Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – September 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-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

Arthritis in lambs: If you have a significant number of cases, it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.
Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis abortion in sheep: If you are unhappy with your lamb marking %, blood tests on dry ewes at marking or weaning can detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection. Talk to your vet.
Barber's pole worm: could start to build up from now on. Watch for anaemia, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are being seen. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended.
Bloat: has been seen in lambs on lucerne on misty overcast days.
Body lice: in sheep are still common. Now is a good time to inspect.
Brown stomach worm: resistance to macrocyclic lactone (ML) drench family is common. Could become more dominant with warmer, dryer weather.
Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear and macrocyclic drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail.
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading now.
Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes: can be seen in ewes (especially 5 years old plus) rearing twins, especially on lush cereal, short rotation ryegrass or pasture – feed some hay and/or a calcium/magnesium/salt dry lick. Have calcium injection on hand.
Johne's Disease (JD) in cattle: will also show up now in stressed cows.
Liver fluke: Eggs can be present in Fluketests now if animals have not been treated since last autumn, but immature fluke will start migrating through livers soon, so blood tests may be the best way to detect liver fluke in live animals.
Lucerne red gut: seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcase on lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay, straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.
Milk fever: can be seen in lactating dairy cows, especially older Channel Island breeds.
Phalaris staggers: cases can show up for up to 4 months after removal from toxic pasture.

Pleurisy: is common, 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 flock.
Pulpy kidney (PK): Make sure lambs get a booster if going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne, 3-in-1 is cheaper than 5- or 6-in-1 and gives the same PK immunity.
Chorioptic mange in cattle: most cases self-cure as the weather warms up.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): Is showing up in 6-tooths and older sheep under stress.
White muscle disease: If lambs get stiff and stop walking when mustered, suspect white muscle disease.

Biosecurity story of the month – foot and mouth disease is still on our doorstep

Australia is currently free of foot and mouth disease (FMD). This means that we can export sheep and cattle products into a number of premium markets around the world. We export about 70% of the red meat we produce.

FMD is still present in Indonesia (including Bali)….. and in Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and parts of South America. The outbreak in Indonesia is under better control now, but it is still there.

An outbreak of FMD in Australia would have catastrophic impacts on our red meat and dairy industries. So, what can the average livestock producer do to reduce the risk of an outbreak, or to make sure that if an outbreak occurs, that it is controlled quickly?

- If you go overseas, don't bring back any type of animal product that could carry the virus.
- If you do go onto farms or contact any cloven-hoofed animal (especially pigs, cattle, sheep and goats) while overseas, dispose of the clothing and footwear that may have been contaminated and wait at least 48 hours after your return before handling livestock.
- Check that visitors to your property that may come in contact with your livestock have not recently been overseas.
- Don't feed swill to pigs and dob in anyone who does.
- Isolate and observe all animals introduced to your property for as long as you can (at least 2 weeks).
- Provide/demand an LPA or PigPass NVD when moving pigs, cattle, sheep and goats onto or off your property
- Use/demand NLIS ID on cattle, sheep and goats that leave or enter your property,
- Tattoo pigs over 10 weeks of age that leave your property for sale or slaughter
- Make sure transfers of NLIS tag numbers are made after property-to-property movements.
- File NVDs securely for the required periods of time.
- Contact your vet or the hotline (1800 675 888) if you see any suspicious symptoms in your livestock.

Stock Standstill

If an outbreak of FMD is detected anywhere in Australia, all movements of pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, deer and camelids will stop for at least 72 hours (and possibly longer). This will allow authorities to trace stock movements and determine where the infection may have spread to. This would be very

disruptive and inconvenient but will limit the extent of an outbreak that would cost millions of dollars per day in lost exports.

Diseases and conditions seen in September 2024

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abortion/stillbirths/ low lambing %	A number of abortions and still births seen in 3 flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Ewes with brown discharge from vulva, lambs nearly full size but sparce birth coat.	Best diagnosis is to submit 5 aborted lambs to lab for diagnosis. Bloods for Toxo testing and vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion can be tested if no foetuses are available. Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.
Abscess	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Abscess on brisket from being down in this case.	May settle with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory under veterinary supervision. If not, surgical draining (vet job) and antibiotics usually effective.
Arthritis, infectious	One wether hogget in one large flock, several 4-week-old lambs in one medium flock.	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.	Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Make sure orphan lambs receive sufficient colostrum within 24 hours of birth. 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/
Bare hocks	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Associated with scouring and dags. Moist dermatitis of skin of hocks results in wool loss.	Deal with the scouring and dags. 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.
Body condition score low	A number of ewes in one large flock. One ram in one large flock	Northern 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. The ram had a thickened section of gut that was negative for OJD.
Bloat in ewes and lambs on lucerne and clover	Small number of ewes in one large mob, moderate number of lambs in another large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Ewes found dead and blown up within 72 hours of going into paddock. Lambs dying on overcast days with misty rain.	Differentiate from pulpy kidney or red gut by postmortem. Frothy bloat can be prevented by adding bloat oil to troughs, feeding supplements with preventatives, offer lick blocks. Give PK booster and offer roughage (eg hay).

