Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – February 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

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You are welcome to distribute this report to anyone you like. The next Tasmanian Livestock Health Report will be out in mid-April.

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.
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 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.
Flystrike: Body and breech strike common now.
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 or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.

Nematodirus: are active over the next few months 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.
Ram check: Check your ram's testes, teeth, feet and condition score. Consider some high protein supplement in the 8 weeks lead up to mating.
Ryegrass staggers: Graze weaners on safer paddocks from now on.

Biosecurity story of the month – the most common sheep diseases seen in Tasmania in 2024:

Internal parasites: black scour worm remained the dominant parasite despite dryer conditions. Significant mortalities were seen due to ML resistant brown stomach worm infestations of Merino ewes around lambing, Nematodirus was a common problem in autumn in weaners, and barber's pole worm is becoming more widespread with more persistent and damaging outbreaks. Drench resistance is common for white, clear and abamectin anthelmintics while triple actives are generally still effective.

Dags: were commonly seen, usually on a small proportion of a mob, but with higher proportions when internal parasites and lush green feed have resulted in diarrhoea.

Photosensitisation: was very common. Most cases were mild and only affected the backs of ears.

Footrot: was less prevalent in 2024 due to the drier conditions, but still had a significant impact. Most isolates tested as virulent and the M serogroup is still prevalent on one large property. An APVMA research permit and ethics approval have been granted and work should start in 2025 on trials to generate data for a minor use permit application to allow ongoing use of the M serogroup killed whole cell vaccine.

Reproduction losses: including abortion and significant neonatal losses, with Campylobacter and Toxoplasma confirmed in a number of flocks. A significant number of flocks recorded lower than normal lamb marking percentages probably due to dry conditions at mating. Neonatal lamb deaths from exposure were severe in early September when rain and strong winds prevailed for almost a fortnight. Ewes appeared to be slow to start coming into oestrus early in the year. Losses from pregnancy toxaemia appeared more prevalent due to drier conditions.

Flystrike: did not appear to be as common as in 2023 due to drier conditions, but still significant.

Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): significant losses were experienced in a number of flocks that had not vaccinated any sheep or had not vaccinated wethers and even in some wethers which had been vaccinated. A number of vaccinated 6-tooth ewes died due to OJD on one property, and it was recalled that the batch of vaccine was thick and lumpy and was hard to push through the vaccination gun, so under-dosing was suspected. The vaccine has become even more expensive, and many producers have considered stopping vaccination as memories of 10% annual adult sheep losses in pre- Gudair years have faded, but it is still cost-effective to vaccinate.

Dermatophilosis ('dermo', '**lumpy wool'**): was still common despite dryer conditions.

Vaginal prolapse: has also been a significant problem in some flocks.

Redgut/sudden death on irrigated legumes: has been a major concern for producers finishing lambs on irrigated lucerne and clover. An MLA producer demonstration site (PDS) project has been initiated to study the problem and early results confirm that most sudden deaths in lambs on irrigated legumes are due to redgut.

Ryegrass staggers: did not seem as severe through summer and autumn as in 2023 and significant deaths were not reported.

Phalaris staggers: appeared more common, maybe because producers were keen to utilise any green pick as soon as it was available during the drier periods.

Sheep body lice: are still very common.

Acidosis: was reported a number of times but droughtlot and feedlot operators appeared to generally manage this aspect well, even though a number were utilising droughtlots for the first time.

Scabby mouth: appeared to be more common, perhaps because lambs were grazing close and damaging lips on thistles and gorse more frequently. Several vaccination failures were recorded but operator error in applying the scratch could not be ruled out.

Respiratory disease: was very common with coughing and nasal discharge common in young sheep at saleyards, pleurisy and pneumonia were often diagnosed at necropsy and in abattoir feedback reports.

Low body condition score: was observed more frequently during the dry period of the year, but generally producers maintained most sheep in adequate body condition, and some cases were probably due to OJD brought on by nutritional and late pregnancy stress.

Arthritis: appears to have been more common this year.

