Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – March 2025

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-May.

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

Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD): use sheep now to graze off paddocks that grow a lot of rough dog's tail weed, so that cattle can graze safely later in autumn/early winter.

Campylobacter abortion in sheep: The campylobacter vaccine course or booster should be completed before joining but can be given as rams go in and as they come back out.

Barber's pole worm: Active now, especially on irrigated pastures. Watch for anaemia, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts.

Bloat: has been seen in lambs on lucerne and clover on misty overcast days.

Blue-green algae: being seen on dams now and can cause photosensitisations and deaths.

Brown stomach worm: resistance to macrocyclic lactone (ML) drench family is common. High total worm counts being seen now.

Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear and macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail.

DrenchTest: Autumn is the best time to do a DrenchTest as all major worm species are more likely to be present. Draft off 150 lambs and do regular worm egg counts, when over 400 epg have a larval identification done to make sure enough of each major worm species are present.

Facial eczema: can be seen on irrigated ryegrass pastures, mainly in dairy cattle but sheep can be affected too.

Footrot and scald: eradication inspections should be nearly finished. Scald being seen on irrigated pastures.

Liver fluke: Eggs can be present in Fluketests now, but blood tests can detect both immature and mature fluke so 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, run-off or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.

Nematodirus: are active over the next month or so in weaner sheep. Scouring, sub-optimal growth rates, and some Nematodirus eggs in the egg count justify a drench.

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 more than 3 months since last shot and going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne.

Ryegrass staggers: Still a potential problem. Graze weaners on safer paddocks.

Biosecurity story of the month – Parvovirus in working dogs

Parvovirus infection has been reported in dogs in Northern Tasmania and has killed at least one valuable young working dog.

Parvovirus ('Parvo') is one of the 'big three' killer diseases of dogs, along with distemper (rarely seen now due to vaccination) and canine infectious hepatitis.

There are two Parvo disease syndromes, the most common is the gastro-enteritis form, and more rarely the myocarditis (inflammation of the heart) form in young puppies, which is rarely seen because most bitches are vaccinated these days.

Dogs with Parvo are depressed, don't want to eat, have a fever, vomit and have diarrhoea (which may contain mucus or blood with a very strong foul smell) and therefore dehydrate rapidly and if not treated adequately may die. The bone marrow is depressed, and the dog becomes more susceptible to other infections as well. Puppies with myocarditis can die suddenly or show signs of heart failure. The incubation period is as little as 4 days.

Deaths are more common in dogs under a year old, with most affected at 6-20 weeks of age as 'passive' immunity from their mother wears off.

This virus is incredibly tough and infectious, lasting up to 12 months in some environments, and can infect through 'indirect' contact, which means you can carry it from one dog to others miles away on your boots. Very strong disinfectants such as chlorine (found in bleach) are required to kill the virus.

This is one disease where 'hotel quarantine' will not necessarily protect your dog. Even if your dog lives on a farm and does not come in contact with other dogs, it can still get Parvo off the boots and car tires of visitors, or farm staff when they have been elsewhere and returned.

Vaccination is the best means of protecting your dog. Antibodies from the mother may stop the vaccine working in pups, and if parvovirus is actively spreading through the dog population it is best to get pups vaccinated every 2-4 weeks from 6 to 16 weeks of age. A single vaccination at 12 weeks of age is usually effective if the pup is healthy at the time of vaccination, although some veterinarians recommend the final puppy vaccination at 16 weeks of age and at least two vaccinations. Take advice from your vet.

Booster vaccination frequency should be discussed with your vet but can be up to 3-yearly.

H5N1 avian influenza update

The H5N1 avian influenza virus (which has not been found in Australia) has been detected in a sheep in the United Kingdom and has also killed a three-year-old girl in Mexico.

Ring your vet or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 88 (available 24/7) if you see any strange signs or symptoms in any domestic or wild animal or bird.