Cryptorchids	A number of ram lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Only one testicle in scrotum. Occasionally none.	Usually inherited but can also be caused by hormone-like compounds in feed. Cull affected animal and sire if in a stud situation and only progeny from one ram affected. Usually still fertile but cryptorchid lambs hard to mark properly resulting in stags.
Dags	Widespread often affecting a large proportion of the mob.	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.
Difficult births (primary dystocia)	A number of ewes in a number of both large and small flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Ewe lambs, maidens, mixed age ewes above BCS 3 had a number of difficult births.	Ewe can be assisted. Prevention: Ewes bearing single lambs should be kept at BCS 2.8 to 3 and placed in paddocks with 800-1000 Kg of green dry matter per hectare in last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Use low birth weight prime lamb sire with narrow shoulders over merino ewes. A small number of dystocias are inevitable.
Entropion (turned in eyelids)	Several lambs in one large flock, one ram in one medium flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge from eye usually detected at marking. Eyelid/s turned inwards and eyelashes rub on cornea.	Some cases will be corrected by simply turning eyelids out the right way. Can inject ½ ml of antibiotic under veterinary supervision just under skin of eyelid/s to turn eyelashes outwards. Surgery also possible.
Epididymitis in ram	One case in one medium flock and several cases in another medium flock.	Northern 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 ruled out by blood tests if a number of rams have epididymitis (see vet). Ram may still be fertile if other testicle is in good order.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc. Inspect closely for lice, grass seed and take appropriate action.
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	A number of twin-bearing ewes on good pasture in one large flock, three ewes in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania.	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage.	Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly. Treat with long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics (under vet supervision), keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Footrot, virulent	Ongoing problem in two medium flocks, detected after purchase on one other property.	Southern Tasmania	Active spread now.	At this time of year footbathing and vaccination boosters (if already primed with previous footrot vaccination) are the only useful short-term treatment 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/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Front legs weak, lamb	One 4-week-old lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Hind legs were strong, but lamb could not control front legs	Possibly due to abscess or injury near the spinal cord in the lower neck/chest area

Hindquarter paralysis	One lamb in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lamb stands on front legs and drags hindlegs.	Most likely spinal abscess but could be copper deficiency or injury. Diagnose by postmortem. Can be associated with short tail length or local anaesthetic injection into tail at marking. Use good hygiene at marking and remove tails at third joint/level with tip of vulva.
Hooves overgrown	A number of ewes in a number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Kangaroo gait	Suspected in ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen in usually twin-bearing ewes up to 6 weeks after lambing, due to damage to nerves in front legs	Ewes move by hind leg action alone so look like a kangaroo hopping. Cause not known, will often recover if looked after. Anti-inflammatories under vet supervision also of value.
Lamb deaths - newborn	A high number of lambs on a large number of properties	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs born during rough weather (rain, wind) found dead.	Wind chill factor is the main killer. Providing shelter, plenty of feed for ewes and keeping ewes in good body condition reduces losses.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of flocks.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on one leg.	Can be due to footrot, foot abscess, toe abscess, arthritis, injury and a number of other conditions. Examine foot and leg thoroughly, treat appropriately.
Lice (body lice)	One medium 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.	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.
Liver abscess in newborn lamb	One lamb each from two large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Multiple white areas in liver.	Can be due to Campylobacter, or generalised infection. These appeared typical of *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, associated with muddy conditions and damage to stomach wall. Laboratory testing justified if a number of these are seen.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	Several weaners in two medium flocks	NW and Southern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Newborn lamb deaths	Many lamb deaths in both large and small flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Newborn lambs found dead in lambing paddock	Diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, slow birth, mis-mothering, exposure (high wind chill, little shelter), ewe behaviour, paddock size, disturbances, feed on offer, selenium/copper or iodine deficiencies, septicaemia (usually because insufficient colostrum intake) can all contribute to losses. Lamb postmortems can help identify causes and solutions.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	Several sheep from one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Sheep may not have been vaccinated, but a small % of deaths still occur in	Death rate can usually be reduced to low levels by vaccinating lambs at marking or weaning with Gudair vaccine. 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:

