Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – June 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-August.

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

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

Seasonal Disease Alerts

Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxoplasmosis abortion in sheep: Abortions/stillbirths are being seen now. Talk to your vet about having up to 5 aborted lambs (with afterbirth if possible) tested at the laboratory. Blood tests on dry ewes at marking can also detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are being seen and will probably peak soon. 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.
Footrot and scald: are quiet at the moment but will take off when it warms up in spring. Booster vaccination of ewes pre-lambing is a good strategy if you have a virulent strain.
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.
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.
Body lice: in sheep will show up from now on. Good time to inspect.

Chorioptic mange in cattle: is already occurring and will worsen over winter.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): will show up from now on in 6-tooth and older ewes and wethers under stress.
Phalaris poisoning: has been seen in sheep released from containment onto fresh shoot of Phalaris.
Waterbelly in wether lambs in feedlots: make sure salt and limestone levels in feed are adequate.

Biosecurity story of the month – avian influenza spreads to NSW and ACT

Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) has now been detected in NSW and the Australian Capital Territory. The NSW outbreaks are not linked to the Victorian outbreaks but represent 'spillover' from local wild birds. The ACT outbreaks are linked to the NSW outbreaks via the movement of eggs.

The very severe international form of HPAI (subtype H5N1) has recently been confirmed in Antarctica but is unlikely to spread to Australia until the spring bird migrations start in about three months at the very earliest. It may not reach Australia, but we have to be prepared.

In severe forms, the disease appears suddenly, and birds can die within 24 hours, sometimes without showing signs of the disease. In many cases, an increase in flock mortality is the first indicator of infection with HPAI. In chickens and turkeys, clinical signs include:

- lack of energy and reduced feed and water consumption
- severe respiratory signs with excessively watery eyes and sinusitis
- neurological signs such as tremors and paralysis
- cyanosis of the comb and wattles
- oedema of the head, resulting in swelling
- misshapen or soft-shelled eggs
- significant drop in egg production.

Ducks tend to predominantly display neurological signs, with decreased activity and lethargy as a common finding.

Cases of the H5N1 strain in dairy cattle in the United States had decreased lactation, reduced appetite, lethargy, fever and dehydration. Goats have been infected in the USA too, and a number of cats on infected dairy farms have been affected and some have died. Workers culling infected poultry and on infected dairy farms have also been infected, but with mild symptoms, mainly respiratory signs and conjunctivitis – a good reason to always practice good personal hygiene when working with animals.

So, keep an eye on your poultry and also on wild birds and other animals. If you see anything odd or suspicious, ring your vet or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on1800 675 888, which is manned 24/7.

Sheep eID
All sheep and goats born after 1 January 2025 must wear an eID NLIS tag when they leave the property. After 1 January 2027 all sheep and goats leaving any property must wear an NLIS eID tag. Tag and equipment rebates are now available, check the NRE website.

Diseases and conditions seen in June 2024

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abortion	15-20% of maiden ewes in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Diagnosed at scanning – presence of dead foetuses	Best diagnosis is to submit 5 aborted lambs to lab for diagnosis, can take bloods for Toxo testing and vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion if no foetuses available. Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.
Acidosis (carbohydrate poisoning)	Some sheep on unharvested potatoes.	Southern Tasmania	Any starchy food can cause acidosis.	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 start them on grain. Draft shy feeders off into their own pen or offer non-grain feed. May need to limit time on unharvested potato paddocks.
Arthritis, infectious in lambs noted post weaning	One lamb in one large flock	Southern 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 with larval culture	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania, including E coast on 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.
Black scour worm	Several large flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval differentiation test at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
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 the 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. Postmortem showed that this one was OJD.

Campylobacter	A small sample from a large flock several months after booster vaccination.	Southern Tasmania	High antibody levels in all samples post vaccination booster	Campylobacter vaccination is recommended especially in situations where ewes are being fed in containment, trail feeding in paddock and intensive grazing systems.
Coccidiosis	Tail end weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Moderate to high coccidia counts and zero worm eggs.	Treated for coccidia because scouring and depressed with zero roundworm egg count.
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
Deaths in adult sheep in containment	A small number of deaths on a number of farms	Southern Tasmania	Shy feeders or multiple possible other causes.	If more than the odd sheep dies it may be worth having post mortems carried out to diagnose cause/s so that appropriate treatment and prevention can be given. Often these postmortems detect significant problems affecting productivity of the whole mob.
Deaths of weaned lambs	A number of weaners in a number of flocks	Southern Tasmania	Mainly merino wether weaners in light condition and unable to resist worms.	Increased nutrition as well as regular WormTests and drenching if required. If losses persist best to have post mortems done to determine cause so that appropriate treatment and preventative measures can be used.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	A number of young sheep on a number of properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along the topline.	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
Dry scanned in lamb ewes at lambing	About 5% dry in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Could be due to abortion or a scanner error.	Start with bleeding 6-10 dry and 6-10 wet ewes at marking and test for Toxo and Campylobacter antibody levels.
Epididymitis in rams	A number of cases in both medium and large flocks	Northern and Southern 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 the other testicle is normal.
Flystrike scars	Several cases in several flocks	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	Only chronic cases seen, no spread reported. Low % on dryland. Some successful eradication programs this last summer.	Eradication inspections completed now and some good cure rates from foot bathing and vaccinating have been seen. Most managers just vaccinating and foot bathing at this time of year. Aim to give vaccine booster just before ewes go into lambing paddocks. Foot bathing 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 when conditions are 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/ot