Diseases and conditions seen in March 2025

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Barber's pole worm	A number of lambs in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums.	Deaths, high worm egg counts. See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Body condition score low	A number of adult sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, and specific deficiencies (copper, selenium, B12), broken mouth, aged, and diseases eg footrot may also be involved. These were oldest age group with very worn teeth and some undershot jaws.
Bleeding after laparoscopic AI	Several ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Sometimes a blood vessel is damaged as the equipment is introduced into the abdominal cavity	There is variation in exactly where the blood vessels are and the AI operator cannot always avoid them, so a number of bleeders is normal. Apply pressure eg a clothes peg for several minutes until bleeding stops.
Bloat, intermittent in poddy lambs	One case in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs bloat after feeding and may die. Ulceration and rupture of 4th stomach seen on post mortem. Caused by Sarcina bacterial infection of 4th stomach causing excess fermentation and ulceration. Can be seen in calves as well.	Can relieve gas distension of 4th stomach with needle but needs careful placement. Antibiotics can control the Sarcina infection. Feed milk at room temperature, don't make milk up too rich, give small feeds more often, add 1:1000 formalin to milk.
Bottle jaw	One ram in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw is a soft swelling under the lower jaw. If you press your	Commonly caused by Barber's Pole Worm (Haemonchus) or liver fluke at this time of year. Can also be due to OJD, worms other than Barbers Pole worm, or malnutrition. Oedema due to photosensitisation or swelling due to an abscess can also look similar. Diagnosis by blood test, post

			thumb into it firmly for a minute, the depression will remain afterwards.	mortem (Barber's Pole worms easily seen in 4th stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver) or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench.
Broken mouth	A number of older ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, and some with incisors missing.	Cull if condition score starting to decrease.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	About 50% of lambs in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with high worm egg count, Yersinia and high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to an effective worm drench but may also need sulpha drugs. Prevention by good worm control, good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Dags	About 50% of ewes in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring after some rain and a green pick appearing. Low worm egg count.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), but this one almost certainly sudden change in diet. 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.
Epididymitis in ram	One case in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on side or top.	Can be due to trauma or infection. Ovine Brucellosis should be suspected if a number of rams have epididymitis (see vet) though Actinobacillus seminis can also cause a number of lumps. Ram may still be fertile if the other testicle is in good order.
Flystrike	Widespread but not a particularly bad year for flystrike, though one flock had some advanced cases.	NW, N and Southern Tasmania	Breech, body, shoulder, poll strike in rams, pizzle strike. Foot strike (secondary to footrot or foot abscess). Sheep with footrot struck over ribs from lying on infected foot.	Observe for wet, grey areas of wool, tail flicking, separation from mob, lying down. The AWI web site has a large number of resources and runs workshops on flystrike. See: https://www.wool.com/simplifly
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	Several ewes in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania.	These chronic/healed but culled as part of intermediate footrot eradication program.	Sheep with deformed feet usually culled if intermediate footrot is to be eradicated. 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 affecting a number of sheep and lambs in a number of flocks. One new property detected and some evidence of spread in some mobs.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Active spread on irrigation, usually chronic lesions on dry land.	Summer paring and eradication inspections should be nearly finished. Long-acting oxytetracycline injections under veterinary supervision are useful while conditions are dry, but there is a shortage currently. Cull chronic cases or move out of replacement breeding mob. 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

