Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – September 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 a 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-November.

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

Dry and lambed-and-lost ewes at marking: If you have more than 10% of scanned in lamb (singles) or 20% (multiples) that are not lactating, talk to your vet about having blood samples taken at lamb marking or weaning to see if Campylobacter and/or Toxoplasmosis could be affecting lamb survival.
Arthritis in lambs: If you have more than the odd case it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.
Barber's pole worm: significant numbers have been seen on larval IDs so could start to build up from now on.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are still being seen. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep should be worth doing.
Chorioptic mange: is still common in cattle at the moment but most should self-cure as spring progresses. Usually responds to a mectin pour-on or injection.
Footrot and scald: are spreading in wetter areas.
Liver fluke: Eggs should be showing up in Fluketests now, but blood tests may be more sensitive. Too late to use a liver fluke drench that only kills adults as immature fluke will be active soon.
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.
White muscle disease: If lambs get stiff and stop walking when mustered for marking, suspect white muscle disease.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): is showing up in rising 3 years and older ewes and wethers under stress.
Johne's Disease (JD) in cattle: will also show up now in stressed cows.

Biosecurity story of the month – what animal health treatments can you economise on?

With dry times, low livestock prices and the prospect of a hefty feed bill looming, many livestock managers are considering economising on animal health treatments.

The one thing you don't want to do is to feed livestock for months and then have them remain stunted or infertile for life, die or not have offspring.

During the 2005-2007 drought many sheep producers suffered Campylobacter abortion outbreaks in ewes that they had grain fed for many months. It is well-known that Campylobacter is more common in ewes that are trail fed, concentrated in sacrifice paddocks or in drought lots. Rather than stop Campylobacter vaccination completely, you may decide to take some risk and drop booster vaccination of older ewes that have been well vaccinated in the past. Keeping cats out of your feed stores will reduce the risks of Toxoplasmosis as well.

Pulpy kidney (PK) is common in grain feeding situations and under pivots if lambs have not had their full course of PK vaccination - an extra booster (you can use 3-in-1 vaccine) before going onto grain or legumes under pivots is good policy.

OJD vaccination is not worthwhile if the lambs are unlikely to live past 2 years of age. The vaccine will still work on older animals, but death rates from OJD will be a bit higher. Merino wether lambs can be vaccinated at over 16 weeks of age if a buyer who doesn't need 'approved vaccinated" sheep and can accept a slightly higher mature wether death rate is found later. If you don't vaccinate your 'keeper' ewe lambs now, you could be losing a lot of adult sheep in a few years just when the dry times are over and they are worth a lot of money.

Routine off-shears lice treatments when inspections of woolly sheep don't show any signs of body lice may be worth re-considering. If an infestation turns up in a mob or two during the year and looks like it could significantly reduce the value of your clip, then suppressive treatments on a few mobs should get you through to the next shearing. There is an oral treatment now that can eradicate lice in any length wool as well.

Diseases like blackleg (prevented by 5-, 6-, 7- or 8- in-1 vaccine) may be rare under drought conditions and maybe you can get away with a 3-in-1 vaccination program in sheep. If you give one priming vaccination at marking, you can give a booster if losses start and that should be effective in stopping deaths within a few days. If you haven't vaccinated at all, losses will continue for 10-14 days after a primer.

Drench resistance testing is always worthwhile and may allow you to use a fully effective but cheaper drench. Doing regular Wormtests, especially on weaned lambs, is still important as they may be stressed and grazing short grass and locally concentrated anywhere there is a green pick. Testing should minimise the cost of drenching. Checking drench gun volume delivery every time you drench and drenching to the heaviest in the mob will slow down the onset of resistance. Drafting into lights and heavies can also save on drench.

Time and a little money spent on keeping expensive diseases from entering your flock or herd are even more important when budgets are tight. Quarantine of introduced livestock (including agistment stock) is one of the simplest, cheapest, and most cost-effective ways to reduce the risk of expensive disease outbreaks.

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in September 2023

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Acidosis	70 sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sudden access to unlimited grain	"Porridge" scour, depressed, die. Early treatment with oral penicillin or virginiamycin under veterinary supervision can help. Move affected sheep from source of grain, feed roughage. Oral bicarb not recommended.
Anaemia	One lamb on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Found dead. No other cause of death seen on post mortem.	Could be *Mycoplasma ovis*, a bacteria spread from ewe to lamb or by insects that cause red blood cells to break down.
Arthritis, infectious	20% of poddy lambs in one large flock, and also 0.008% of lambs at the abattoir.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joints. Whole leg will usually be removed at slaughter, often making carcase worthless or dropping it into a lower price grade on the grid.	Ensure poddy lambs get plenty of colostrum in the first 12 hours of life. Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock then can use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Arthritis, degenerative	One aged ewe in one small flock	Southern Tas	Aged ewe lame with swollen hock.	Anti-inflammatory treatment. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Barbers pole worm	A small number of detections at the laboratory, some with significant egg counts.	Flocks affected in central coast, Flinders Island, NE, N midlands and Southern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums, bottle jaw, high egg counts, identified by postmortem or larval culture in lab.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Black scour worm	A number of sheep affected on one large property and a number of detections in the laboratory.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, sometimes 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.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 2.8% of lamb carcases.	Southern and Northern and NW 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/

