Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – May 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

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You are welcome to distribute this report to anyone you like. The next Tasmanian Livestock Health Report will be out in mid-July.

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

Black scour worms: high egg counts have been seen and the risk will increase over winter. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep should be worth doing.
Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear and abamectin drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail. Autumn/early winter is the best time to have a DrenchTest done as there are more likely to be brown stomach worms and barbers pole worms present as well as black scour worm.
Foot abscess: will be a problem with heavy sheep on wet paddocks from now on.
Footrot and scald: are spreading in many areas.
Grass tetany: cows from 1 week before, to 4 weeks after calving that are on short green grass especially if fertilised with potash and/or nitrogen. Cows that are overweight and taken off feed for handling are particularly at risk
Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes: don't hold heavily pregnant ewes off feed for more than 12 hours. Also beware of ewes on cereal crops/lush feed with no dry roughage – feed some hay and/or a calcium/magnesium/salt dry lick. Have calcium injection on hand.
Pregnancy toxaemia: feed late pregnant ewes well, especially twin-bearing ewes.
Pulpy kidney: Some lambs on pure legume stands may need an additional booster.
Lucerne red gut: seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcase on irrigated lucerne or clover.
Nematodirus: Seen as scouring and poor growth rates in lambs. Bulk Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect the worm burden inside the weaner. Do individual worm egg counts on light scouring lambs.
Liver fluke: Eggs should be showing up in Fluketests now, but blood tests may be more sensitive.
Pneumonia and pleurisy: are showing up in abattoir reports, slowing prime lamb growth rates and resulting in trimming at the abattoir. Look at: https://www.integritysystems.com.au/data--feedback/livestock-data-link/to see if there is any data on your lambs processed this season.
Toe abscess: will be a problem if sheep's feet are continually wet.
Weaned lamb scours: If lambs are scouring and worm egg counts are zero or very low then coccidia, Yersinia or Campylobacter gut infection could be involved; consult with your vet on best options for diagnosis and treatment.

Biosecurity story of the month – respiratory disease.

Just about every time I go to a saleyard or showground in the cooler months where young sheep and/or cattle from a number of different properties are gathered, I see snotty noses. I am not sure whether they were always there in the past and I didn't look closely enough, or whether there are really more affected animal now than there used to be. Covid has taught us that respiratory diseases spread easily!

This month veterinarians have reported a number of cases where recently introduced calves have been affected with respiratory disease soon after arrival on the buyer's property. The stress of weaning, transport, yarding, mud, cold, wet and lot of strange people coming too close will often depress immunity. Some viruses such as pestivirus will also suppress immune responses. Throw in contact with a lot of other young animals from different properties breathing out some bugs they have not experienced before, and you have the ingredients for an outbreak of respiratory disease.

So, what can you do? You need stores and it can be hard to buy enough in property-to-property transactions.

Anything you can do to reduce stress will help. Getting them home as soon as you can and place them in a sheltered isolation paddock with a clean water supply and good feed is a good start. Don't mix them with other cattle/sheep immediately on arrival as they will have to sort out the 'pecking order' again and that is also stressful. Calm and patient handling, minimal use of dogs and electric prodders will all assist. Let them settle for a day or two before drenching, vaccinating etc.

And get the vet in early if they show any signs of respiratory distress, lameness, cloudy eyes or go off their feed.

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in May 2023

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Acidosis (grain poisoning)	One mob of ewes on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Accidental overfeeding	Off feed with "porridge" scour. Treat: Take off grain source and feed roughage. Drenching with alkalis such as bicarb now not advised. Give access to plenty of good quality water. Prevent: introduce to starchy feeds such as grain slowly. Remove shy feeders that could come onto feed later and engorge. Use buffer pellets in mix. Change grains slowly. Smooth feeding regime. See https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1431059/LLS_confinement-feeding-booklet-web.pdf
Barbers pole worm	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums, bottle jaw, very	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.