Grain poisoning in sheep on grain lick feeders	Several sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Off colour and porridgy diarrhoea. Slide on lick feeder became loose.	Treat: drench affected sheep with penicillin under veterinary supervision, move onto hay only diet until faeces become normal again. Prevention includes securing slides on lick feeders, can feed buffers with grain, some contain bitter compounds to reduce risk of eating too much grain at one time.
Grass tetany	Suspected in one ewe in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Twitching muscles and go down.	Hypocalcaemia can look similar. Treatment is the same – inject 1/5 pack of calcium/magnesium injection under the skin and rub in well.
Hard udder	A dozen ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Udder is very hard.	Chronic mastitis, best to cull as probably will not be able to feed a lamb.
Ill thrift	A small number of sheep in one large mob	Northern Tasmania	Could be worms, fluke, poor quality pasture, OJD (adults over 2 yrs old).	Toxic plant suspected in this case.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	A small number of ewes in a medium flock	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.
Nervous signs	1 wether in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Signs of hind leg weakness and incoordination.	This one turned out be a tumour pressing on the lower spine. Animal Health Australia (Bucks for brains) subsidies may be available for postmortems on neurological cases in sheep over 18 months and under 5 years of age.
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	3 suspected cases in lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	'Star gazing', blindness, other neurological signs, deaths	Usually associated with rich diet. Treat early with Vitamin B1 injections. Change paddocks if possible.
Photosensitisation	A number of cases in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears.	Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medics). Treat with antihistamines, antibiotics under veterinary supervision if necessary, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pink eye	Hoggets in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg yarding)	If low prevalence and on good feed and water leave alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections under veterinary supervision. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pneumonia in lambs	Several ewe lambs in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing	Mannheimer cultured in laboratory. Antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision of cases (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors, reduce dust levels in feed.
Pulpy Kidney in lambs	Sixty lambs died in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	On lush feed	Vaccinate ewes pre-lambing. Vaccinate lambs at marking and weaning. Give another booster if going onto grain or irrigated legumes or other rich feed over 3 months since last booster. May need to use 8-in-1 vaccination if losses occur later, especially if on pure lucerne or clover.
Redgut	A number of deaths in several large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Redgut occurs on irrigated lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating.	Provide access to roughage.

			Dark red intestines seen on post mortem.	
Ryegrass staggers	Cases in young sheep in two large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have high mortality.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.
Scald	A number of sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Can be caused by benign footrot but can also be due to Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID) as well. Re-check in 14 days to ensure not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to footbathing and dry conditions underfoot.
Shelly toe	A large proportion of rams in one medium flock	Southern 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 space and cause a form of toe abscess.
Snotty noses and pneumonia	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Snotty noses not always associated with pneumonia but were in this case.	Pneumonia diagnosed by vet or by postmortem. Treat cases with antibiotic under veterinary supervision. Prevent by reducing exposure to dust, dusty feed, stress.
Soft testes in ram	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Testicles both soft. Rams should have full, springy testicles.	If soft because the ram is old, broken mouth, poor feet etc then cull the ram. Ram may have been ill and could recover full fertility. Offer rams high protein and energy feed for 8 weeks prior to joining aiming for BCS 3 to 3.5 at joining.
Swollen testicles	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Both testicles enlarged	Can be caused by injury or infection. Differentiate from scrotal hernia. Treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Ram unlikely to be fertile in short and also probably long term as well.
Undershot jaw	Several ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth do not meet front of dental pad on upper jaw	Hereditary conformational fault. Causes difficulty eating and slow growth, smaller adult body size and body condition score. Cull.
Water-seeking lambs	A number of weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually due to endophyte toxins in ryegrass shoots.	This toxin causes hyperthermia rather than nervous signs, but the two can occur together, and is the reason a lot of lambs die by drowning in ryegrass staggers outbreaks. These lambs were not scouring and had no nervous signs so probably just the toxin causing hyperthermia. One infected ryegrass plant per 10 square metres can be enough to cause a problem. Paddock move advised.
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mainly moderate egg counts but some up to 39,000 (probably Barbers' pole). Black scour	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php

			worm still dominating, but some stomach hair worm, brown stomach worms and Barber's pole worm dominating on some farms.	
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania		Differentiate from worms by WORMTEST and coccidia by coccidia lab test. If negative ask lab to culture for Yersinia and Campylobacter jejuni as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals under veterinary supervision. Some stress factor is usually present (eg poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected.
CATTLE				
Copper deficiency	One herd	Northern Tasmania	Diagnosed by liver tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease, reduce growth rates, cause brittle bones that break easily, faded coat colour. Copper can be toxic in cattle though they are not as prone to poisoning as sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake; oral drenching is time-consuming.
Cystitis	One cow in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	This one was straining to urinate and had blood and pus in urine	This one responded to antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision.
Diarrhoea, watery	One 20-month-old steer in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be Pestivirus, worms or dietary/poisonous plant or toxin but could also be due to a bacterial infection such as Yersinia.	Probably Pestivirus or worms. Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay. Veterinary diagnosis appropriate if persists and losing weight.
Eye cancer	Ten cases in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in breeds with white pigmentation around eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over growth.
Facial Eczema	One herd	NW Tasmania	This one seen mainly as illness/liver damage. No peeling of white skin or bare areas.	Cows on irrigated ryegrass pastures. Cases rise slowly over spring and peak Feb/March, ease off into winter. Pithomyces spore counts around 20 -30,000 spores per gram can cause this sub-clinical syndrome if spore levels are consistent. Treat: access to shade. Prevention: Spore count pastures and keep cows off paddocks with high counts. Add zinc to ration or water – consult with vet/nutritionist.
Growth rates low	Heifers in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Gross nutrition (energy, protein levels), micronutrient	Selenium deficiency and worms thought responsible in this case.