			vaccinated sheep.	https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/johnes-disease-in-sheep/
OJD reactions to blood test	Six of 6 wethers in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	These were vaccinated and the blood test reactions were almost certainly from the vaccine.	Only a relatively small proportion of infected sheep that are not showing clinical signs are positive to the blood test. Most vaccinated sheep are positive to the blood test. Purchase sheep from market assured flocks or have faecal cultures carried out to reduce risk of OJD introduction.
Orchitis (inflamed testicle/s)	One young ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	One or both testicles enlarged, painful during acute stage	Can be due to infection with a number of different bacteria. May respond to antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, but the ram is often infertile afterwards if both testicles are affected.
Photosensitisation	A number of lambs and adult sheep in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Skin reddened and peels off nose and ears. Most of these mild and only effecting backs of ears.	Check paddock for poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medics). If severe, treat with anti-histamines, antibiotics, if necessary (under vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pivot wheel deaths	Several lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs found dead in pivot wheel ruts.	Often crossbred lambs at night, lying with head towards oncoming wheel. No preventions available at present.
Pneumonia	One ewe in one medium flock. One 3-day-old lamb in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Difficulty breathing, downer ewe that did not respond to hypocalcaemia or preg tox treatment. Died despite eventual antibiotic treatment.	Early cases in front part of lungs. Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatment under vet supervision (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors. See https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/NSHMP-Pneumonia-Pleurisy.pdf
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	One triplet ewe in one small flock	NW Tasmania	Caused by 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 when driven, and 'star-gazing". This one did respond to intensive treatment.
Redgut	One lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Redgut seen on pure lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on postmortem.	Provide access to roughage.
Scabby Mouth	Small numbers of lambs from four large flocks	Northern and 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 but emollients or iodine can be applied. Can prevent with vaccine at marking. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf

Scrotal mange	Several rams in two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Usually seen in Merino rams but can affect other breeds. Reduced fertility if 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.
Scour in ewes 30 days after long acting moxidectin	A number of ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to moxidectin resistant worms or to nutritional factors.	Worms most common cause. Best WORMTEST to rule out drench resistance. Check for sudden diet change to lush feed, plants such as capeweed. May need veterinary involvement.
Selenium deficiency	Two large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Shearing cuts, hocks	Several lambs in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Cuts over hock area in bare-shorn lambs	Encourage shearers to take care. Antiseptic application to prevent infection.
Shelly toe	A number of rams in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of hoof.	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition. Is heritable and can be selected against. Best to pare off separated hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.
Small testes in young ram	One ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Both testicles were small. Rams should have large, full, springy testicles.	If the ram is very young, give him more time to grow, but if the same age as others with well-developed testes, cull.
Swayback (delayed)	A number of lambs each year from marking to 8 months of age in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lambs in good condition lose control of hind legs and go down. Mainly when stressed.	Copper deficiency diagnosed by testing liver samples from affected lambs. Typical microscopic changes also seen in sections of spinal cord. Further testing of pastures and sheep needed to determine whether an induced deficiency due to imbalance of molydenum, sulphur or iron and to see whether seasonal or long-term deficiency. Only use one method of supplementation, copper accumulates easily in sheep and chronic copper poisoning can result in significant deaths.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne or clover	1% prime lamb deaths in one large flock.	Northern 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, feed hungry lambs before placing on irrigated legumes, offer good quality hay while on legumes, add bloat oil to water trough, feed supplements containing rumensin.
Tendon injury back of cannon bone	One lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Cut on back of front leg, probably shearing cut	Encourage shearers to be careful. Antiseptic to prevent infection.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever")	A number of ewes in several large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Late pregnancy ewes (usually 5 yrs and older twin-bearing)	Treat with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1) 1/5 of a pack under skin. Warm pack in hot water before injection if possible and massage in well. Raddle as you treat if numbers are down. Should get up within 30 minutes. If

			go down after a period off feed or on lush short rotation ryegrass, high DCAD pastures or cereal crops.	green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision. Prevent by offering 40% lime/30% Causmag/30% salt loose lick, don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching.
Uterine prolapse	Three cases in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Long pink organ hanging from vulva after lambing. May be damaged.	Acute fresh cases can be cleaned, gently pushed back in (elevate ewe's hindquarters) give pessaries/antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Chronic cases can be tied off and surgically removed by vet. Otherwise euthanize. Not fit to load. Mark for culling if they do survive.
Vaginal prolapse	A small number of ewes in a number of large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected. In some the rectum also prolapsed.	Treat: There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. 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. Mark for culling if they do survive. 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 half 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. Offer 40% limestone/30% Causmag/30% salt loose lick.
Wool break	Individual animals in two small flocks	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.	Worm egg counts fairly steady, but with some high counts and clinical disease.	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
CATTLE				
Bare areas on hips and shoulders	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	May have been down or due to a projection in the yards.	Projections in yard that cause skin damage will also be causing bruising. These yards need checking/ repair.
Bare area on side of hock	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Probably an injury	Check yards for projections.
Body condition low	One cow in one small herd.	Northern Tasmania	BCS less than 2 (1 to 5 scale)	Veterinary investigation, check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status, BJD possible.
Cauliflower ear	One bull in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Ear is crinkled and deformed.	Usually this is the final stage of a healing haematoma (blood clot) of the ear when bleeding occurs between the layers of the ear after injury eg due to fighting. The blood clot turns to scar tissue and deforms the ear. No action needed. Fresh clots can be drained.