			high egg counts.	
Black scour worm	Lambs on several large properties affected	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, black scour worm identified by larval ID test at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Bottle jaw	Small number of ewes and a lamb in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw usually caused by barber's pole worm (Haemonchus) or liver fluke	Diagnosis by post mortem (barber's pole worms easily seen in 4th stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver, thickened lower small intestine seen with OJD) or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench. These responded to Q drench which contains closantel so could have been either fluke or barbers pole worm.
Bruising	2% of one line of lambs at the abattoir	Southern Tasmania	Bruising limits market destinations for affected carcasses	Handle lambs calmly and quietly.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	About 10% of weaned lambs in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Scouring with low worm egg count but high coccidia count.	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.
Copper poisoning	One ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep die suddenly with anaemia and jaundice	Even a small excess of copper in the diet makes copper build up in the liver in sheep. A stress event releases all the copper and the red blood cells break down. No effective treatment. Copper uptake can be reduced in surviving sheep in the mob. This ewe accessed feed designed for other species.
Cough	Several lambs in several large 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.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 1.8% of lamb carcases. Also one lamb condemned at a small abattoir.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania.	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep at abattoir. Causes liver to be trimmed or condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm.	Prevented by stopping dogs from eating sheep offal and/or by treating all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) 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/
Dags	Wide-spread	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia), nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to culture for Yersinia and Salmonella if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at www.wool.com/flystrikelatest.
Deaths in weaners	A number of deaths in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	May be worms, Yersinia, Salmonella, Coccidia, Nematodirus, Clostridial disease etc	A post-mortem on a freshly dead typical case is best diagnosis.

Drench resistant worms	One large flock. Other suggestive histories of very frequent drenching.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Egg counts reduced by less than 95% 10-14 days after drenching for BZ, clear, abamectin and moxidectin drenches.	See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance. Black scour worm and brown stomach worm both resistant. Nematodirus resistant to BZ family.
Fly strike	Flystruck feet on two large properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Only found when paring feet.	Treat and control footrot. See https://www.wool.com/sheep/welfare/breech-flystrike/flystrikeresources/ for comprehensive information on fly treatment and control.
Foot abscess	Several rams in two medium flocks	NW and Southern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage, will become more common from now on.	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	Five individual reports plus reported as widespread	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 year in most areas. Footbathing and vaccination, paring, culling "chronics" that don't respond to treatment will help. Long acting oxytetracycline antibiotics under veterinary supervision not usually effective at this time of year due to wet conditions. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath, quarantine and check feet on arrival. Footbath sheep returning from shows. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Footrot (intermediate)	One large and one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Under -running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof. Can be eradicated but causes less production loss than virulent footrot.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed next summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Footrot, benign (mild, "scald")	A small number of sheep in one small 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.
Jaundiced lamb carcase at abattoir	One carcase from one small flock	NW Tasmania	Carcase fat appears slightly yellow.	Some carcases will resume normal fat colour after a night in the chiller. Possible causes include: too many high-carotene flat weeds in diet, Mycoplasma bacteria destroying red blood cells, feeding too long solely on brassica crop, copper poisoning or liver damage. Vet investigation may be able to determine cause.
Lice (body lice)	Reported as widespread.	Southern Tasmania.	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish	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.