Cheesy gland (CLA)	Found in 0.04% of lamb carcases at the abattoir	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Very common cause of trimming at abattoir 20 years ago. Bacterial infection that causes abscesses in lymph nodes ('glands') – seen as lumps full of pus in front of shoulder, thigh, in groin and internally	Use of 3-in-1 and 6-in-1 vaccine has made this disease rare now, but would return if producers stopped using it.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	Deaths and scouring in weaned lambs on two large properties.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring with both high worm egg count and high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to drenching to remove worms and sulpha drugs under veterinary supervision. Prevention by keeping worms under control, good nutrition, reduce localised high concentration grazing eg green gullies, and reducing stresses if you can.
Cryptorchids	Two male lambs in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Only one testicle in scrotum.	Usually inherited, but in this case possibly due to incorrect application of rubber ring during castration attempt as testicle can be felt under skin above where scrotum was.
Dags	Wide-spread but mainly in small proportion of sheep	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), nutritional factors. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to check for coccidia, 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 lambs immediately after marking	A number of smaller lambs died within hours of marking in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Smaller marked lambs found dead in paddock within hours of marking. Drenched with abamectin.	Abamectin should not be given to lambs under 6 weeks of age, less than 10 kg liveweight (due to toxicity), or in marking cradles (may inhale the drench into the lungs). These deaths could also have been due to Mycoplasma ovis anaemia if the lambs had been mulesed and tails removed rather than using rings.
Dog bite	Caused trimming of 0.1% of lamb carcases at abattoir	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Bruising and puncture wounds on hind leg, flanks or around head	Muzzle dogs that bite.
Difficult birth deaths (primary dystocia)	Several lambs on several large properties	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Usually large single lambs but can be twins that get tangled	Ewe can be assisted. Prevention: Ewes bearing single lambs should be kept at BCS 2.75 to 3 and placed in paddocks with no more than 800-1000 Kg of green dry matter per hectare in last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Use low birth weight prime lamb sire with small shoulders over maiden merino ewes.
Dystocia, secondary (slow birth) deaths	A number of large flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Birth process is too slow because ewe is weak or low in blood calcium, so lamb suffers from low oxygen level, may get up but dies within a few days.	Detected at post mortem as bleeding around brain or spinal cord. Lamb ewes down in condition score 2.7-3 for single-bearing, 3-3.3 for twin-bearing ewes. Offer loose lick containing salt, causmag and limestone (1:2:2) if on lush pasture or cereal crops over the last 60 days of pregnancy.

Exposure losses of newborn lambs	Wide-spread lambs, some even a few days old, lost over a few days	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Lambs born normally but die soon after birth during wet cold weather	Shelter to reduce chill index, more feed on offer (FOO) and higher ewe body condition score (BCS) at lambing will all reduce lamb losses. Keep most sheltered paddocks with most FOO for multiple-bearing ewes and aim for a BCS of 3-3.3 for these ewes.
Epididymitis in ram	One ram in one large flocks.	Southern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle, but can be on side or top.	Can be due to trauma or infection. Ovine Brucellosis should be suspected if a number of rams have epididymitis (see vet). Ram may still be fertile if only one testicle affected and the other testicle is in good order.
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
Grass seed carcase damage	One lamb carcase at abattoir	Southern Tasmania	Seeds penetrate skin and are found on and in the carcase after skinning.	Control barley grass with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping.
Hernias (abdominal)	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Bulge in abdomen wall	Best just left alone, very hard to repair surgically. Cull ewe after weaning, or euthanase immediately if very large.
Lice (body lice)	One large flock	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.
Liver fluke	Fluke eggs detected in the laboratory on samples from a small number of properties, also in the abattoir in 0.04% of lambs	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	Liver fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. This is the time of year to kill adult fluke with a different drench family. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