Scrotal mange: appeared very common, and lower leg lesions, confirmed due to Chorioptes, were also seen in a significant proportion of ewes in a flock that had not used ML drenches for some years.

Diseases and conditions seen in February 2025

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abscess	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swellings on rump and scrotal neck.	Surgical draining and antibiotics usually effective, see your vet.
Barber's pole worm	A number of lambs in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums.	Worm egg counts up to 92,000. See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Body condition score low	A small number of adult sheep in two small 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.
Bent leg in ram lambs	Several affected in one medium mob,	Southern Tasmania	Rapidly growing ram lambs with high levels of concentrate supplement	Probably too much phosphorus and too little calcium in diet. Add 1-2% ground limestone to grain ration. Offer loose lick containing limestone, magnesium and salt.
Bloat in lambs on lucerne or clover	A small number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up	These went onto clover one evening on a dewy night. Diagnosis by postmortem - very congested carcase around head and neck, pale back half. Frothy bloat can be prevented by adding bloat oil to troughs. Give PK booster and offer roughage (eg hay).
Blue-green algae	One large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Can cause sudden deaths, nervous symptoms early, photosensitisation later	Dam with blue-green scum on surface or wind-blown to one shore. This dam observed early and sheep withheld.
Castration, late, by rubber rings	Several cases in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	Rubber rings used to castrate cull ram lambs.	Calf rings can be used on older ram lambs up to 6 months of age. Pain relief mandatory after 6 months of age.
Campylobacter abortion	Response to vaccination in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Increased marking % in ewe lambs	A vaccine is available. Ideally the course should be completed before joining. Still effective if ewes are vaccinated as rams go in and/or come out.
Campylobacter enteritis	One mob of weaners.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with foul smell. Diagnosed by laboratory test on faeces.	A veterinarian may prescribe an antibiotic. Eliminate worms, reduce stress, provide plenty of clean water and good feed.
Cough	A high proportion of ram lambs in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Rams cough, little response to lungworm drench	If little response to lungworm drench then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as Mannheimer or Mycoplasma. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and postmortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cud stain	One lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	In older sheep can be due to molar teeth missing and grass impacting in mouth. Sometimes due to a paralysed cheek (probably due to vaccination injuring facial nerve) and grass impacting between cheek and molars. Others have

				tongue injury (usually grass seeds), young sheep may be losing temporary pre-molars, many have no obvious cause.
Dags	A small number of lambs in two small flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), nutritional factors. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to check for coccidia, culture for Yersinia and Salmonella if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at www.wool.com/flystrikelatest.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Several Merino lambs in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin . See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf
Falling ewe	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewe falls down when it tries to run or when mob turns suddenly but quickly regains feet.	Probably a neck or spine injury, possibly a vaccination abscess pressing on spinal cord. Keep in small group close to facilities and monitor. Anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision may assist.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep from several properties	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc.
Flystrike	Widespread but not a particularly bad year for flystrike.	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.	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. 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

