Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – June 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-August.

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

Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxoplasmosis abortion in sheep: Abortions/stillbirths are being seen now. Talk to your vet about having up to 5 aborted lambs (with afterbirth if possible) tested at the laboratory. Blood tests on dry ewes at marking can also detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis.
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.
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.
Liver fluke: Eggs should be showing up in Fluketests now, but blood tests may be more sensitive. August is a good month to treat for adult liver fluke.
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.
Phalaris poisoning: the acute form can occur on freshly shot Phalaris.
Body lice: in sheep will show up from now on. Good time to inspect.
Chorioptic mange in cattle: is already occurring and will worsen over winter.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): will show up from now on in 3 years and older ewes and wethers under stress.

Biosecurity story of the month – hydatids

Over the last few weeks I have been talking to people who had hydatids as children and also to a Parks and Wildlife person who tracked down and destroyed a pack of feral dogs that were roaming the Central Plateau many years ago, spreading hydatids.

Back in the 1960s people who were infected with hydatids had to have operations that left them with scars literally over a foot long in some cases. Some people died. Over 50% of Tasmanian sheep had hydatids and about 12% of the farm dogs. The Tasmanian hydatids eradication campaign got rid of hydatids over a number of years and now our state is Provisionally Free, which means we have breakdowns (in imported livestock usually) but react quickly and clean out that infection.

Certain strains of hydatids tend to infect certain species, and most of the hydatids outbreaks that have been picked up in recent years have been due to the cattle strain. It is estimated that 33% of the cattle in NSW and QLD have hydatid cysts inside them now.

The Tasmanian hydatids eradication campaign had a strong emphasis on denying dogs access to offal and carcases, thus breaking the life cycle because dogs get infected with the hydatids tapeworm by eating the cysts in the internal organs of sheep, cattle, goats and pigs. Even though the hydatids risk is less now (unless you have imported livestock on your property) it is still a good policy not to feed offal to dogs, and to dispose of carcases and offal properly.

Sheep measles and bladder worm in sheep can spread through dogs eating sheep carcasses – both cause losses in the abattoir. If a cat eats sheepmeat it can also spread Sarco – another cause of sheep carcase trimming and condemnation.

Other species of Sarco can also cycle between dogs and cattle with some cattle carcases condemned because of bovine eosinophilic myositis. In the original hydatids eradication campaign, the emphasis was on discouraging feeding of sheep offal to dogs, but now it is just as important to avoid feeding untreated cattle offal to dogs.

Deep freezing offal to minus 20C or below for 48 hours will kill hydatids cysts. Treating a dog with a wormer containing praziquantel every 4 weeks will stop hydatids, sheep measles and bladder worm from being spread by that dog. If you have outside dogs coming onto your property, insist that they have been treated with praziquantel within the last 4 weeks.

There are no effective treatments for Sarco in dogs or cats, so it is best not to feed untreated offal or carcase meat to dogs and cats.

Not the most pleasant job on a farm, but burning, burying or composting carcases as soon as you find them is time well spent.

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Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in June 2023

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abscess	Two rams in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	One on back leg and one on neck.	Surgical draining and antibiotics usually effective. Vet job.
Anaemia	A number of ewes on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Noted during AI.	Could be barber's pole worms, copper deficiency, blood parasites, liver fluke. Have diagnostic testing done to find cause and then treat.
Barbers pole worm	One large property	Northern 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	Wethers on one medium property affected	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, bottle jaw, 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	A number of ewes in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Bottle jaw usually caused by barber's pole worm (Haemonchus) or liver fluke, but chronic heavy roundworm burdens can do it too.	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.
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.
Condition score, low	A small percentage of sheep in a number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Body condition scores (BCS) lower than optimal for breeding and production	Most common cause is insufficient energy in the diet, but specific deficiencies (selenium etc), broken mouth, OJD, worms, fluke, pneumonia, kidney disease, liver disease, etc can also be responsible.
Condition score low, bottle jaw, deaths in adult sheep	A small percentage of sheep on two large properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Could be barbers pole worm, liver fluke, OJD	A post mortem will give quickest diagnosis and treat accordingly.
Copper deficiency	One flock.	Northern Tasmania	Seen as slow growth rate, broken bones, newborn lamb deaths, Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.