Mastitis (acute)	One case in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed udder with abnormal milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency)	Strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment by injection. If only one half of udder is affected ewe can produce nearly as much milk from the other half if she recovers. Chronic cases with hard udder should be culled.
Mismothering	Several lambs in several large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Post mortem shows lamb has walked but not drunk milk, has burnt up all fat reserves and no sign of difficult birth.	Behaviour of ewe, especially ewe lamb/maiden/Merino, disturbance in lambing paddock, low Feed On Offer (ewe has to move too far from lambs in first 6 hours to graze) can all be factors. Lambs suffering from Toxoplasmosis can also present like this.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	Stressed wethers in one large flock, stressed ewes in another medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	Quickest diagnosis is by post mortem. Prevent by vaccinating lambs at marking or weaning with Gudair vaccine. A very small % of sheep will not respond to vaccine and still die. 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 and www.ojd.com
Panting & frothing in well-grown lamb	One well-grown lamb in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Four week old lamb down, panting, depressed, frothing around mouth	Can be acute pneumonia, a septicaemia, pulpy kidney, blood poisoning, acute toxicity. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory treatment under vet supervision worth a try.
Photosensitisation	Four lambs at marking in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peeling off ears, nose, face, legs in this case.	A blood sample to check for liver damage, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores (for autumn cases), check water for blue-green algae, poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, pennyroyal, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics if necessary (and under vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pleurisy	Detected in 1.7% of lamb carcases in the abattoir.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory under vet supervision. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Pneumonia	Seen in 0.04% of lamb carcases at abattoir	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing	Early cases in front part of lungs. Antibiotic treatment of cases (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors. See https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NSHMP-Pneumonia-Pleurisy.pdf
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	A number of ewes in two large flocks	Southern 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 a very 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".
Premature lambs	Twin lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs born around the right time but only survived a few hours.	Campy, Listeria, iodine/selenium deficiency and Toxo ruled out in this case. May have been congenital metabolic problem.

Primary predation of newborn lambs	A number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Twelve lambs found dead in the corner of a paddock at one time. Very few lamb deaths otherwise.	Sounds like a dog pack killing spree. Make sure all dogs are controlled.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco" cat form)	Detected in 0.4% of hogget carcases at abattoir	NW, Northern and Southern 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/
Septicaemia in lamb	One well-grown lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Post mortem showed signs of generalised infection.	May respond to antibiotics under veterinary supervision if detected early.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 1.9% of lamb carcasses.	NW, 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 muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim. This is the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm.	Prevented by stopping dogs from eating raw sheep meat. Freeze sheep carcase meat for 2 weeks before feeding to dogs, burn/bury sheep carcases promptly and treat all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Tapeworm	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Tape worm segments (large rice grain size) seen in dung	Most scientific studies show that sheep tapeworms do not affect growth rates so drenching for tapeworms may not be justified. Are thought to slow passage of food through intestines and pre-dispose to pulpy kidney, so ensure that vaccination is up to date.
Tetanus	Two lambs in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lamb lies on side with neck and legs all stiff, mouth cannot be opened (lockjaw)	Often associated with using rings for marking in lambs where ewes have not been vaccinated. Very hard and uneconomical to treat so euthanase immediately. Prevention is by the use of 3-in-1, 5-, 6- or 8 -in-1 vaccine. Ewes should have a booster pre-lambing.

Vaginal prolapse	Widespread	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.
Worms	Widespread including	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 moderate except for some high counts associated with barbers' pole (yes, still present in some flocks even in mid winter) and black scour worm. Some ewes given short-acting pre-lamb drench have broken down with high counts in some tail-end single ewes under restricted nutrition. Several mobs given long-acting moxidectin have experienced losses. Large bowel worm and black scour worm also showing up in larval ID tests, also some brown stomach worm. Some significant death rates in pregnant and lambing ewes, including some where long-acting moxidectin had been used but drench resistance status unknown. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
Yellow fat	Lambs at abattoir	One small consignment from one small property	Lambs fed pumpkins.	Pumpkins, and some flat weeds containing a lot of carotene can colour the fat yellow, resulting in condemnation of the carcase at the abattoir. Prevention: Exclude pumpkins and flat weeds from diet for 6 weeks prior to processing.
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in several large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring and deaths, often associated with coccidia and worms as well.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST and coccidia check and ask lab to culture for Yersinia as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals. Some stress factor is usually present (eg poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected.
CATTLE				
BCS low	Widespread in weaner cattle, also one aged bull in one large herd	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Poorly grown weaners. Aged bull probably broken mouth.	Improve nutrition of young cattle. Cull older cattle before they lose too much condition.
Calf scours	One poddy calf in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	May not have ingested enough colostrum in first 12-24 hours after birth.	Keep feeding milk but also electrolyte (not at same time) to give 8-10 litres of fluid a day. Only use antibiotics under veterinary supervision. See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/animal-management-and-milk-quality/animal-health/calf-scours for more information
Cast calf	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf 6 weeks old gets down and needs help to get up but then runs away.	May be a structural problem with ligaments in the legs.
Castration deaths	A number of bull calves after knife castration	Southern Tasmania	Possibly due to haemorrhage or infection.	Bull calves over 6 months of age best castrated by a veterinarian or with proper band castration equipment and pain relief.

