Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – March 2023

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

See http://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-May.

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: 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.
Footrot and scald: is spreading in many areas.
Flystrike: Is still occurring in most areas. The sheep blowfly gets active as soon as the temperature is over 15 degrees.
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.
Ryegrass staggers: watch for signs of nervous system problems and keep young sheep and cattle off paddocks with a history of staggers.
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 now. An April treatment with a triclabendazole product is standard strategy on many known fluke properties.
Pneumonia and pleurisy: are showing up in abattoir reports, slowing prime lamb growth rates and resulting in trimming at the abattoir. Click here to see if there is any data on your lambs processed this season.

Biosecurity story of the month – sheep body lice foiled by 'hotel quarantine'.

A shipment of rams came into Tasmania for distribution to a number of properties. Fortunately the rams were held in isolation for some time after arrival and during isolation one ram was found to be carrying sheep body lice. This timely discovery allowed buyers to isolate rams and treat them before allowing them to come in contact with their resident sheep.

The other points to note here is that it is not really safe to assume that any animals you introduce from a stud will be free of disease, and that diseases and pests can be picked up on the way if a commercial carrier is used to transport the livestock.

For sheep, it is always best to footbath all introduced sheep off the truck, isolate, quarantine drench (see WORMBOSS for best method), vaccinate for OJD and 5-in-1 if the sheep are not already vaccinated, fluke drench if they are from a fluke area, check them every day for any sign of illness, and, if you are footrot free, tip them all and inspect every foot of every sheep and check the testicles of rams for lumps.

It is best to only purchase rams from Ovine Brucellosis-Free accredited studs as Ovine Brucellosis has been diagnosed in Tasmania in recent years and is common on the mainland.

Similar programs can be used for cattle with a quarantine drench, fluke drench and vaccinate if necessary, daily inspection/investigation of any illness, and isolation being the keys.

Always ask for a signed copy of the Health Declaration and don't hesitate to ask more questions if you need to.

Are your fly products still giving you the right protection period?

A survey by AWI and NSW DPI have shown that the Australian sheep blowfly is developing resistance to common fly protection and treatment products. But there was only one sample from Tasmania!

So we need to know how common chemical resistance is in the Tasmanian green blowfly (did you know our blowfly is genetically distinct from mainland flies?)

If strike is still occurring in your flock and you suspect that fly protection products you have used may not have lasted as long as they should, please request a testing kit from Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520. It is just a matter of scooping about 30 large maggots from the next two struck sheep you treat into vials, filling in a one-page submission form and sending the pre-paid envelope in the post.

You will receive results that will help you manage flystrike on your property.

Agfest

I will have a table in the TFGA tent and the theme this year will be sheep foot conditions.

Drop in for a chat and to pick up a hard copy of the Footrot Ute Guide for Tasmania if you have time.

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Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in March 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	Pus discharging from a skin defect in the neck.	Surgical draining and antibiotics by veterinarian usually effective, but foreign body eg broken stick suspected buried deep in the tissues and very hard to locate surgically in this case.
Arthritis, degenerative	Two rams in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Aged rams lame with hard swollen joints	Anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Backliner scar	2 sheep from one large mob	Northern Tasmania	Loss of wool along top of back	Backline lice and fly products should not be applied if the temperature exceeds 35 degrees Celsius.
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.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 5.6% of lamb carcases.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania.	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep. Causes liver to be trimmed and runners to be condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm.	Prevented by stopping dogs from eating raw sheep offal and/or by treating all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated at least 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. These measures also prevent sheep measles and hydatids. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Body condition score (BCS) low	Two ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Worms, fluke, OJD, broken mouth, cancer and specific deficiencies and diseases eg footrot or other foot problems may also be involved.
"Bottle" teats	Several ewes from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Teats too large for lamb to get into mouth resulting in lamb loss soon after birth.	Check ewes at marking or weaning and cull.
Campylobacter abortion	Ten percent of ewes dry and 35% of foetuses lost to marking in one large flock last year.	Northern Tasmania	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion, this outbreak caused by the "fetus" strain.	Diagnosis at this time of year by blood test on ewes. A vaccine is available and covers both strains, the course should be completed before joining, but vaccinating ewes as rams go in and come out can be effective too. Humans can also be affected so women of child-bearing age should not be exposed to aborting ewes or afterbirth.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	About 30% of weaned lambs in a number of large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Scouring with low worm egg count but high coccidia count and response to sulpha treatment.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs under veterinary supervision. Prevention by good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Cough and low body condition score	One ewe in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	May be due to chronic pneumonia	Antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision may be effective.