				her-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Front foot lameness in confinement	A number of ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	If both feet of all affected ewes, then probably laminitis. If single foot, then toe or heel abscess more likely	Examine for heel abscess, pare feet to expose toe abscess. If it is laminitis may need to reduce proportion of grain in the ration.
Green potato (solanum) toxicity	A number of sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Green potatoes produce a solanum compound that causes gut irritation and scour.	Remove sheep from potato paddock, wait till scour stops, then re-introduce for an hour a day or remove green potatoes if practical.
Haematoma	One ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Lump seen under skin.	A veterinarian can determine whether the lump is an abscess or a haematoma. Haematomas may be drained or left alone to heal.
Hernias (abdominal)	One ewe in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Bulge in abdomen wall	Tis one very large and in an ewe bearing twins. Best just left alone, very hard to repair surgically. In this case ewe may require assistance lambing. Cull after weaning.
Ill-thrift	A small to moderate number of cases in many flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Mostly in weaners. Poor growth rates.	Most dryland pastures over summer do not have enough energy or protein for weaner sheep and even adult dry sheep will lose body condition. Fodder crops, irrigated pastures or supplementary feed required. Worms (especially Nematodirus in autumn), fluke, footrot, chronic pneumonia and sometimes selenium, copper or B12 deficiency can also contribute to ill-thrift.
Infertile ram	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Single sire mated; no lambs born.	Infertility may be temporary especially if overheated eg by shedding during summer. May also be permanent due to a number of possible causes. Semen test and vet examination may identify cause.
Lameness, without overgrown hooves	One ram in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on one leg.	Most likely fighting injury. Isolate from other rams, run with a couple of wethers for a while. Anti-inflammatory treatment under vet supervision may be warranted
Lice (body lice)	Widespread.	Northern and 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.	Tend to show up when sheep are stressed. 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.
Miss-mated ewes	A small number of maiden ewes in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	A dog pushed a ram through a fence.	A veterinarian can use certain vet drugs to abort the ewes between 7 and 60 days after the contact with the ram.
Newborn lamb death - hypothermia	One lamb death in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Newborn lambs found dead in lambing paddock in	Diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, slow birth, mis-mothering, can contribute to such losses. Lamb post mortems can help identify causes and solutions.

			exposed position after a very cold wet windy night	
Newborn lamb death - misadventure	One lamb death in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Newborn lambs found dead caught in a ringlock fence	Diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, slow birth, mis-mothering, can contribute to such losses. Lamb post mortems can help identify causes and solutions.
Newborn lamb deaths at several days old	A number of lamb deaths in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Newborn lambs seemed normal when born but found dead at about 2 days old.	Diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, slow birth, mis-mothering, can contribute to such losses. Lamb post mortems can help identify causes and solutions.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	Thirty ewes died or destroyed in one large flock over a short period	Northern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching. These were mainly 6-tooth (yellow tags).	Confirmed by postmortem in this flock. Death rate can usually be reduced to low levels by vaccinating lambs at marking with Gudair vaccine. Some concerns about the appearance of the vaccine when these yellow tags were vaccinated. If OJD is 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:
Phalaris toxicity (acute)	Twenty-five sheep in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Sudden deaths overnight a week after release from confinement onto paddock with some very short Phalaris regrowth.	Get the mob off the Phalaris paddock. Prevent by avoiding grazing Phalaris pastures when very short and in overcast weather.
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	Seen in a number of ewes on several properties	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".
Scabby Mouth	25% of one mob of merino weaners that had been vaccinated at marking	Southern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on lips, sometimes on feet as well.	Caused by a tough virus that persists on a property once introduced, but skin injury needed to allow virus to establish. Best left to heal on their own. Can prevent with vaccine at marking. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf Make sure that vaccine is handled as per label instructions, scratch skin so that the surface is broken and check for 'take" (a line of pustules along the scratch) 7-10 days later.
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.

