Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – July 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-September.

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

Abortions and stillbirths 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 lamb marking can also detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are still being seen. 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.
Goitre: may be a problem in wetter areas. Lambs do not always have a large swelling in the neck.
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 in cold weather 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.
Listeria: nervous signs and deaths in sheep on silage, brassica bulbs
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 and September are good months 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. Click 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 common now.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): is showing up in rising 3 years and older ewes and wethers under stress.

Biosecurity story of the month – keeping healthy over lambing

A lot of lambs will be born over the next 2 months and a lot of people will spend time going around lambing ewes and assisting the birth process where necessary. While it is not that common to catch diseases from lambing ewes, it is worth taking some precautions.

Toxoplasmosis is a common cause of abortions in ewes in Tasmania, but lambs may also go full term and appear relatively normal. Toxoplasma organisms have been demonstrated in the placenta and are capable of infecting laboratory animals and presumably humans as well.

Toxoplasmosis in humans can cause abortion, deformity and illness in newborn infants, illness with headache and flu-like symptoms, damage to the retina of the eye, and may affect mental health.

Campylobacter can cause abortion in ewes and also in humans although this is rare. Usually in people Campylobacter causes enteritis with diarrhoea and general illness.

Listeria can cause abortion and nervous signs in sheep and in humans although few cases have been traced to assisting at lambing.

Q fever appears to be rare in Tasmania but can be associated with sheep birth fluid contact and causes flu-like symptoms as well as nausea, vomiting and joint pain in humans, with some possibility of severe long-term health problems.

So, a few precautions are warranted, especially if you are female and of child-bearing age. Arm-length plastic gloves and disinfectant solution should be part of the lambing kit and wash your hands and arms well after returning from the paddock and before eating, drinking, or smoking.

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Diseases and conditions seen in July 2023

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Black scour worm	A number of maiden ewes died and a number affected on one large property	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.
Broken mouth	A small number of very old sheep on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing, loose, food impaction.	Cull.
Brown stomach worm	Caused a number of		Scouring, high worm egg	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies. Brown stomach worm more common

	deaths in 2T wethers on run country	Wide-spread, Southern Tasmania	count. Brown stomach worm identified by larval differentiation test at lab.	in summer and are poor egg producers so egg counts not always really high. May be resistant to different drenches compared to Black Scour Worm, our main winter parasite, so drench resistance tests may give very different results in summer vs winter in the same flock.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 4.3% of lamb carcases.	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/
Cachexia (very low condition score)	Two very old sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Parasites and poor nutrition, possibility of OJD or broken mouth in older sheep	Use effective drench and do follow-up WORMTEST. Improve feeding. If only a few adult sheep in the mob are very thin, examine teeth including molar teeth and then talk to your vet about OJD diagnosis.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	About 10% of merino weaners in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Scouring with both high worm egg count and high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs under veterinary supervision. Prevention by keeping worms under control good nutrition and reducing stresses if you can.
Corneal ulcer	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Clear discharge from one eye, cloudy area on surface of eye.	Check for foreign body such as grass seed. Eye spray or ointment, protect from strong sunlight
Cud stain	Two sheep on one large property	Southern 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 newborn lambs	Excess deaths in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Newborn lambs found dead in lambing paddock	Can be due to diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, or can be due to slow birth, mis-mothering, exposure etc. Lamb post mortems can help identify causes and solutions.
Deaths of weaners on flowering brassicas	A number of weaners on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Deaths stopped once removed from crop. Can be due to nitrate poisoning or more likely brassica anaemia.	Best to have hay on offer or run-off so that diet is not pure brassica. Drift lambs off when moving due to deaths as anaemic animals can drop dead if they are forced to run. No treatment required, will recover naturally once off the crop.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	A small number of weaners on two large properties	Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline, sometimes around face or legs.	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. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf

Devils grip	One weaner in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Dip in the topline just behind the shoulder blades	Causes moisture to pool and predisposes to fleece rot. Cull from replacement breeding mob.
Diarrhoea	A number of rams in two large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Dags and soft/fluid faeces. Green diarrhoea usually due to worms or feed factors.	Treat for worms, if unsatisfactory response consult with your vet.
Disembowel via vagina	Several heavily pregnant ewes in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Late pregnant ewes found dead with intestines ruptured out through vagina.	Heavy ewe problem. Aim for condition score 3 (singles) to 3.3 (twin-bearing) just before lambing.
Dog bite	Several 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.
Downer ewe post yarding	One ewe in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	After yarding in late pregnancy. Probably due to low blood calcium. Could be pregnancy toxaemia	Give 1/5 pack of calcium injection under skin, if little response use pregnancy toxaemia treatments.
Epididymitis in ram	A small number of cases in two large flocks.	Southern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle, but can be on side or top. These negative for ovine Brucellosis.	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 only one testicle affected and the other testicle is in good order.
Foot abscess	Fifteen ewes in one medium flock	Northern 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, 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	Widespread	NW, Southern, Northern Tasmania	Low % on properties that have not had significant rainfall or have vaccinated but very active spread on others.	Don't try to try to eradicate at this time of year in most areas, try to keep prevalence down. 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)	Two large flocks	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 this 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
Foreign body under third eyelid	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Clear discharge from one eye.	Press eyelids in so that third eyelid lifts away from eyeball and look carefully in good light for grass seeds and other objects stuck under third eyelid and remove them. Treat any resulting corneal ulcer with eye spray or ointment.
Grain poisoning (acidosis)	A number of sheep deaths in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Grazing stubble paddock	Found dead or sick with "porridge" scour. Take off grain source and feed roughage. Oral penicillin may help.
Growth rates low in lambs	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	A lot of lambs have not grown out at normal rates.	Possible causes may be worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), liver damage/photosensitisation, recent scabby mouth, Mycoplasma ovis, chronic infections such as pneumonia, pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Feed On Offer. Low sunlight intensity due to cloudy days may have reduced soluble carbohydrates in feed and slowed growth rates.
Hind leg weakness	A number of weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	May be related to vaccinating oily vaccines such as Gudair on top rather than on side of neck	Phalaris, ryegrass staggers, injury, toxicities can also cause hind limb weakness. Paddock move is a good start and vet investigation if persists or deaths start.
Lameness	Widespread	Northern and Southern 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.
Lice (body lice)	Widespread	Southern and Northern 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.
Listeria abortion	Several ewes on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Abortion in late pregnancy. These were associated with silage feeding.	Abortion rates usually low. No prevention or treatment apart from avoiding silage in late pregnancy if possible.
Listeria encephalitis (inflammation of brain)	A number of XB lambs on two large properties.	Southern Tasmania	Head tilt, walk in circles, die. Associated with access to old or spoiled silage in these cases.	Remove offending feed. Treat early with antibiotics but often unsuccessful and long recovery.

Liver fluke	Fluke eggs detected in 0.1 % of lamb carcases at an abattoir and in 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/
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	A significant number of ewes and wethers in two large flocks	Northern and Southern 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
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 3.6% of lamb carcases	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Pneumonia in 2T	A number of cases in 2Ts on clover & pasture	Southern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing	Diagnosis at post mortem. Antibiotic treatment of cases (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors, reduce dust levels in feed.
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	One ewe in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Caused by illness eg Footrot/foot abscess or insufficient energy in diet in last 7 weeks of pregnancy. Usually in ewes carrying multiples or very a large single lamb.	If heavily pregnant ewes go down in last 6 weeks, inject 1/5 milk fever pack under skin and massage in well (to differentiate from milk fever). If ewe does not get up within an hour, twin lamb disease is most likely cause. Oral treatments rarely work unless you catch them while still able to walk but dropping out of back of mob and 'star-gazing".
Redgut	One adult ram in one large flock, a number of lambs on lucerne in another large flock	Northern & Southern Tasmania	Redgut occurs on pure stands of lucerne or clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on post mortem.	Provide access to good quality hay. Three days on, two days off.

Ryegrass staggers	One medium flock – most recovered now	Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have high mortality.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.
Salmonella	A number of ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death. Inflamed gut seen at post mortem. Salmonella cultured by lab	Prevent by reducing stress, lowering stocking rate, address possible feed and water contamination. Vaccines can be used to prevent some types of Salmonella
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 0.3% of lamb or hogget carcases.	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 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/
Scour in weaners	A number of weaners in one large mob drenched 4 weeks previously	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to worms, coccidia, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Worms most common cause. WORMTEST or drench and see if they respond. Check for sudden diet change to lush feed, plants such as capeweed. May need veterinary involvement if growth rates are low.
Scrotal mange	One ram in a large mob	Southern 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.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 2.4% of lamb carcasses.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small whitish mass about half the size of a 5 cent piece protruding from the muscle of the heart, diaphragm or skeletal	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/

			muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim. This is the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm.	
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne	Widespread	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 good quality hay.
Testes soft and flat in ram	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Testicles both soft and flat. Rams should have full, springy testicles.	Unlikely to be fertile. If old, cull. If young look for injury or disease eg evidence of flystrike. Can recover if well-fed, and any underlying conditions are treated effectively. Offer rams high protein and energy feed for 8 weeks prior to joining aiming for BCS 3 to 3.5 at joining.
Toxoplasmosis	30% of maiden yellow tag merino ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sampling flock to see how common Toxo is.	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 on top of upper neck	Vaccination lesions in 20% of weaners vaccinated with Gudair.	Northern Tasmania	Caused by vaccinating into the top of neck etc. This can result in "Gudair staggers" where to vaccine migrates down into the spinal cord.	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 or on top of the neck/back of head. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf
Vaginal prolapse	A small number of ewes in one medium flock and one other flock.	Northern and 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 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.
Varicose veins in cord	Two rams in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lumps in cord above the testicle	Can interfere with normal cooling of testicle which is normally several degrees below the body temperature. If testes are soft, cull the ram.
Worms	Widespread	NW, Northern, Southern Tasmania	Worms can be diagnosed by scouring, anaemia, poor weight gain which respond to drenching, or by WORMTEST	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

			with or without larval identification, or total worm count at post mortem.	
Worms 60 days after moxidectin LA injection	Wether weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Both black scour worm and brown stomach worm identified by larval culture so less likely to be due to moxidectin resistance.	Long-acting moxidectin injection products only claim up to 49 days protection from black scour worm, so it is good to monitor using a Wormtest at about 60 days.
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 and 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				
Body condition low in beef calves	Three calves in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Loss of condition	Treat for worms, liver fluke. Give extra high quality feed.
Diarrhoea in young cattle	Several weaned calves in two herds	Northern Tasmania	Most likely worms or dietary but could be viral or bacterial infection.	Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay. Veterinary diagnosis appropriate if persists and calves are losing weight.
Chorioptic mange	Widespread	NW, Northern & 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
Dystocia (difficult birth)	1 cow in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf not delivered within 3 hours of start of birth process.	Cows need to be observed daily or twice daily over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours.
Fetlock injury, old, scarred	One cow in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Scar tissue evident	Older injury or infection. No effective treatment now.
Grass tetany (hypo-magnesaemia)	Several cows in two herds	Southern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitable.	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevent with Causmag on hay or magnesium boluses. Magnesium blocks may not ensure all cows get protective dose every day. See: https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/grass-tetany-beef-cattle-prevention-and-treatment#:~:text=Grass%20tetany%20is%20a%20highly,Angus%20cattle%20and%20their%20crosses.
Hair loss front of both shoulders	Widespread	NW, Northern and Sothern Tasmania	Loss of hair in front of both shoulders	Probably cattle eating hay from hay feeders and rubbing hair off against steel uprights.

Kidney abscess	Six culled cows from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Feedback from abattoir	May have been due to blockage of a section of the kidney or generalised infection filtered out in kidney. Cows were in good BCS.
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 damage, inflamed eye, high temperature	One cow in one large beef herd	Southern Tasmania	Cow was heavily pregnant and had lost weight rapidly. No response to antibiotics and anti-inflammatories	This may have been a case of Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD) or blue-green algae with secondary infection as rough dogs tail weed and blue-green algae both present in paddock, though no other cows showed signs of illness.
Liver fluke in cattle	A number of cows from one large herd	Southern 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
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.
Nasal ulceration	One weaner from one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Raw area in the internal lining of the nostril	Probably due to a virus such as Infectious Bovine Rhino-tracheitis (IBR) virus, Pestivirus or one of the other common respiratory viruses.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) both eyes	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.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) only one eye	One weaner from a one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Usually caused by a foreign body such as a grass seed	Examine eye for foreign bodies including under the third eyelid.
Pastern hard and enlarged	One cow from one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Pastern hard, enlarged, some scars evident.	Old infection or injury that had healed.
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.

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.
Stifle injury	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Ligaments probably torn and joint surfaces probably damaged.	Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision and prolonged rest but prognosis not good.
Warts	Several weaners in two medium herds	Northern 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				
Lameness, lethargy and inappetence in turkeys	Two turkeys in a small flock	Southern Tasmania	Could be due to an infection	These responded to antibiotics.
Nasal discharge, pus, one nostril.	One chicken in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Coud be injury, foreign body, infection	Examine, remove any foreign bodies, antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision.
One swollen eye	One chicken in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Coud be injury, foreign body, infection	Examine, remove any foreign bodies, eye ointment.
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://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2023/07/sct-disease-factsheets-all.pdf

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/