Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – October 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-December.

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 weaning can detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection. Talk to your vet.
Barber's pole worm: will start to build up from now on, especially on irrigated pastures. Watch for anaemia, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts.
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.
Flystrike: The sheep blowfly gets active as soon as the temperature is over 15 degrees.
Footrot and scald: transmission will stop shortly in most areas, so eradication inspections can start soon.
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 from now on, 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.
Mycoplasma ovis anaemia: may be seen in lambs about 4 weeks after marking. Leave them alone to recover naturally if possible.
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 consigned lambs.
Pulpy kidney (PK): Make sure lambs get an extra 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.

Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): Is showing up in 6-tooths and older sheep under stress.
Pestivirus in heifers: Consider vaccinating your heifers to prevent pestivirus abortions, stillbirths, 'dummy' calves and poor doers that die before 18 months of age. You may like to talk to your vet about having some blood tests done to see what the herd pestivirus risk profile is.
Scabby mouth: in lambs on feet and mouth, may be on ewe's teats as well.

Biosecurity story of the month – what can we learn from the Covid report?

A report on Australia's response to the Covid epidemic was released recently. A lot of the principles of prevention and management of infectious diseases can be seen at play. One of the most important of these was hotel quarantine.

Tasmanians spent a lot of the epidemic moving freely about the state because we eliminated an early outbreak while it was still small and manageable, and stopped the disease coming back in through the use of hotel quarantine.

The same principles apply at the farm level. If you see any signs of a disease you don't want, act decisively in the early stages and you have a much better chance of eradicating it.

Early reporting of any suspicion of an emergency animal disease such as foot and mouth disease will be the difference between a long and protracted outbreak and a short one. Talk to your vet or ring 1800 675 888.

If you quarantine all livestock that come onto your property, even those returning from a show, sale, semen collection, loan or agistment, then you have a far better chance of detecting any infectious diseases that they are incubating or carrying, and then eliminating the disease or sending the animals back.

The price of disease freedom is constant vigilance.

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in October 2024

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Arthritis, infectious	Six lambs in one medium flock.	southern 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 under veterinary supervision 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/
Belly kicking, ram	One stud ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Ram had been fed concentrates in preparation for showing up to 6 weeks previously.	Most likely problem is urinary calculi ("bladder stones"). Best to have a veterinarian examine the ram. Prevention consists of balancing the calcium and phosphorus in concentrate ram and wether diets by adding 1-2% ground limestone, and increasing water consumption by adding 1-2% salt to the ration.
Body condition score low	A small number of adult sheep in several flocks	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 lambs on clover	Small number of lambs in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lambs dying on overcast days after rain.	Differentiate from pulpy kidney or red gut by postmortem. Frothy bloat can be prevented by adding bloat oil to water troughs, feeding supplements with preventatives, offer lick blocks. Give PK booster and offer roughage (eg hay).
Blood in manure	One lamb in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs looked normal otherwise	Coccidiosis and Salmonellosis can sometimes result in blood in manure. Lab testing needed to identify cause.
Conjunctivitis in lambs	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Clear discharge down cheeks, red lining of inside of eyelids	Make sure it isn't entropion (turned in eyelids). If it turns into pink eye treat with antibiotic ointment or injections under veterinary supervision.
Cryptorchids	A number of ram lambs in one large flock	Northern 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. The ram is usually still fertile if only one teste is retained, but cryptorchid lambs are 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.
Deaths in ewes after milk fever treatment	Three of 9 ewes died 3 days after successful treatment	Southern Tasmania	Ewes got up after calcium injections under the skin,	Most likely due to inhalation pneumonia caused by rumen contents running back down into lungs while ewe is down. Ewes that have green discharge from nostril/s should be treated with antibiotics under veterinary supervision.

