	Feel the contents carefully to determine what structures are affected. Rams affected by most of these conditions are not able to be returned to service after treatment and are best culled. Ensure fit to load.
Stifle swelling	One ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Large swelling over stifle	May be abscess or haematoma (large blood clot) from fighting injury. Vet can check for pus/drain if an abscess/haematoma and give anti-inflammatories/antibiotics.
Sudden death in yards after transport	One sheep	Northern Tasmania	Sheep found dead in yards.	Acute pneumonia, plant poisoning, metabolic disease, injury all possible
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne	Ten lambs overnight in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead but not blown up.	Post mortem showed these deaths not due to 'lucerne red gut' or frothy bloat, so plant poisoning or pulpy kidney (PK) suspected. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one.
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 small flock	Southern Tasmania	Udder feels hard a month after lambs have been weaned.	Chronic mastitis is or was present. Cull. See https://www.mla.com.au/fittojoin
Wool break	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	Generally worm egg counts low to moderate except for some high counts associated with suspected barbers pole worm.	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.	The percentage of 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
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in two large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Scouring and low growth rates. Coccidia also involved.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST and ask lab to culture for Yersinia/Campylobacter/Salmonella as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals under veterinary supervision. Some stress factor is usually present (eg recent weaning, poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected if possible.
CATTLE				
Abscess	One cow	Southern Tasmania	Swelling on lower cheek	Surgical drainage by vet and antibiotics usually effective. If lymph nodes involved Actino could be cause and may

				respond better to intravenous sodium iodide injection (veterinarian job!).
B12 deficiency	One large herd	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.
Bone chewing, bone fractures	Adult cattle in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	First calf heifer had wombat jawbone lodged in mouth. A cow just ran and broke a leg.	Bone chewing usually associated with phosphorus deficiency. Copper deficiency can also cause brittle bones but usually in young growing cattle. Best to have some testing done.
"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 or mastitis.	Check cows at marking or weaning and cull.
Copper deficiency	One herd	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease, reduce growth rates, cause brittle bones that break easily, faded coat colour. Copper can be toxic in cattle though they are not as prone to poisoning as sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Corkscrew claw	One cow on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Double muscling	Suspected in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Dystocia experienced	Double muscling gene present in some breeds such as Belgian Blue. Calves usually have to be delivered by caesarean, so not a desirable trait for extensive beef production. Genetic testing can be used to eliminate carriers.
Downer cow	One late pregnant cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Beef cow in late pregnancy with very large abdomen.	Post mortem revealed dead calf. Metabolic disease also possibly involved.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	1 cow in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf found with swollen tongue and big hips.	Head was probably out for a while before fully delivered.
Eye cancer in Hereford cow.	One early case in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in breeds with white pigmentation around eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over growth.
Foot abscess	1 bull	Southern Tasmania	Swollen foot, may discharge, very lame.	Veterinarian ground out abscess.
Lameness	2 bulls and one steer in three	Southern Tasmania	Foot abscess, sub-solar abscess, interdigital	Remove from mob if possible, rest in small paddock or yard, give anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.

	separate herds		lesions eliminated, bulls have 'click' when walking.	
Nasal discharge, crusty nostrils and diarrhoea	One steer 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 for foreign bodies and remove. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) both eyes	Several cows from a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of Pink Eye.	May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.
Prepucial prolapse	Three young bulls in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Soft tissue of sheath hangs out. If injured while out, becomes swollen and can't go back in.	A veterinarian may be able to operate if damaged.
Pus in semen	One bull in one large herd found during routine fertility checks	Southern Tasmania	Usually due to infection of seminal vesicles, an internal organ that produces part of the semen.	Sometimes antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision can cure the infection in the seminal vesicles.
Rectal and vaginal prolapse	One heifer in late pregnancy	Southern Tasmania	Caused by straining or hormonal status	Veterinarian replaced both, stitched, heifer recovered, stitches removed, calved normally.
River trident bush poisoning	Two cows in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	River trident bush (*Micrantheum hexandrum)* causes convulsions and death in sheep and cattle that eat it.	Grows near waterways. Make sure animals are not hungry while on paddocks with river trident bush or fence off riparian areas with a lot of this plant. If animals are found alive a vet could try anticonvulsants.
Runty weaner or yearling	1 heifer on one medium property	Southern Tasmania	May be due to pestiivrus.	Calves that are infected at 30-90 days of pregnancy may be persistently infected and usually do not grow well and die before 18 months of age. Blood or skin tests can detect such PI calves.
Ryegrass staggers	Several large herds	Northern Tasmania	Usually more severe in young cattle -	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on

			tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams.	diagnosis treatment and prevention. Feed with additives to absorb the ryegrass toxin in the rumen may be worth a try.
Selenium deficiency	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	History of low growth rate etc combined with low blood or liver levels.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (rare but does occur in calves), slow growth rates in young cattle, reduced immunity to diseases, reduced fertility, faded coat colour. Young cattle don't always grow faster under treatment even when blood selenium levels are low, so only treat if there is a production deficit. See https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/selenium-deficiency-cattle
Swollen leg with scars	One cow in one small herd	Northern 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, alternates between sides	One steer in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Whole front leg swollen up to shoulder, no sign of infection. That leg goes down, other front leg swells	May be space occupying lesion growing inside front of chest. Vet testing ongoing.
Vaginal prolapse in non-pregnant females	One cow and one heifer in two herds	Southern Tasmania	Cow had rectal wall injury causing straining, heifer was yarded for 3 weeks post-calving	Vet can replace, suture in.
Warts	One steer and one heifer in two medium herds.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Cauliflower-like growth anywhere on body but often around head.	Usually 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				
Ryegrass staggers	One young alpaca in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Neurological signs. Older animals not affected.	Remove from paddock. Nurse. Epsom salts drench or mycotoxin absorbents in feed may help.
GOATS				
Nil reports this month				
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/