Corneal ulcer	One young lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Clear discharge from one eye, cloudy area on surface of eye.	Check for foreign body such as grass seed. Eye ointment, protect from strong sunlight
Cough	One ram in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Unlikely to be lungworm in adult sheep.	May be virus, or bacteria such as Mycoplasma or just an irritant. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cud stain	Three sheep on two large properties	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	Can be due to grass seeds, infection of tongue, or, very rarely, parasites.
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 of ewes over lambing	Excessive deaths in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	More than 5% ewe deaths, mostly older ewes, between mating and weaning.	Pregnancy toxaemia (often secondary to footrot or foot abscess), hypocalcaemia (milk fever), dystocia (difficult births) account for most deaths. Nutritional factors can usually be adjusted to reduce losses. Offering a loose lick of causmag/ground limestone/salt (2:2:1) can help prevent milk fever and some slow births.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Three weaners on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline, sometimes around face or legs.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf
Dog bite	One sheep on one large property.	Northern Tasmania	Bruising and puncture wounds trimmed at abattoir if dogs bite sheep just before slaughter.	Muzzle dogs that bite.
Dropouts during mustering	Several adult sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep lag behind mob and go down if pushed.	Could be due to barber's pole worm, heavy worm burden, liver fluke, OJD, pneumonia, low body condition. Try an effective drench and have vet investigate if significant numbers.
Eye rupture	One weaner in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Eye socket almost empty	Pink eye ulcer has penetrated eyeball and let the fluid out. Veterinary attention and pain relief are worthwhile in the acute stage. The ruptured eye can heal and as long as the other eye is healthy the animal can still do well.
Foetal death	A number of ewe lambs in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Scanner detected dead foetuses	Toxoplasmosis, Campylobacter most likely possible causes. Listeria and other causes possible. Blood testing 2 weeks after detection may identify whether Toxo or Campy responsible.
Foot abscess	Two sheep in one large flock	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, under veterinary supervision 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 on large properties	Southern, Northern Tasmania	Low % on properties that have not had significant rainfall or have vaccinated but	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

			very active spread on others.	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
Hair loss on pastern	One aged shedded ram	Northern Tasmania	Pink skin and hair loss between hoof and fetlock both front feet.	Possibly Chorioptes bovis (also causes scrotal mange) foot lice, or allergy.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One ewe	Northern Tasmania	Horn has grown into and damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows excessive horn to be removed safely. Prevention: Dehorn lambs so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.
Itching/rubbing	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Rubbing up against objects	Can be body lice, itch mite, grass seeds. Thorough inspection should detect body lice and grass seeds. Skin scrapings to detect itch mite (or look for response to treatment with an ML drench)
Lamb deaths - newborn	A number of lambs on one large property.	Northern Tasmania	Lambs found dead.	Wind chill factor when wet is main killer. Providing shelter, plenty of feed for ewes and keeping ewes in good body condition reduces losses. Other causes such as Toxoplasmosis and Campylobacter can be responsible.
Lameness	A small number of sheep in two large flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot.	Could be footrot, scald, foot abscess, scabby mouth of feet, injuries, toe abscess, laminitis, standing on concrete surfaces too long. Identify cause and treat accordingly.
Liver fluke	Fluke eggs detected in lambs and adult sheep on two large properties.	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 should be minimal from now on. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. Prepare to kill adult fluke with a different drench family in August. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	Several sheep in 3 small flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, then veterinary advice should be sought.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	A small number of ewes in two large flocks	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 on brassica crop	A number of weaners in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off face, ears and back too if recently shorn.	Immature brassica crop. Remove lambs & bring them back in 2 weeks. Can treat lambs with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics if necessary (under vet supervision), offer deep shade.
Pink eye	A number of weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye.	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

			Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg yarding)	more than 25% of mob affected. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Scouring with low egg counts	Weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Egg counts low	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.
Scrotal mange	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually seen in Merino rams but can affect other breeds. Unlikely to affect fertility unless more than 10 square centimetres of thickened skin/scabs on scrotum. Pasterns affected as well in severe cases.	The *Chorioptes bovis* mite lives on cattle and other species and survives for a number of days off the host so is hard to eradicate. Individually effected rams can be treated – see your vet.
Shearing cuts	A number of sheep on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Wrinkly merinos more susceptible	Good board hygiene to prevent infection. Prior vaccination with 5 in 1 vaccine. Can use pain relief products with veterinary advice. Serious cuts should be sutured, pressure to stop haemorrhage. If "hamstrung", they rarely regain full function in that leg, valuable sheep can be operated on by vet, otherwise best to euthanase.
Shelly toe	A number of sheep in one large flock	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.
Vaginal prolapse	A small number of ewes in one medium flock	Southern 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.
Wool break	One weaner in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled out of fleece while still on sheep. 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				
Broken mouth	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Cow not tagged, age unknown	Usually just age, but other conditions eg fluoride toxicity can cause accelerated tooth wear.
Chorioptic mange	One heifer in one medium herd.	Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. Rough scaley skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	More common as winter progresses. Can become severe if cattle are stressed and short on feed. A number of registered treatments are available including ML drenches and pour-ons. See: http://www.liceboss.com.au/cattle/lice-mites/species-of-mites.php
Cough in young cattle	Several yearlings in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to lungworms or viral diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision if show signs of pneumonia.
Empty cows at pregnancy testing	20% of adult cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be vibrio, bull failure Pestivirus, possibly tri-trichomonas.	Veterinary investigation required.
Empty heifers.	14% of 3yo well grown heifers failed to calve	Southern Tasmania	Could be vibrio, bull failure Pestivirus, possibly tri-trichomonas. Maybe oestrogens in pasture.	Vet testing ongoing. Clover can be tested for oestrogens, and if it is oestrogenic, it can be managed so that it does not interfere with fertility.
Eye cancer in Hereford cows.	Three early cases in one large herd	Southern 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. There is a risk the abattoir will condemn the carcase.

Liver abscess	Several cull beef cows from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Recorded at abattoir. May reflect low grade acidosis, rumen wall damage and bacteria leaking into blood stream.	These cows in good condition. Cattle can wall off abscesses, recover and continue to thrive. Prevention: care with feeding rich diets such as grain. Some very rich pastures can also cause low grade acidosis, - offer roughage when on lush pastures.
Liver fluke in cattle	A number of cows from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Live fluke detected in cattle slaughtered at abattoir	Strategic treatments in autumn and late winter with effective flukicides depending on challenge. Keep stock off areas where fluke snail survives (dam edges, lagoons, areas that flood in spring) if possible. Sheep run on same areas will also need treatment. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/114691/liver-fluke-disease-in-sheep-and-cattle.pdf
Lump on side of face	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be Actino or another bacterial abscess, a blood clot, a cancer or scar tissue.	Vet can investigate and drain if it is an abscess.
Mycoplasma infection	Cows in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	No signs of disease in unstressed cattle but can break down eg when transported.	Eradication is possible. More information: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/mycoplasma-bovis-look-after-your-herd-and-your-back-pocket/
Nasal discharge, purulent (snotty)	Widespread in weaner cattle.	NW, Northern and Southern 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)	Several weaners 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.
Overfat barren 4yo heifer	One heifer in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Condition score 4.5, small vulva, no udder development. Internal reproductive organs felt normal.	Overfat heifers can be hard to get in calf, best to cull.
Pestivirus	Majority of empty cows showed evidence of recent infection on blood test in one large herd. A runty	Southern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that	Herd status can be assessed by blood tests or milk tests. PI animals can be detected by blood or skin sample tests. Control programs based on vaccination or exposure to PI before mating. For more information see: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and- https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf

	PI 4T heifer weighing less than 300 kg in another medium herd.		grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age.	Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration.pdf
Preputial prolapse	One bull in one small 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 even if damaged.
Red nose	One weaner in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Reddened muzzle	Can be due to Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis virus or photosensitisation.
Ringworm	A number of weaners in a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scaley circular areas of hair loss with thick whitish crust usually around head and neck.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can spread to people so precautions must be taken.
Scouring in weaners	Wide-spread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	May be caused by diet changes, a number of bacteria, internal parasites and viruses.	If weaners have not been drenched recently, use a drench likely to be effective. If no response do a WORMTEST to see of drench worked.
Swollen joints	One bought-in heifer in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Soft swelling over mainly both hind leg stifles, but other joints and front legs also affected.	Could be due to *Mycoplasma bovis*, Pestivirus PI. This one was a Pestivirus PI.
Vibrio (Campylobacter)	One large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Bacterial infection spread by bulls. Causes return to service and abortions.	Vaccinate bulls and all females to finish the course 4 weeks prior to joining. Cull empty females at preg testing and any female that aborts or not rearing a calf. May take several years to eradicate and bulls may need to be treated. See https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/vibriosis/
Warts	Several steers in three medium herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small cauliflower-like growth anywhere on body but often around head.	Normally only seen in young cattle. Will normally self-cure if left alone. A vaccine can be made up if warts persist or are very extensive.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Worms	A number of adult goats in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Medium egg counts (around 500 epg)	Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vet's instructions.
PIGS				

No cases reported				

POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
No cases reported				

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. Untreated sheep offal or sheep meat may spread other diseases such as 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 $264 million worth of sheep meats and wool in 2020-21. 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/