			(selenium, copper, B12) deficiencies, worms, fluke, subclinical pneumonia all possible.	
Injection site reactions	A dozen cows in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Swelling persisting for weeks after injection of a selenium product.	May be infection or a reaction to the product. This product must be injected under the skin and may have been accidentally injected into the muscle which will cause a swelling for some weeks. Use good hygienic injection technique, keep needles clean and change frequently.
Low pregnancy rate in adult cows	50% empty in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to sub-fertile bulls, Vibrio, Trichs, pestivirus, nutrition, mating management	Vibrio and selenium deficiency diagnosed.
Lump on side of face	One heifer in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be Actino, lumpy jaw or a bacterial abscess.	This one looked like 'lumpy jaw' and a vet can investigate and treat or drain if it is an abscess.
Mastitis	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Udder or milk abnormal.	Antibiotics via teat canal or by injection. See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/en/animal-management-and-milk-quality/mastitis-and-milk-quality#.YFq2Z68zY2w
Mycoplasma arthritis	A number of dairy heifers on agistment	Northern Tasmania	Lameness, respiratory disease, swollen joints.	Treatment not usually effective. Prevention: isolate and test introduced cattle. More information: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/mycoplasma-bovis-look-after-your-herd-and-your-back-pocket/
Neonatal calf death	One premature calf in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to Neospora, vibrio, Pestivirus, congenital abnormality	Lab work not carried out on this one. There are vaccines against vibrio and Pestivirus.
Nervous signs, blindness	One steer in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	May have been due to PEM (B1 deficiency) but not confirmed.	PEM treated by vitamin B1 injections. Change paddocks if possible.
Photosensitisation	Several dairy cows in one large herd and a number of dairy heifers in another.	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, antihistamines, antibiotic cover if necessary, under veterinary supervision.
Pneumonia/snotty noses in weaners	A number of calves in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Difficulty breathing, snotty noses.	Treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. Prevention – reduce stresses and contacts with other cattle during long journeys.
Salmonella	Diagnosed or suspected in two large herds	Northern Tasmania	Can occur in calves and cows. Deaths, illness/fever, depression, diarrhoea (sometimes with blood/mucous), abortions	Treat: Vet samples to diagnose, treat with correct antibiotics (resistance common), fluid therapy etc. Prevent: there is vaccine against some types of salmonella. Reduce stress. Hygiene. May need to reduce levels of buffers in concentrate ration. Keep wild animals, rodents and birds from contaminating feedstuffs.

Swollen joints	A number of cattle in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Swollen joints.	Could be due to *Mycoplasma bovis*, or Salmonella.
Vibrio (Campylobacter)	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	Bacterial infection spread by bulls. Causes return to service and abortions.	Vaccinate bulls, complete course 4 weeks prior to joining. Cull empty females at pregnancy 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 on penis	A number of young bulls in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Cauliflower-like growths on penis.	Normally only seen in young cattle. Will normally self-cure if left alone. A vaccine can be made up from warts taken off the cattle if warts persist or are very extensive.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Worms	One mob in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	High worm count 3 months after an effective drench and move to 'clean' pastures.	Confirmed with egg count. Does were not scouring. Goats break down drench chemicals more rapidly than sheep so higher dose rates or different drench regimes may be required. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per your vet's instructions.
PIGS				
No cases reported				
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 postmortem 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/multifaceted-agriculture/facts-figures/tasmanian-agri-food-scorecards?_kx=dugXLaA5GP87nVpXBiMvfbcx1KKhlEXkNp9EA0v_Z_M.TidPmQ

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/