# Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – May 2024

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-July.

If you need more information on this project, please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or rja69392@bigpond.net.au.

Also see the Resources section at the end of this report.

**Seasonal Disease Alerts**

**Barber's pole worm:** residual infestations could still be present in sheep and lambs on irrigation and even on dryland in some areas. Infective larvae should die out on pasture after a few heavy frosts and stop new infestations.
**Black scour worms:** high egg counts are being seen and will probably get higher as winter progresses. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended.
**Drench resistance**: resistance to white, clear and abamectin drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail. Now is a good time to check that your current drench is working by conducting a Drenchtest.
**Footrot and scald**: are spreading in some 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. Prevent by feeding Causmag on hay.
**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 can be present in Fluketests now, but blood tests are the best way to detect in live animals.
**Lucerne red gut**: seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcase on irrigated lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay or straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.
**Nematodirus**: If weaners are scouring, have sub-optimal growth rates and some Nematodirus eggs in the egg count this justifies a drench.
**Pleurisy**: is showing up in abattoir reports, slowing prime lamb growth rates and resulting in trimming at the abattoir. Check MLA's myFeedback to see if there is any data on your lambs processed this season.
**Pulpy kidney:** Make sure lambs get a booster if going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne and into feedlots or droughtlots.
**Toe abscess**: can be a problem if sheep's feet are continually wet and not trimmed recently.

**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**: has been seen in sheep released from containment onto fresh shoot of Phalaris.

## Biosecurity story of the month – drench resistance and pre-lamb treatments

Many of us are ordering drench now for pre-lamb treatments. This is one of the most important drenches of the year as no-one wants to be mustering and drenching ewes in the middle of lambing because they are dying of worms.

Ewes lose a lot of their resistance to worms in late pregnancy and while lactating. Mild weather and rain create ideal conditions for worm larvae in the pasture to survive, so spring lambing ewes are at risk.

It is tempting to use a long-acting product on lambing ewes. The main product used is long-acting moxidectin injection. The main risk is the development of moxidectin resistance, the secondary risk is that the LA will not work as well as you need it to.

The main winter worm in Tasmania is the black scour worm (Trichostrongylus). The long-acting moxidectin only claims to be effective for up to 49 days (7 weeks) against this parasite. This means that, if you treat the ewes 3 or 4 weeks prior to the start of lambing, protection may run out before lamb marking. If moxidectin resistance is present already this will make the risk higher.

Do a Drenchtest or Drenchcheck to make sure you don't have moxidectin resistance and treat as close to the start of lambing as possible. It is also good practice to use a primer ("head-cutter") at the same time and an exit drench ("tail-cutter") using an effective unrelated drench as the moxidectin wears off. Worm egg counts at 30 and 60 days are also good choices.

The alternative to long-acting moxidectin is to prepare lambing paddocks that are unlikely to have high levels of worm larvae, have good levels of feed on offer, and use an effective short-acting drench just before you move ewes onto their lambing paddocks. Monitor egg counts close to lamb marking and use another short-acting drench at marking if you need to.

## Avian Influenza H7N3 and H7N9 in Victoria

These outbreaks of avian influenza are **NOT** the severe H5N1 that has killed millions of domestic poultry overseas and recently been confirmed in wildlife in Antarctica. The viruses in Victoria do not kill wild birds or mammals like the H5N1 virus does but will kill a high proportion of domestic poultry. Prevention is the same - keep domestic poultry (and their feed and water supplies) physically separated from wild birds and report any multiple deaths in wildlife, wild or domesticated birds to your vet or the EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888.

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## Diseases and conditions seen in May 2024