			head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	
Listeria	A number of ewes on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Sheep may have head tilt, walk in circles, die. Often associated with silage or brassica bulb feeding.	This case associated with feeding silage. Remove from offending feed. Treat early with antibiotics but usually unsuccessful. About half of the treated ewes survived in this case but with residual neurological signs that may or may not resolve over time.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 0.2% of lamb carcases.	Northern Tasmania	Abattoir detection, farm post mortem or Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year but pickup of immatures will continue into early July. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Liver fluke resistance to triclabendazole	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Fluke eggs still present in faeces 10 days after triclabendazole treatment.	Check using the 10 day faecal test 10-14 days after triclabendazole treatment.
Mastitis (chronic)	One ewe in one flock.	Southern Tasmania	Hard scar tissue with no fluid. Very old case.	Chronic cases with hard udder should be culled as chances of rearing, especially twin lambs, is low.
Nematodirus	Weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Weaners scour with poor growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts not high in the bulk sample but high in individual scouring lamb samples.	Bulk Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. Individual counts on scouring lambs or postmortem and total worm count or treat and look for response.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	Three ewes died or destroyed in one medium sized flock	Northern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	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
Photosensitisation	A number of weaners in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears. These were severely affected and liver damage	Spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, showed low levels but may have been higher earlier in some parts of paddock. Check water supply for blue-green algae. Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics if necessary (under vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock.

			confirmed by blood test.	
Pink eye	A number of weaners in one large flock	Northern 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 if more than 25% of mob affected. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in 1.0% 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.
Reddened skin above hoof	Several sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Not lame or ill, only noted during routine foot trimming	Resolved on its own. Possibly injury.
Salmonella	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death on legumes under pivot. Inflamed gut seen at post mortem.	Prevent by reducing stress.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 1.5% of older 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 with low egg counts	Weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Egg counts zero	Possibly dietary – low dry matter content in pasture or plants such as capeweed, also could be coccidia, Yersinia, Salmonella, Campylobacter enteritis, micronutrient deficiencies as well and may respond to Sulpha drugs or antibiotics under vet supervision. Can also be immature worm infestation not yet producing eggs. Use effective drench or repeat worm egg count in 2 weeks.
Selenium deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), 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
Septicaemia	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Multiple infections, hind limb paralysis	May respond to antibiotics under veterinary supervision if detected early. May have underlying problem such as OJD.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 1.7% of lamb carcases.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small whitish nodule in the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Carcase is	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

			trimmed or condemned.	property. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Shelly toe	A number of sheep in two large flocks	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.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up.	No postmortem so these deaths could be due to 'lucerne red gut', pulpy kidney, frothy bloat, acute Salmonella or plant poisoning. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, provide roughage eg hay or cereal straw.
Slow growth rates in weaned lambs	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs not growing at historical rates.	Could be not eating during cold wet weather, using more energy to maintain body heat, low levels of photosynthesis in plants may be lowering soluble carbohydrate levels in pasture plants. Or could be underlying undetected disease such as chronic pneumonia, pleurisy, worms, or micronutrient deficiency.
Sudden deaths on cereal crop	One large flock 40 dead	Northern Tasmania	Lambs found dead.	Most likely cause plant poisoning eg nitrate. Best to have post mortem done, check nitrate levels in cereal crop.
Sudden deaths on canola crop	One large flock 40 dead	Northern Tasmania	Lambs found dead.	Most likely cause plant poisoning eg nitrate but deaths from acidosis/bloat are also possible. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, have post mortem done, check nitrate levels in crop.
Swollen heads and deaths	Several lambs on one large property	Northern Tasmania	These responded to antibiotics so may have due to been infection, possibly Clostridial, though had 6 in 1.	'Swelled head' usually a problem in unvaccinated rams. These may have had a different infection.
Thin ewes	Several ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Most ewes in good condition, small number thin and drop out when driven.	OJD possible even though vaccinated, vaccine does not protect all sheep and a very small percentage will still get OJD. Could also be a number of other conditions. A post-mortem is the best way to work out what is going on.
Thin weaners	A number of weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	A number of weaners in low condition score, some drop out when driven	Also scouring and dags. High worm egg counts. Control the worms first, feed well and then look for other causes.
Toe abscess	A number of ewes in one flock	Southern 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.
Topline dermatitis in lambs at weaning	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	May be a form of dermo (lumpy wool) or photosensitisation	Samples need to be taken to determine cause.