			but some died 3 days later.	
Deaths after mulesing in lambs	One outbreak in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead soon after marking and mulesing.	Can be due to *Mycoplasma ovis* infection of the red blood cells resulting in anaemia. Deaths can also be due to drenching with abamectin in the cradle.
Entropion (turned in eyelids)	One lamb in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Discharge from eye and cloudy cornea 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.
Ergot lameness ("fescue foot")	Several lambs in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Feet become cold and sometimes the hoof and even skin just above the hoof become dry and can rot off.	Caused by a fungus in tall fescue seed heads. These lambs had been fed on seed cleanings and improved after feed source was changed.
Eye peck	1 sheep in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Crows peck eye of down sheep	Treat cause of being down. Treat eye injury with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. Prevention – crow control.
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	A number of twin-bearing ewes on good pasture in one large 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 one medium and one large flock.	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. Eradication inspections can start soon. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath, quarantine, and check feet on arrival. Footbath sheep returning from shows. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Footrot, benign (mild, "scald")	A number of lambs in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	May be the start of virulent footrot and laboratory testing best to help determine virulence. Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control scald during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
Fractured legs	A number of weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Several affected at one time suggests bone fragility problem possibly copper or vitamin D deficiency,	Broken bones in sheep heal well if the skin is unbroken, but must be splinted properly. Must have padding between splint and leg (baby nappies are good), splint must extend one joint above and one joint below the break. Antibiotic cover and pain relief must be given under veterinary supervision. Feed well balanced diet during recovery. If a number of animals suffer broken bones then suspect a deficiency or imbalance so ask your vet to investigate.

			calcium/phosphorus imbalance etc	
High post drench worm egg count	Lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Pre-drench and post-drench egg counts nearly the same.	Most likely cause is drench resistance but drench failure due to under-dosing, degraded drench, lambs spitting some of the dose out, etc should also be considered.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever")	9 out of 600 ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewes rearing twins on lush grass paddock yarded overnight for lamb marking next day.	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. Should get up within 30 minutes. If green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision. Prevent with mineral supplement if on cereal crops or lush grass dominants pastures, don't keep off feed long if yarding for any reason.
Kangaroo gait	Suspected in several ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen in 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.
Lacrimal pouch ('eye gland") infection	One sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	A pouch formed by the skin fold below the eye can become infected.	Discharge can be seen down the cheek. Cleaning with antiseptic usually clears it up.
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)	Several stray sheep found in 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.	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.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	A number of young sheep in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections. Rarely due to nasal bots.	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	One lamb from one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Could be first stage of Pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking. Only yard if you have to.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	A number of wethers from one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Wethers were not vaccinated. A small % of deaths still occur in vaccinated sheep but 10 were found at	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. Losses over 10% of adult sheep per annum were seen before the vaccine became available. See: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/johnes-disease-in-sheep/

			one time in this flock.	
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.
Redgut	Several lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Redgut seen on pure lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on postmortem.	Provide access to roughage.
Rump crusting	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Bare area with crusting of skin above tail head	May have been due to severe fly strike or maybe an injury.
Scabby Mouth	Small numbers of lambs from a number of 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
Scarring on topline	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Bare area of skin along top of spine	Can be due to sunburn in close shorn British breeds or due to photosensitisation or occasionally reaction to topline pour-on chemicals.
Toxoplasma abortions	50% of a mob of bought-in 4 yr old ewes were dry at marking in 1 large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Late abortions and lamb deaths soon after birth were both seen.	Toxo is spread by cats. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Wool break	Individual animals in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and 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.
CATTLE				
Bare areas on hips, pins	Two cows in two medium herds	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. Such yards need checking/ repair.
Body condition low	two cows 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.
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	Two bulls in two herds	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Crusting on top of muzzle	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Crusts behind the bare part of the muzzle	Probably scar tissue left after photosensitisation healed.
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.
Face injury	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Probably due to projections in yards	Repair yards. Handle cattle quietly.
Fractured leg	One calf in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Caught leg in fence	Casts and splints can work in calves.
Fractures without history of trauma	Several cattle in one large herd	North-east Tasmania	Mineral deficiency or imbalance likely.	Have tests of cattle and/or pasture carried out to detect deficiencies/imbalances and then try to correct them.
Horn broken	One steer in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken but still attached to head	Complete dehorning taking a margin of haired skin around the base. If over 6 months old should be done by vet.
Injury on side of hock	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Probably due to projections in yards	Check yards for projections.
Swollen ear	One bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Ear looks like a small pillow full of fluid. Later becomes crinkled and deformed.	Usually a blood clot between layers of ear (aural haematoma). Can be treated but usually OK if left to heal naturally.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	Several young cattle in several herds	Northern 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.
Nose injury	One steer from one herd	Northern Tasmania	Probably caused by contact with sharp object while loading.	Check yards for projections. Handle cattle quietly.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	A number of cattle from a number of herds.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of Pink Eye.	May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.
Photosensitisation	2 cows in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair.	May be caused by Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD), blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antibiotic cover if necessary.
Retained afterbirth	One heifer in one medium herd.	Southern Tasmania	Afterbirth still hanging out more than three days	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