Cud stain	Three weaned lambs in one large flock and one 2T ram	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	Various possible causes but grass seed damage to tongue or mouth suspected here. A rare parasite that gets into the lining of the throat can also be responsible.
Cryptorchid	Several male weaners in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	One or both testicles held in the body rather than in the scrotum.	Usually inherited but can be from castration error. Cull affected animal and sire if known.
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.
Drench resistant worms	Resistance to Q drench suspected in one flock	NW Tasmania	Egg counts reduced by less than 98%, 10-14 days after drenching	See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance.
Drench failure – under-dosing	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Egg counts reduced about 80% for both Strongylid and Nematodirus	Drenched at max 40 kg bodyweight but some sheep were 50 kg.
Ear cancer	Two aged sheep in one medium sized flock	Northern Tasmania	Crusty swelling or ulceration starting anywhere on bare parts of the ear.	Vet can remove the cancerous part of the ear 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	One ram in one large flock	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 (see vet). Ram may still be fertile if other testicle in good order. Treatment usually ineffective.
Eye cancer	One sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania.	Discharge down cheek, ulcerated and raw section of eyelid.	Older sheep with white eyelids. Cull as soon as noticed.
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 some 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)	Low % ewes and rams in two large flocks.	Northern and 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	Ten individual reports plus reported as widespread	NW, Southern, Northern Tasmania	Low % on properties that have not had significant rainfall or have vaccinated but very active spread on others.	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")	A number of sheep in one medium flock.	Northern 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.
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 causes.	Regular trimming. Control scald/footrot if present.
Lameness	Widespread,	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)	One ram in a group of imported rams. Detection on last day of shearing in another flock.	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 wool (dermo)	Widespread	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline under veterinary supervision during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Molar teeth loose, low BCS	One aged sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Can be felt through cheeks	Cull.
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	Southern Tasmania	Medium to high Nematodirus egg counts, scouring, response to drench.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. If Nematodirus eggs are present 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, purulent, one eye	A number of weaners from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely barley grass seed.	Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible and an eye antiseptic applied. Control barley grass with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping.
Ocular (eye) discharge, both eyes	Several weaners from several flocks	Northern Tasmania	Could be start of Pink Eye	Observe for development of cloudy cornea and red conjunctiva.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	A very small number of older ewes affected.	Southern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	The vaccine does not completely prevent infection or cases and a small number of cases in vaccinated flocks is normal. Quickest diagnosis is by postmortem. 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
Paralysed hind legs	One ram in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Most likely fractured spine, or spinal abscess but broken pelvis can look similar.	Euthanase. Postmortem can localise fracture. Fractures can be due to accident/trauma, copper deficiency, calcium/phosphorus imbalance or Vitamin D deficiency. Test and correct.
Photosensitisation	A number of mild cases 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 immature phalaris/cocksfoot pasture	A number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swollen faces.	Immature Phalaris and Cocksfoot are not known to contain substances that cause photosensitisation, so could be fungal toxin or unusual environmental conditions. Best to take lambs back off paddock once you see first cases, wait 2 weeks and re-introduce.
Pink eye	A small number of outbreaks this month in several flocks	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.
Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in 3.6% of lamb carcases	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Pulpy Kidney in lambs	Suspected cause of one outbreak	Southern Tasmania	Sudden deaths with rapid blowing up of carcases.	Vaccinate ewes pre-lambing. Vaccinate lambs at marking and weaning. May need to use 8-in-1 or 3rd vaccination if losses occur later, especially if on pure Lucerne or clover.
Ryegrass staggers	Affecting mainly young sheep but also some mature ewes on a number of properties, quite widespread.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.

			drown in dams. Can have high mortality.	
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 2.6% of lamb/hogget carcases.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Small 'rice grain' whitish raised lesions on outside of food pipe (oesophagus), diaphragm and in skeletal muscles. Carcase trimmed or condemned.	Spread by cats. Takes a long time to grow so not usually seen in lambs. Deny cats access to sheep meat, burn or bury carcasses promptly, eradicate feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Scouring on green Cocksfoot	25% of one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Immature cocksfoot can be low in dry matter, but could be due to worms, coccidia, Yersinia etc	Offer reasonable quality pasture hay or cereal straw. Introduce the lambs to the pasture slowly if possible, to give their digestive tract time to adapt. Make sure the problem is not worms, Yersinia or coccidia (WORMTEST, coccidia exam, culture)
Sheath swollen and damaged internally	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swollen and scarred internal lining of sheath seen when penis examined.	Sexual rest, anti-inflammatory/antibacterial ointment under veterinary supervision can help in early cases. Remove any objects (eg wool with burrs) near pizzle that could be irritating the sheath when ram is working
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 3.4% of lamb carcases.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small whitish nodule in the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned.	Intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm. Prevented by stopping dogs from eating raw sheep meat. Freeze sheep carcase meat for 2 weeks before feeding to dogs, burn/bury sheep carcases promptly and treat all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Skin tag near pizzle	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Long stalk of skin with rough end next to pizzle, probably due to shearing injury	Rubber ring to remove skin tag. Check penis can still extend through pizzle opening.
Sudden deaths on fresh grass growth	Limited losses in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead.	May be caused by, Pulpy Kidney (PK), Salmonella or plant poisoning e.g. nitrate. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, have post mortem done, check nitrate levels in cereal crop.
Sudden deaths in adult ewes after shedding	Several ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Possible causes include Clostridial disease (eg PK, blackleg), salmonella, toxic plants, Anthrax (very rare in Tas)	No postmortem in this case. Boost ewes with 5-in-one pre-lambing. Make sure yarded ewes have access to water if in yards for more than 24 hours in hot weather. Know what toxic plants are on your property and manage appropriately. If blood oozes from mouth/nose and backside as well, get a vet to check for Anthrax or ring Emergency Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne	Ten lambs overnight in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up.	No postmortem so these deaths could be due to 'lucerne red gut', pulpy kidney, frothy bloat, or plant poisoning. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, provide roughage eg hay or cereal straw.