Chorioptic mange	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head, neck and flanks. Rough scaley skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	More common as winter progresses and most starting to heal up now as cattle self-cure over spring. Can become severe if cattle are stressed and short on feed. A number of registered treatments are available including ML drenches and pour-ons. See: http://www.liceboss.com.au/cattle/lice-mites/species-of-mites.php
Corkscrew claw	One bull on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Dags/scour	A number of young and adult cattle in a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair, many with evidence of fresh scour.	Scouring is the problem. Worms, nutrition (low dry matter diet, toxic plants eg capeweed), viral and bacterial diseases can all be involved.
Empty cows at pregnancy testing	20% of mature autumn mated cows in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Could be nutrition vibrio, bull failure, Pestivirus, possibly tri-trichomonas.	A lot of late pregnancies. Bulls were swapped over. Veterinary investigation required.
Empty heifers at pregnancy testing	More than 15% of heifers in several large herds.	Northern Tasmania	Could be nutrition, vibrio, bull failure, Pestivirus, possibly tri-trichomonas.	Nutrition suspected as cause. One mob was scouring during mating so body weights may have been dropping. Veterinary investigation required.
Endocarditis (heart valve lesion)	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Seen as weight loss, weakness, anaemia	Postmortem showed large mass on heart valve. Hard to detect early when antibiotics under veterinary supervision could be effective, late-stage treatment not usually effective.
Ergot poisoning	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Hoof and lower part of hind legs dries up and falls off	Due to a fungus *Claviceps purpurea* that grows in seed heads. This cow was fed grass seed winnowing/weed seeds from grass seed cleaning operation. Cow was euthanised, mob taken off grass seed winnowings.
Eye cancer, pre-cancerous lesion in cow.	One case in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid, but not typical of eye cancer. More common in breeds with pale pigmentation around eye.	These very early lesions can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off before they turn into a cancer.
Foot abscess (old, healed)	1 cow in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Swollen foot, all scar tissue, slightly lame.	May heal further over time.
Grass tetany (low blood magnesium)	Several cows in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitable.	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevent with Causmag on hay or magnesium boluses. Magnesium blocks may not ensure all cows get protective dose every day. See: https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/grass-tetany-beef-cattle-prevention-and-treatment#:~:text=Grass%20tetany%20is%20a%20highly,Angus%20cattle%20and%20their%20crosses

Milk fever	Several cows in one large beef herd	Southern Tasmania	Usually older cows.	Treat with calcium injection under skin. Prevent with anionic transition diet in late pregnancy.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	One cow from one medium herd	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.
Preputial prolapse	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Soft tissue of sheath hangs out. If injured while out, becomes swollen and can't go back in.	A veterinarian may be able to operate even if damaged.
Retained afterbirth and difficult births	A number of cows in one large herd.	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 and a weight such as a plastic bottle of water tied to the afterbirth to help it come out over the next few days. In this case where a generalised problem exists selenium deficiency could be suspected and should be investigated.
Ringworm	One weaner in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Scaley circular areas of hair loss with thick whitish crust usually around head and neck.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can spread to people so precautions must be taken.
Slipper feet	One aged cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Both hind hooves excessively long	May be just a conformational fault or long periods in wet conditions affecting one or two individuals. If a number of cattle have the condition developing at one time the cause should be investigated.
Stifle injury	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Ligaments or joint surfaces damaged.	Treatment unlikely to be effective if some time since original injury. Make sure fit to load if transported to an abattoir.
Vaccination lesions	One cow in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Caused by vaccination.	Some individuals react more to vaccines, especially oily vaccine such as the pinkeye vaccine or to vibrio vaccine. Make sure vaccination equipment has been sterilised and that needles are clean and sharp. Don't vaccinate if skin is wet or in very dusty conditions.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Atresia ani/rectovaginal fistula	One young kid in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Born with no anus and passing faeces via a hole between the vagina and rectum	Surgery possible but complications likely.
PIGS				
No cases reported				
POULTRY				

Respiratory disease	Large number of hens affected. Few deaths. One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Avian influenza ruled out by laboratory testing.	This flock responded to antibiotics under veterinary supervision so probably a bacterial infection.
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/

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 feed 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 $272 million worth of sheep meats and wool in 2021-22. 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/