Vaginal prolapse	Two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.	Treat: There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. Prevention: Remove tails at third joint (tip of vulva) when marking ewe lambs, keep pregnant ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last few weeks of pregnancy, keep BCS 3 to 3.3. Don't feed salt or swedes in last 1/3 of pregnancy. Offer hay if on low dry matter feed. Shear in last third of pregnancy. Maintain steady body weight from start of mating to scanning. See https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes.
Weaner deaths	Widespread.	Southern Tasmania	May be caused by worms, coccidia, Yersinia, Clostridial disease such as pulpy kidney.	Make sure all lambs receive effective weaning drench. Scouring after effective drench may be caused by coccidia or Yersinia, have postmortem done on a sick or freshly dead lamb. Have worm egg counts done in individual affected lambs.
Wool break	Two ewes in one small 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 or stress eg mastitis or difficult lambing, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	Widespread	NW, Northern, Southern Tasmania	Worms can be diagnosed by scouring, anaemia, poor weight gain which respond to drenching, or by WORMTEST with or without larval identification, or total worm count at post mortem.	Worm egg counts generally low to moderate except for some high counts associated with suspected barbers' pole and black scour worm. Large bowel worm and black scour worm also showing up in larval ID tests See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in one large flock	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				
Abortion	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Possible causes neospora, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, vibrio (Campylobacter), pestivirus, congenital/hereditary factors, toxins, mouldy hay, Salmonella Dublin, Mycoplasma.	Send aborted calf and blood sample from cow to lab for diagnosis. Vaccines against Vibrio and pestivirus can be used. Pestivirus: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/ Vibrio: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/110043/vibriosis-of-cattle.pdf The cause of many abortions is never determined despite lab investigation.

Acidosis in grazing cattle	Cattle in several large herds	NW Tasmania	Can be seen as laminitis and lameness.	Treat: add more long roughage eg straw or hay to diet.
Allergic (eosinophilic) rhinitis	Cattle in one large herd	NW Tasmania	Allergic reaction to environmental factors such as grass pollen makes inside of nose itchy.	Cattle try to scratch with stalks of weeds etc which can break off in the nose. Lining of nose become reddened and slightly lumpy. May be some inherited susceptibility. Cull severely affected animals.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	A heifer in one herd and a cow in another	Northern & Southern Tasmania	Calf not delivered within 3 hours of start of birth process.	Heifers should generally be 300kg+ at mating and grow at up to 1 kg per day in last third of pregnancy. Need to be observed frequently over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours.
Empty heifers.	4 ex 20 heifers empty at pregnancy test despite good body condition	Northern Tasmania	A lot of red or strawberry clover present in pastures over mating may have produced oestrogens that interfered with expression of heat and conception.	Clover can be tested for oestrogens, and if it is oestrogenic it can be managed so that it does not interfere with cow fertility.
Facial Eczema	One herd	Northern Tasmania	Seen mainly as illness/liver damage. No peeling of skin on face due to pigmented skin in this case.	Cows on irrigated ryegrass pastures. Cases rise slowly over spring and peak Feb/March, ease off into winter. Pithomyces spore counts over 40,000 spores per gram. Treat: access to shade Prevention: Spore test pastures and keep cows off paddocks with high counts. Add zinc to ration – consult with vet/nutritionist.
Foot abscess	Widespread	NW, Northern & Southern Tasmania	Swollen foot, may discharge, very lame. Wet conditions.	May respond to antibiotics and move to dry area. Sometimes need surgical drainage and curette or block of wood araldited to healthy claw.
Foot problems	Widespread	NW, Northern & Southern Tasmania	Foot abscess, sub-solar abscess, injuries etc	Remove cow from mob if possible, rest in small paddock or yard, give anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories, check for foot injuries and infections. Maintain laneways in dairies using correct aggregate etc,
Grass seeds in eyes	Several cases in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks as in Pink Eye	Examine eye carefully, especially behind third eyelid. Remove all grass seed carefully. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Control Barley grass. Change setup for hay feeding so grass seeds don't get in eyes of cattle as they eat
Horn broken	One steer in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken but still attached to head	Complete dehorning, taking a margin of haired skin around the base. If the animal is over 6 months old pain relief must be used.
Lice	One herd	NW Tasmania	Biting lice cause irritation and rubbing against objects, sucking lice can cause a degree of anaemia in young cattle	Treat: a number of pour-on products are registered for use. Injectable and oral products can be effective depending on the species of external parasites present.
Lice possibly resistant to moxidectin	One herd	NW Tasmania	Moxidectin pour-on did not appear effective	Application may not have been perfect, heavy rain after application may affect results. Other skin parasites and conditions may have been present. Treatment failures