			after giving birth.	exists selenium deficiency could be suspected and should be investigated.
Ringworm	A number of weaners in two large herds	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.
Scours, calf	Two calves in two small herds	Northern Tasmania	May not have ingested enough colostrum in first 12-24 hours after birth.	Keep feeding milk but also electrolyte (not at same time) to give 8-10 litres of fluid a day. Only use antibiotics under veterinary supervision. See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/animal-management-and-milk-quality/animal-health/calf-scours for more information
Sudden death	One cow in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	May be caused by pulpy kidney, ABLD, blackleg, plant poisoning, bloat, snake bite, Anthrax or gunshot.	Best to have post mortem carried out. Ensure Clostridial vaccination up to date, check for poisonous plants, legumes. If blood from nose/mouth/anus could be anthrax so contact vet or ring hotline on 1800 675 888. In this case gunshot was suspected.
Tail head injury	Two cows in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Possibly due to bulling or low object contact.	Could be poorly designed and maintained yards or livestock transport.
Vibrio (Campylobacter)	20% of autumn calvers empty in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Bacterial infection spread by bulls. Causes return to service and abortions. Diagnosis by testing vaginal mucous.	Vaccinate bulls, complete course 4 weeks prior to joining. Cull empty females at preg testing and any female that aborts or not rearing a calf. If exposure to unvaccinated bulls is likely vaccinate females as well. See https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/vibriosis/
Warts	Three calves in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Small cauliflower-like growth anywhere on body but often around head.	Normally only seen in young cattle. Will normally self-cure if left alone. A vaccine can be made up if warts persist or are very extensive.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
No cases reported				
PIGS				
Arthritis (infectious)	One young pig on one property	Southern Tasmania	Lame, hot swollen joint.	Could be a number of different bacteria or Erysipelas. Administer anti-biotics, ant-inflammatories under veterinary supervision or cull. If a number of young pigs affected a laboratory diagnosis may be worthwhile and if Erysipelas is confirmed, a vaccine can be used.
Cough	One sow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to lungworm or pneumonia due to Mycoplasma	Treat with antibiotics under veterinary supervision if sow is losing weight or depressed with laboured breathing. Worm her out as well.

			or bacterial infection	
Deaths	Three pigs in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be due to a number of infectious causes.	A postmortem on a fresh carcase by a veterinarian is the best way of determining what the cause it.
Lice	A number of pigs in one large outdoor herd	Southern Tasmania	Sucking lice, large (4-6 mm long) and dark, seen in neck folds, ears and all over body in heavy infestations. Only survive a few days off pig.	A number of sprays, injections and in-feed medications can be used. Follow label instructions to break life cycle as many treatments do not kill the lice eggs which take some time to hatch so a second treatment at the correct interval is required.
Mange (sarcoptic)	Widespread in one large outdoor piggery	Southern Tasmania	Itching, rubbing against objects and crusting around ears.	A number of effective treatments are available.
Roundworms	Widespread at low to moderate levels in one large outdoor herd	Southern Tasmania	Large worms can be seen at postmortem or in the dung after treatment.	Roundworms in pigs migrate through the liver causing "white spot" and through the lungs, sometimes causing pneumonia and then live in the small intestine. Eggs live for many years in the soil so are hard to eradicate, most outdoor farms have to treat regularly. Eggs can be detected by lab test. Many effective treatments available – injections and in-feed and in water.
Swollen ear	Several growers in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Ear looks like a small pillow full of fluid. Later becomes crinkled and deformed.	Usually a blood clot between layers of ear (aural haematoma). Can be treated but usually OK if left to heal naturally.
Thin sow syndrome	A small number of sows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Sows are thinner than the rest of the breeding herd	In this case bought-in gilts had been mated too young and if they had large litters lost a lot of weight while lactating and did not recover well. Segregation from other sows and preferential feeding on a high energy diet can return the sows to an acceptable condition score.
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
No cases reported				

Resources

Farm biosecurity plans
Everything you need to know about farm biosecurity, for example how to make a biosecurity plan for LPA accreditation, can be found on: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/

Animal health declarations
Provide an animal health declaration when selling sheep, cattle, goats and camelids, and ask to see declarations when purchasing or moving these animals onto your property. See: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/

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/dlm_uploads/2024/09/Bucks-for-Brains-Brochure.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/