Scour, bottle jaw and deaths in weaned lambs	A number of lambs in one large mob a week after drenching	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to worms, coccidia, Cryptosporidia , Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Fluke and/or barbers pole worm could be causing the bottle jaw, but heavy scour worm infestation can too. Worms most common cause, but in this case, lambs may have missed the drench or severe drench resistance would need to be present. A Wormtest can detect drench resistance, or labs missed in drenching race. May need veterinary involvement and laboratory analysis of faecal samples.
Scrotal mange	A number of rams in a number of flocks	Northern and 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.
Scrotal skin thickened	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Probably post scrotal mange	May be infertile if thickened skin interferes with scrotal cooling.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne or clover	A number of deaths in two flocks	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up.	May be caused by 'lucerne red gut', Pulpy Kidney (PK) or frothy bloat. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, don't place hungry lambs on irrigated legumes, offer good quality hay while on legumes.
Swayback (delayed)	A number of lambs from marking to 8 months of age in some years in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lambs in good condition lose control of hind legs and go down. Mainly when stressed. Usually caused by copper deficiency.	Copper deficiency can be diagnosed by testing liver samples from affected lambs. Typical microscopic changes also seen in sections of spinal cord. Ewes can be injected with copper pre-lambing or copper can be added to fertiliser applied to lambing paddocks and weaner paddocks while sheep are not present and are not returned until copper has been washed into soil by rain or irrigation. Only use one method of supplementation, copper accumulates easily in sheep and chronic copper poisoning can result in significant deaths.
Testicles both small	One young ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	May reflect late descent of testicles into scrotum.	May be hereditary, best to cull.
Toxoplasma abortions	A number of maidens and 6 tooths in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	60% of ewes scanned empty for second year in a row were positive to the blood test and may be barren. Maidens had high antibody levels indicating recent abortion or resorption of the foetus.	Toxo is spread by cats. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf

Wart	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty growth on haired skin of leg.	Best to leave alone, usually self-heal. Vet can remove surgically under local anaesthetic. "Wart-off' can be applied daily.
Waterbelly (urinary calculi, 'bladder stones')	Small numbers of lambs in two feedlots	Southern Tasmania	Urinary tract blockage by small mineral 'stones'.	Blockage results in either ruptured bladder or urine leaking under skin of lower abdomen. Treatment difficult. Prevention – increase salt and lime in diet, may need ammonium chloride in ration to acidify and dissolve stones. Treat with vitamin A, D and E if off green feed for more than 3 months.
Wool break	One sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection 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 counts. Black scour worm dominating but Barbers Pole, Nematodirus, large bowel worm also common.	Differentiate from nutritional scour, Yersinia 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
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and deaths.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST 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				
Abortion	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Possible causes Neospora, Leptospirosis, Trichomoniasis Vibrio (Campylobacter), Pestivirus, congenital/hereditary factors, toxins, mouldy hay, Salmonella dublin. The cause of many abortions not determined despite lab investigation.	Send aborted calf and blood sample from cow to lab for diagnosis. Vaccines against Vibrio and pestivirus can be used. Pestivirus: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/ Vibrio: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/110043/vibriosis-of-cattle.pdf
Downer cows	One cow in one small beef herd	Southern Tasmania	Calved 6 months ago, responded to a 4-in-1 injection.	This one does not fit into any of the usual presentations for milk fever or grass tetany etc.
Dystocia (difficult birth) breech presentation.	1 heifer in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf not delivered within 3 hours of start of birth process. This one was a breech presentation, so no legs or	Heifers should generally be 300kg+ at mating and grow at up to 1 kg per day in last third of pregnancy. Need to be observed frequently over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours. If no parts of a calf are showing, yard the heifer and do a vaginal exam (use long gloves and antiseptic solution to wash back end of heifer). If it is a breech with the hind legs forward you will feel the tail.

			nose were visible.	
Eye cancer	One case in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in breeds with white pigmentation around eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require eye removal surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over growth.
Lameness	One bull in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	No cause apparent	Old bull so was culled. Some joint and ligament injuries in large bulls are hard to diagnose accurately.
Paraplegia	One young bull in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	Standing on front legs but hind legs paralysed.	Could be spinal fracture due to weak bones due to copper deficiency. Spinal abscess, injury also possible.
Pestivirus	A number of cases of runt calves on a number of properties	Southern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age	Herd status can be assessed by blood tests or milk tests. PI animals can be detected by blood or skin sample tests. Control programs based on vaccination or exposure to PI before mating. For more information see: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and- https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration.pdf
Pink Eye	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Both eyes affected.	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
Pregnancy toxaemia	One beef cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	A fat beef cow becomes a downer in late pregnancy	If heavily pregnant overweight beef cows have a feed check, they can go down with pregnancy toxaemia. Overweight dairy cows usually affected in early lactation. For treatment see your vet. Prevention – don't let cows get too fat in late pregnancy, if they are fat, do not reduce feed levels suddenly.
Vaginal prolapse	One cow after calving in one large beef herd.	Southern Tasmania	Causes or risk factors not known.	Vet replaced this one successfully.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Worms	A number of goats in a medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vets' instructions.
PIGS				

No cases reported				
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
Deaths after sedation	A number of farmed deer in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Deer died overnight after sedation for tagging.	Excess iron detected in liver, source unknown.

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/