				should be reported to the manufacturer who will normally investigate.
Mastitis in dairy cows.	A number of cases in a number of herds	NW Tasmania	Udder or milk abnormal. Some caused by Staph.	See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/en/animal-management-and-milk-quality/mastitis-and-milk-quality#.YFq2Z68zY2w
Mycoplasma lameness	Cows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Lame soon after purchase.	Cows were isolated and tested and returned when positive blood test detected. More information: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/mycoplasma-bovis-look-after-your-herd-and-your-back-pocket/
Nervous signs in heifer	One heifer from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Got caught in electric fence but probably ryegrass staggers was real problem	There are a number of possible causes of nervous signs including lead poisoning, ryegrass staggers, PEM (vitamin B1 deficiency), infections, liver damage etc. Best to get a vet to examine and take samples.
Pneumonia in calf	One calf in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf had high temperature and harsh respiratory sounds.	This one responded well to antibiotics and anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision. Probably secondary infection after virus.
Respiratory disease	A number of calves immediately after transport from saleyards, and also a single calf on-farm.	Southern Tasmania	Difficulty breathing, high body temperature, cloudy eyes. Often stress and exposure to respiratory disease of weaning, transport, sale can turn mild virus into bacterial pneumonia.	These responded to antibiotic treatment. See: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/infectious/bovine-respiratory-disease/ Mycoplasma bovis can present like this as well.
Scouring in calves	Wide-spread	NW Tasmania	May be caused by diet changes, a number of bacteria, parasites and viruses. Worms in older calves.	Oral rehydration (6-10 litres of electrolyte per day in 2-3 feeds). Keep feeding milk in small frequent amounts. For full details see https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/dairytas/animal-management-and-milk-quality/animal-health/calf-scours#.YHZTSegzY2w
Swelling on chest wall	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Swelling could be abscess, blood clot, cancer.	Refer to vet who may take a sample to get accurate diagnosis.
Wasting in adult beef cow	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Loss of condition can be due to a number of causes.	Treat for worms, liver fluke. Test for Johne's disease and other chronic conditions if no response to drenches.
Weight loss in heifers	One weaner heifer in one small herd, one in a large herd	NW & Northern Tasmania	Weaners were growing well then started to lose weight.	Test for pestivirus. Could be a disease such as Chlamydia, internal abscess or blockage. Vet diagnosis advised.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No reports				