| SHEEP | | | | |
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| **Disease/condition** | **Number of reports/ cases** | **Region** | **Details** | **Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures** |
| Abscess | One ram in one medium flock | Southern Tasmania | Abscess next to sheath. | A vet can drain the abscess and inject antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. |
| Acidosis (grain poisoning) | Generally small numbers on several large properties | Southern Tasmania | These may have been fed too much grain with no recent grain feeding to get the rumen adjusted. | Found dead, or sick with "porridge" scour. Take off grain source and feed roughage. Oral penicillin under veterinary supervision may help. Take just as long to transition to a new grain or concentrate as you do starting them on grain. Draft shy feeders off into their own pen or offer non-grain feed. |
| Anoestrus (not showing signs of 'coming into heat') in ewes. | A number of ewes in one flock | Southern Tasmania | Little mating activity observed | Ewes should have been cycling. Sometimes maidens do not start cycling until ram contact occurs, so using teasers for 10 days before the rams are joined or extending joining for an additional 10 days may be worthwhile. |
| Arthritis, infectious in lambs at marking | One lamb in one large flock | Northern Tasmania | Swollen joints, lame. | A variety of bacteria can be the cause, including Erysipelas. 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 use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/ |
| Barbers pole worm | Widespread, mostly picked up in wormtests | Mostly Northern Tasmania, both dryland and irrigation. | Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums, lethargy. High worm egg counts and larval ID showing mainly barbers pole worms. | Very high worm egg counts of up to 200,000 epg can be seen. See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs. |
| Body condition score low | A number of sheep and lambs in a number of flocks. | NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania | Body condition less than BCS 2 | Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, and specific deficiencies (copper, selenium, B12) and diseases eg footrot may also be involved. |
| Bottle jaw | One ewe in one large flock. | Northern Tasmania | Bottle jaw usually caused by Barber's Pole Worm (Haemonchus) or liver fluke but also with OJD or heavy chronic worm burden. | Diagnosis by post mortem (Barber's Pole worms easily seen in 4th stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver or typical OJD changes in intestines) or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench. Low egg count and negative FLUKETEST in this flock so probably due to OJD. |
| Coccidia in WORMTEST results | One large flock | Northern Tasmania | Lab reported counting some coccidia as well as worm eggs. | Many young sheep excrete some coccidia but are not affected. Only treat for coccidia if scouring with low roundworm egg count or if postmortem shows typical damage to intestines. |
| Cough, hacking, persistent | Several lambs in one medium flock. Nasal discharge not seen. | Northern Tasmania | Lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench | If little response to lungworm drench then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as Mycoplasma. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and postmortem indicates bacterial involvement. |

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| Cryptorchid | 3% of ram lambs in one medium flock | Northern Tasmania. | Only one, or no testicle/s in scrotum. | Usually inherited so usually cull affected animal and sire if known. Usually still fertile if one testicle is in scrotum but cryptorchid lambs are hard to mark properly resulting in stags. In this case no cases for a number of years and then a large % indicates that environmental oestrogen compounds eg zearalenone produced by Fusarium fungus in ryegrass pastures, may be responsible. |
| Cud stain | One sheep in one medium flock | Northern Tasmania | Green stain around mouth. | No obvious cause. May be due to erupting molar teeth in young sheep. Check tongue, mouth, cheeks for injuries. |
| Dags | Wide-spread but mainly in a small proportion of sheep. | NW, Northern and Southern 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. |
| Dermo (lumpy wool) of muzzle | One sheep on one property | Northern Tasmania | Wool in hard blocks around the muzzle | 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 |
| Drench resistant worms | One large flock | Northern Tasmania | Egg counts not reduced by more than 95% 10-14 days after drenching | 65% reduction in egg counts at 10-14 days for white/clear combination, 85% for moxidectin. See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance. |
| Deformed ear in lamb | One case in one flock | Northern Tasmania. | One ear wrinkled and irregular. | This one appeared congenital (born with it). No action needed. |
| Ear tag infection | One sheep in one medium flock | Northern Tasmania | Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where tag goes through ear | Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics under vet supervision. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying. |
| Epididymitis in ram | One case in one medium flock | Northern Tasmania. | A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on the inside or top. | Can be due to trauma or infection. Ovine Brucellosis should be suspected if a number of rams have epididymitis (see vet). Ram may still be fertile if other testicle in good order. |
| Flystrike scars | Several cases in several flocks | NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania | Bare skin usually above tail or on body | Flystrike has damaged skin and wool has not grown back. Prevention: see the FLYBOSS website. |
| Footrot, virulent | Several large properties | Southern and Northern Tasmania | Low % on dryland. Some successful eradication programs this last summer. | Eradication inspections completed now in most areas and some good cure rates from footbathing and vaccinating have been seen. Footbathing and vaccination, paring, culling "chronics" that don't respond to treatment are on-going strategies. Long-acting oxytetracycline antibiotics under veterinary supervision are useful to treat chronic cases if conditions stay dry. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath, quarantine, and check feet on arrival. Footbath sheep returning from shows. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf |

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| Foot abscess (heel abscess) | Several ewes in one medium flock | Northern Tasmania. | Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage. Expect active cases from now on. | Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly. Treat with long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported. |
| Growth rates low in lambs | One large flock | Southern Tasmania | Lambs growing slower than normal despite good feed available | 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. |
| Injury to shoulder | One sheep in one medium flock | Northern Tasmania | Cut on shoulder | Probably collision with protruding object in yards. Check yards for protruding objects. |
| Lamb deaths - newborn | A number of lambs on one large property | Northern Tasmania | Lambs born during rough weather (rain, wind) 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. |
| Lambing, start delayed | December mated ewes in one large flock | Northern Tasmania | Few lambs for first 10 days of lambing | Ewes start coming on heat more regularly as the days get shorter, peak ovulation rates in Tasmania are in early April. For early mating mix vasectomised rams/teasers with ewes for 10 days to get ewes cycling before putting rams in. |
| Lameness, some with overgrown hooves | A number of sheep in a number of flocks. | NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania | Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot. | Could be footrot, scald, foot abscess, scabby mouth of feet, injuries, toe abscess, laminitis, standing on concrete surfaces too long. Identify cause and treat accordingly. |
| Leg fracture | One case in one flock | Northern Tasmania | This one occurred during transport. | Broken bones in sheep heal well if the skin is unbroken but must be splinted properly. Must have padding between splint and leg, splint must extend one joint above and one joint below the break. Antibiotic cover and pain relief under veterinary supervision. |
| Lice (body lice) | One large flock. | Southern Tasmania. | Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep. | See LICEBOSS: http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep. |
| Liver fluke | Several properties affected, usually lab detection on FLUKETEST | Northern and Southern Tasmania | Abattoir detection, farm post mortem or fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation. | Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year but pickup of immatures will be continuing until July. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to June as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/ |

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| Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils | Several sheep in several flocks | NW, Northern & Southern Tasmania | Can be due to viral or bacterial infections, or nasal bots | If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought. |
| Nematodirus | Weaners in several flocks | Northern and Southern Tasmania | Weaners scour with poor growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts may or may not be high. | Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. Autopsy and total worm count or treat and look for response. See WORMBOSS web site for details on control. |
| Ocular (eye) clear discharge from both eyes | A small number of lambs from one large flock. | Northern Tasmania | Could be first stage of Pinkeye | Best to leave alone and keep checking, if possible, only yard if you have to. |
| PEM (polioencephalomalacia) | Several sheep in containment in one large flock | Southern Tasmania | 'Star gazing', blindness, other neurological signs, deaths | Usually associated with rich diet. Treat early with Vitamin B1 injections. Animal Health Australia subsidies available for postmortems on neurological cases. |
| Pink eye | A number of weaners in one medium 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 mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections under veterinary supervision. Eye ointments/sprays less effective. |
| Photosensitisation | One ewe in one small flock. | Northern Tasmania | Skin peels off face and ears. | Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-histamines, antibiotics if necessary under veterinary supervision, offer deep shade, move to new paddock. |
| Scouring and worms lamb deaths | A number of large flocks | Southern Tasmania | Scouring, high worm egg count, usually black scour worm (Trichostrongylus) identified by larval ID test at lab. | Monitor young sheep closely, they can go downhill fast. Monitor with regular monthly WORMTESTs and go to 2-weekly tests if egg counts are rising rapidly. See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies. |
| Shy feeders | A number of sheep and lambs in a number of flocks | Northern and Southern Tasmania | Will not come onto the grain trail or feed from troughs in containment | Some will come onto feed if you draft them out and feed in a pen of shy feeders. Otherwise put back in paddock, sell, cull or feed hay or silage. |
| Stones blocking urinary system | One wether in one small flock | Southern Tasmania | Usually male animal becomes very depressed, kicks at belly and may get big belly full of liquid ("water belly") | Sometimes a stone is stuck in tip of the "whip" of the penis and can be squeezed out or the 'whip' cut off to allow urine to flow. Otherwise, surgery can be attempted by a vet but often unsuccessful. Prevention usually depends on changing diet, usually by adding more calcium and a little salt to grain-based diets. |
| Vaccination lesion | One sheep in one medium flock carcasses trimmed. | Southern and Northern Tasmania | Upper neck lump | Extra care must be taken with Gudair as large lumps often result. Vaccinate under the skin high on the **side** of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock- |

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| | | | | solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf |
| Wart | One ram in one large flock | Northern Tasmania | Crusty growth on haired skin of face or legs | Best to leave alone, usually self-heal. Vet can remove surgically under local anaesthetic. "Wart-off' used on this one with some effect. |
| Wool break | One sheep in one small flock | Northern Tasmania | Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out. | Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events. |
| Worms | Widespread | NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania. | Moderate to high faecal egg count. Some high enough to be barbers pole worm. Black scour worm dominating but Barbers Pole, Nematodirus, large bowel worm also common. | Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php |
| **CATTLE** | | | | |
| Barbers pole worm | Detected in several herds on routine egg counts with larval ID. | King and Flinders Islands | Potentially anaemia, bottle jaw and sudden deaths, | Rare in cattle this far South in Australia. See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs. |
| Body condition low | Two cows in two medium herds | Northern and Southern Tasmania | BCS less than 2 (1 to 5 scale) | Check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status. |
| Corkscrew claw | Two cows in two herds. | Northern Tasmania | Outside claw on hind or fore foot grows up off ground in corkscrew form | Genetic cause. Cull. |
| Blue eye (corneal oedema) | One cow in one small herd | Northern Tasmania | Usually due to damage to cornea | Protect eye, vet may give antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. |
| Dags | Several cattle in two herds. | Northern Tasmania | Faeces stuck on tail hair. | Due to scouring. Worms, dietary factors, bacterial and viral diseases all possible. Treat for worms first and look for a response. |
| Diarrhoea in adult cattle | One cow in one small herd | Northern Tasmania | Could be worms or dietary but could be viral or bacterial infection, including bovine Johne's disease (BJD). | Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay. Veterinary diagnosis appropriate if persists. |
| Eye cancer | One case in one herd | Southern Tasmania | Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. | Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe require |