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 and start to heal up from September. Can become severe if cattle are stressed and short on feed. A number of registered treatments are available including ML drenches and pour-ons but injectable MLs probably best. See: http://www.liceboss.com.au/cattle/lice-mites/species-of-mites.php
Corkscrew claw	One bull on one property	Southern Tasmania	Outside claw on front leg in this case grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull. Can trim hoof for temporary relief.
Cough in young cattle	Several weaners in a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be due to lungworms, bacterial or viral diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover if show signs of pneumonia.
Dags	A number of young cattle in a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worm control, dietary control, viral diseases can all be involved.
Dermal fibroma	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Raw lesion on brisket with protruding raw tissue that looked like a red stick.	Dermal fibroma is a benign form of cancer of the connective tissue beneath the skin. This one was surgically removed and seems to have healed completely and the bull is working.
Downer cows	One cow in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Beef cow recently calved. Had a large calf and then unable to stand unaided.	Good nursing: See: https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/animal-management-and-milk-quality/animal-health/down-cows#.Yom42KhBw2w
Empty cows at pregnancy testing	10% of remated cows in one large herd,	Southern Tasmania	Could be vibrio, bull failure Pestivirus, possibly tri-trichomonas.	Veterinary investigation required.
Eye cancer in cow.	One case in one 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. Abattoir may condemn the carcase if evidence of spread to lymph node
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 over 6 months old should be done by vet.
Ill-thrift in young cattle	Six of 100 yearlings on one large property, a number of weaners on another.	NW, Northern Tasmania	Not putting on weight, rough coats. Had mectin worm treatment several months ago.	Most likely Cooperia worms but fluke check also wise.

Liver fluke in cattle	A small number of detections at laboratory	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Live fluke eggs detected in cattle manure at lab.	Nearly too late to kill off adult fluke with a flukicide from a different family from Triclabendazole which is best used in summer and autumn to kill immature liver fluke. Strategic treatments in autumn and late winter with effective flukicides depending on challenge are the best overall strategy. 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. Deer are often infected and should be controlled if possible. 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	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) both eyes	A number of 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	A number of weaners from a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by a foreign body such as a grass seed	Examine eye for foreign bodies including under the third eyelid.
Pink Eye	A number of weaner cattle in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Eyes inflamed, cloudy, some ulcerated, a few yellow eye contents.	Start treatment early. Separate affected cattle, use eye creams, antibiotic injection into eyelids, eye patches or vet can stitch eyelids. There is a vaccine available that covers most of the strains of pink eye bacteria that occur in Tasmania. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/103904/pinkeye-in-cattle.pdf
Ringworm	A number of young cattle in two large herds	Northern Tasmania	Scaley circular areas of hair loss usually around head and neck.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can spread to man so precautions must be taken.
Runty weaners	A number of calves from a number of properties	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	May be due to pestivirus. under-nutrition, chronic infections etc	Calves that are infected as a foetus at 30-90 days of pregnancy may be persistently infected and usually do not grow well and die before 18 months of age. Blood or skin tests can detect such PI calves. Some calves are orphaned or cow has chronic mastitis etc.
Salivation and crusty nose	Two weaners in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	These looked like possible photosensitisation cases. Important to make sure there are no other signs of an exotic disease eg lameness, ulcers between toes.	Examination in a crush may reveal cause, treat appropriately.

Shoulder hair loss	Several steers on one medium property	Northern Tasmania	Probably due to being fed hay in hay racks	Hair rubs off as cattle push forward to eat hay.
Trichs (Tritrichomonas) infertility	Low in-calf rates in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Rarely diagnosed in Tasmania. Infection carried by older bulls in their sheath.	Return to service and early abortion. No vaccine, difficult to eradicate. AI, using young bulls and separating older bulls and cows from next 'clean' generation may work.
Vibrio (Campylobacter)	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	Bacterial infection spread by bulls. Causes return to service and abortions.	Vaccinate bulls, complete course 4 weeks prior to joining. Cull empty females at preg testing and any female that aborts or not rearing a calf. If exposure to unvaccinated bulls is likely vaccinate females as well. See https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/vibriosis/
Warts	Several weaners in a number of 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 male goats in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	High egg counts	Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vets instructions.
PIGS				
Mange (sarcoptic)	A chronic infestation in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Young pigs rub and scratch a lot and don't grow as well as they should	Injectable macrocyclic lactone (ML) antiparasitic treatments used as per label.
Worms	One medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Roundworms can be seen in manure, worms can be seen at slaughter. Whipworms can also infect pigs in Tasmania	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.
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://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/