GOATS				
Acidosis (grain poisoning)	One goat in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Accidental overfeeding	Sick for several days then died. Excess grain in rumen on postmortem. Treat: Take off grain source and feed roughage. Drenching with alkalis such as bicarb now not advised. Give access to plenty of good quality water. Prevent: introduce to grain slowly. Remove shy feeders that could come onto grain later and engorge. Use buffer pellets in mix. Change grains slowly. Smooth feeding regime. See https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1431059/LLS_confinement-feeding-booklet-web.pdf. This one probably a shy feeder that came onto grain late and engorged.
Drench failure	Several young goats in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Egg counts reduced by less than 95% 14 days after drenching with clear drench (note, morantel is in the clear drench family).	Goats need higher dose rates of drench than sheep to kill worms, so this case may be drench failure rather than drench resistance. See your vet and WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance in goats.
Stones blocking urinary system	One goat	Southern Tasmania	Usually male animal becomes very depressed and may get big belly full of liquid ("water belly")	Sometimes a stone is stuck in tip of penis and can be squeezed out. Otherwise surgery can be attempted but often unsuccessful. Prevention usually depends on changing diet, usually by adding more calcium and a little salt to grain-based diets. This stone was calcium oxolate.
Worms	A number of young goats in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight high egg counts	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vet's instructions.
PIGS				
Mastitis (may be seen as MMA (Metritis, mastitis, agalactia)	One sow	Southern Tasmania	Usually very soon after farrowing, Whitish discharge from vulva, hard udder, hungry piglets.	Antibiotics for metritis and metritis plus oxytocin injections to make sow let down milk for piglets. Keep farrowing area clean, plenty of water for sow, don't let sows get over-fat.
Sudden death in growers	Several 40 kg growers in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Found dead	Could be ruptured stomach ulcers or a number of other conditions. Best to have a postmortem done.
Thickened skin and itching	One sow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Probably sarcoptic mange	Some pour-on and injectable products can be used to treat mite infestations.
Vaginal prolapse	One sow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Vaginal tissue protruding from vulva in one very fat sow	Vet can replace and suture. Best not to let sows get too fat.
Worms	One medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Roundworms can be seen in manure, worms can be seen at slaughter. Whipworms	Wormers can be given in the water, by injection, as pour-on. A program needs to be worked out to stop worms becoming a problem.

			can also infect pigs in Tasmania	

POULTRY				
Bumblefoot	One chicken in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Chronic bacterial (usually a Staph) infection in foot causing swelling.	Surgical drainage of abscess. Antibiotics can help in some cases. Prevent by reducing opportunities for foot injury.
Hypothermia deaths in 1-day old chicks	Two chicks from one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Transferred to brooder from incubator before fully dry.	Make sure chicks are fully dry before transfer to brooder. If chicks are huddled under brooder light this indicates that it is not warm enough in the brooder.
Respiratory infection	One chicken in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	May be due to mycoplasma, pullorum, Infectious Bronchitis virus (IB), Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) virus (and secondary infections), Pasteurella, Avian influenza and Newcastle Disease.	Antibiotics in water often used initially (under vet supervision) and further testing for viruses, resistant bacteria if little response. If a high percentage of birds die or show neurological signs avian influenza or Newcastle disease could be the problem and a vet should be called or ring the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on1800 675 888.
Splayleg	One chick in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Legs both slide out sideways so chick cannot walk and feed etc	Make up a small set of 'hobbles' with a section of drinking straw and rubber band through the middle so that the legs cannot splay out and the chick can still walk. Remove after several days when the chick has gained strength.
DEER				
Crusty skin	One deer in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Large area of hair loss and crusty skin on the body with clear edges.	Laboratory tests all negative. Suspected hereditary condition.
Liver fluke	All deer examined in a sample from a large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Fluke appear to form areas of scar tissue or cavities within liver rather than just live in bile ducts.	Deer appear to be a reservoir of liver fluke for other livestock. Farmed deer could be treated under the advice of a veterinarian.
Early foetal loss	Three of 5 does from one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	All had evidence of foetal loss at about 30 days post rut	Limited laboratory examination did not reveal a cause.
Interdigital dermatitis	One stag from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Negative on footrot smear and culture.	Fallow deer have not been shown to be susceptible to infection with virulent ovine footrot strain yet.

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/

Farm Biosecurity Apps
If you want to know who is coming and going, warn visitors of risks and areas to avoid without spending your whole day on your mobile, you may like to consider an app that combines with a QR code on your farm entrances. See: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/biosecurity-at-your-fingertips/

Paraboss

The previous WormBoss, LiceBoss, and FlyBoss websites are now all in one place and have a wealth of information on and tools to manage sheep, goat and cattle parasites.

https://paraboss.com.au/

Includes an online learning resource: https://wormboss.com.au/learn-about-sheep-worm-control-in-australia/online-learning-tasmania-introduction/