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| | | | More common in breeds with white pigmentation around eye. | euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over growth. |
| Hair loss over tail head and below vulva | Several cows in several small herds | Northern Tasmania | May be start of chorioptic mange | Skin scrapings may be worth taking if seen as a problem worth investigating. |
| Hair loss over hips and pins in cows | Several cows in several small herds | Northern Tasmania | Most likely riding by other cows | Observe and monitor. |
| Injury to forearm | One steer | Southern Tasmania | Post transport | Prevention: ensure cattle handling facilities do not have any sharp protruding objects. |
| Lameness | One cow in one small herd | Southern Tasmania | "Fault line" in hoof. | Remove cow from mob if possible, rest in small paddock or yard, give anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, check for foot injuries and infections. |
| Lead poisoning | A number of cattle in one medium herd | Northern Tasmania | Nervous signs initially confused with grass tetany. | Cattle licked lead paint off an old bus body in the paddock. See your vet for treatment. |
| Milk fever | Several cows in one large dairy herd | Northern Tasmania | Usually mature cows, more in Channel Island breeds | Treat with calcium injection under skin. Prevent with anionic transition diet in late pregnancy. |
| Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) both eyes | A small number of cattle in two medium herds. | NW and Northern Tasmania | Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of Pink Eye. | May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing. |
| Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) only one eye | A small number of cattle in one large herd. | Northern Tasmania | Usually an injury or foreign body such as grass seeds, but can also be due to Pink Eye or due to eye cancer in older cows. | Examine for foreign bodies in crush. Treat with eye ointment. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing. |
| Retained afterbirth | One cow in a small mob | Southern Tasmania | Afterbirth still hanging out more than three days after giving birth | If afterbirth cannot be easily removed manually, antibiotic treatment should be started under veterinary supervision and a weight such as a plastic bottle of water tied to the afterbirth to help it come out over the next few days. |
| Stifle injury. | One bull in one large herd | Southern Tasmania | Ligaments probably torn and joint surfaces probably damaged. | Euthanase, not fit to load. |
| Toe crack | One bull in one large herd | Southern Tasmania | Vertical splits in the toe of the hoof from coronary band to tip of toe. | May be conformation (and possibly hereditary) vitamin/mineral deficiency or dry cold conditions. Pare the feet. If lame may need to pare, cut out all damaged hoof horn and check for hoof abscess. Feed dietary supplement with copper, zinc, vitamins A , D and biotin. |

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| Worms | One downer weaner in one small herd | Southern Tasmania | High faecal egg count (1300 epg). | Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned calves. See WORMBOSS at: https://wormboss.com.au/wormboss-resources/?species=Cattle&soia=cattle&region=TAS&season=Autumn%2C+Spring%2C+Summer%2C+Winter |
| **ALPACAS and CAMELS** | | | | |
| No cases reported | | | | |
| **GOATS** | | | | |
| Worms | One goat medium goat herd | Northern Tasmania | Scouring, losing weight | Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vet's instructions. |
| Star gazing & staggering | One weaned goat in one small herd | Southern Tasmania | Poor response to Vitamin B1 | Can be due to PEM (polioencephalo-malacia – vitamin B1 deficiency), chronic pulpy kidney, Listeria, other brain infection, lead or plant poisoning. |
| **PIGS** | | | | |
| Abscess | One sow in one small herd | Northern Tasmania | Swelling on shoulder in this case. | Vet can surgically drain, inject and antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Usually effective. |
| **POULTRY** | | | | |
| No cases reported | | | | |
| **DEER** | | | | |
| Corneal scarring | One feral deer | Southern Tasmania | White irregular marks on cornea (front of eye) but no inflammation or discharge. | Most likely to be due to injury. |
| Liver fluke | 50% of feral deer | Southern Tasmania | Live fluke detected in necropsies of feral deer | Feral deer represent a major source of fluke egg contamination in some areas. Feral deer numbers can be controlled and/or sheep and cattle monitored and treated. |
| Uterine infection | Three mature feral does | Southern Tasmania | Bacteria isolated but may not be cause of abortion | Early pregnancy loss observed, but bacteria may be secondary. |

## 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/

**myFeedback** 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: MLA's myFeedback 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/