Toxoplasmosis	Mixed age ewes in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	One diagnosed by blood test, other a report from last spring.	Significant proportion of ewes were positive to blood test. Toxo causes foetal and neonatal lamb losses if ewes are infected during pregnancy. Ewes may become barren if infected in first 60 days of pregnancy. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Vaccination lesions	Detected at abattoir in one line of lambs that had to have most carcasses trimmed.	Southern Tasmania	Caused by vaccinating into the muscle, armpit, top of neck etc. Trimming can involve removing the whole hind leg or front leg.	Extra care must be taken with Gudair as large lumps often result. Vaccinate under the skin high on the **side** of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf
Wasting	One 18-month-old ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	No other clinical signs.	Possibly OJD or internal abscess, partial gut or urinary tract blockage, chronic kidney or liver damage can be cause.
Wool break	One ewe in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	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.	See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in at least 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				
Ataxia (wobbly)	One 9-month-old steer	Southern Tasmania	Swaying gait when mustered	Most likely ryegrass staggers but could be other toxins or injury.
Castration, incomplete	One male calf in one large herd where rings were used.	Southern Tasmania	Scrotum swells and skin becomes hard after ring castration	Sheep 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 unless you use rings designed for older male calves.
Corkscrew claw	One cow on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Hereditary conformation fault. Cull.

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 the growth.
Inter-digital dermatitis	Seen in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Reddened between toes. Sheep benign footrot can be a cause but often just environmental bacteria and constant wet conditions underfoot	Footbathing, antiseptic spray between toes or inject antibiotics, move to drier ground if possible.
Low body condition in adult beef cow	One cow 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. This one calved and responded to extra feed.
Melanoma	One 18 month old Hereford heifer in one herd	Southern Tasmania	More common in Angus cattle where it is usually benign (doesn't spread to other organs) but can be very large.	A veterinarian can usually surgically remove the melanoma.
Nasal discharge	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections or allergy.	If animal is otherwise bright and alert, just keep under observation. If any other signs of ill-health use antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
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	Two cows from 2 different herds	Northern 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.
Photosensitisation	1 cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair.	May be caused by Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD), blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antihistamines, antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision if necessary.
Poor conception.	24 of 40 cows empty at preg test despite good body condition and fertile bull.	Northern Tasmania	Red or strawberry clover present in pastures over mating may have produced oestrogens that	Clover can be tested for oestrogens, and if it is oestrogenic it can be managed so that it does not interfere with cow fertility.

			interfered with expression of heat and conception.	
Poor calf marking % in PTIC heifers and cows	10% of heifers and 13% of cows in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Vibrio and Trichs unlikely as PTIC rates were 90-95% in cows	Investigation proceeding. First step is to preg test again just before calving starts to see if abortion is the problem.
Scouring in one adult cow	One adult cow with watery green scour in one medium mob.	Northern Tasmania	May be nutritional but Brown Stomach Worm, copper deficiency, Salmonella, BJD etc could be involved	Blood test for main possibilities. Worm egg counts do not always detect cattle with inhibited Brown Stomach Worm problem, a blood test for fourth stomach lining damage (pepsinogen test) can be more accurate.
Selenium deficiency	One medium 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
Warts	One steer in one medium herd.	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				
No reports				
GOATS				
Nasal discharge from one nostril and hair loss	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Foreign body (eg grass seed), cancer, abscess, sinus infection, all possible	This one euthanased.
PIGS				
Nil this month				

POULTRY				
Nil this month				

Resources

Farm biosecurity plans
Everything you need to know about farm biosecurity, for example how to make a biosecurity plan for LPA accreditation, can be found on: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/

Animal health declarations
Provide an animal health declaration when selling sheep, cattle, goats and camelids, and ask to see declarations when purchasing or moving these animals onto your property. See: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/

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
Any material containing material of placental mammal origin (other than milk and milk by-products, properly rendered meat meal, or tallow) is swill. Swill which contains food from overseas can introduce devastating diseases such as foot and mouth disease or African swine fever into Tasmania. For more detail see: https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/pigs/swill-feeding

Never feed raw untreated offal or sheep meat to dogs or cats.
Untreated offal from sheep, goats, cattle and pigs may spread hydatids if fed to dogs. 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/