Footrot (intermediate)	One medium flock. Bought-in rams.	Southern Tasmania	No under - running of hoof horn in this case in composite ewes. Hard to eradicate but causes less production loss than virulent footrot.	Footbathing, culling chronic cases. Use of vaccine and antibiotics may or may not be economical. Eradication by meticulous foot preparation, rigorous foot inspections, culling all sheep with mis-shaped or cracked hooves or infection and footbathing in 20% zinc sulphate/1-2% 'lauryl" for at least 15 minutes repeated every day for 5 treatments can work in summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival. 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
Hoof cracks	One ram from one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Crack runs from coronary band to bottom of hoof wall	Could be due to damage to coronary band as hoof grows from coronary band. Dietary deficiency and genetic factors possible. Paring or grinding out the crack can allow normal hood conformation to re-establish.
Hooves overgrown	A number of sheep in a number of large medium and small flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hooves long and toes may curl up ("slipper feet") or wall of hoof can roll under (differentiate from footrot)	Pare hooves back into shape. Hooves neglected for a long time may grow a lot of excess toe horn and require careful paring back to avoid bleeding.
Horn broken	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken and hanging down while handling in yards.	Complete removal. Pian relief if possible. Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover.
Incoordination in young sheep	A small number of ewe weaners and hoggets	Northern Tasmania	From about 9 to 18 months, become uncoordinated and eventually unable to rise and destroyed.	Probably an abscess that forms after vaccination and migrates down into spinal cord in neck region. Most commonly due to vaccinating too close to the topline and into muscle rather than under skin. Extra care must be taken with any oily vaccine eg Gudair. Vaccinate **under the skin** high on the **side** of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle or on top of the neck/back of head. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf
Infertile ram	One ram in one small flock	NW Tasmania	Single sire mated, no lambs born.	Infertility may be temporary especially if overheated eg by illness or shedding during summer. May also be permanent due to a number of possible causes. Semen test and vet examination may identify cause.
Injury, chronic, above scrotum	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Large hard mass above back of scrotum. Testes soft.	Probably horned by another ram. A lot of scar tissue and swelling of scrotum, preventing cooling of lower scrotum (rams scrotum normally several degrees cooler than body, necessary for sperm development). Surgery possible but outcome unpredictable, this one culled.
Injury, back of front leg	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Wound on back of cannon, probably shearing injury that is healing slowly due to location	Shearers take care. Suture shearing cuts where possible. Use pain relief if possible. Withold from trucking, sale, till healed.
Injury, shoulder, ram	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lameness with soft swelling over shoulder muscles	Probably fighting injury. Check feet thoroughly. Separate from group and keep with small group of wethers etc. Anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision.

Interdigital fibroma	Several ewes in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lump of skin between the toes, may be red and raw and associated with scald/ Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID), or healed up.	Vet can cut it out and bandage foot till it heals, or treat the scald/OID by footbathing and/or anti-bacterial sprays and get skin over the fibroma to heal so it is less painful. Cull if trying to eradicate footrot.
Intersex	One lamb in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Deformed external genitals	Some will survive but usually urinate down legs and are prone to flystrike. Cannot be treated. Cull.
Lameness	A small number of sheep in a number of large medium and small flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on one leg.	Can be due to footrot, foot abscess, toe abscess, arthritis, injury and several other conditions. Examine foot and leg thoroughly, treat appropriately.
Lethargy and deaths in lambs	A small number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs seen lethargic one day and dead the next. Barbers pole worm or pneumonia common causes.	Check for pale inside lining of eyelids (Barbers pole worm check), if still pink and lamb shows respiratory distress (panting etc) could be pneumonia. If pale, drench for BPW, if respiratory distress, try antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. If deaths continue, seek veterinary involvement.
Lice (body lice)	A number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	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.
Low lamb marking %	40% less lambs in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Normally expect about 90% lambs marked in singles and 140% plus for twins in Merino ewes	Campylobacter and Toxo ruled out. Checking for mouldy grain feeding. Review feeding levels, shelter at lambing, and calcium supplementation of ewes in third trimester.
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.
Nose cancer in aged ewe	One case	Southern Tasmania	Crusty growth or erosion on nose	Surgery may be possible. Euthanasia is usual solution.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	A number of lambs from a number of large	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Could be first stage of Pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking, if possible, only yard if you have to.

	medium and small flocks.			
Paralysed hind legs	One ewe lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely a spinal abscess, but fractured spine and broken pelvis can look similar.	Euthanase. Post mortem can localise abscess or fracture. Fractures can be due to accident/trauma, copper or Vitamin D deficiency. Test and correct.
Pastern itch	Small number of sheep in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	Probably Chorioptic mange mites, possibly foot lice	Check feet for mite damage or lice and treat accordingly.
Pregnancy loss, late/prem lambs	30% lambs lost	Northern Tasmania	Late abortions and prem lambs seen, especially in twin mobs in late pregnancy	Ewes vaccinated against Campylobacter. Toxoplasmosis a possibility.
Phalaris toxicity (acute) suspected	Three sheep in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Sudden deaths and convulsions after moving onto Phalaris paddock.	Get the mob off the Phalaris paddock. Prevent by avoiding grazing Phalaris pastures when very short and in overcast weather.
Photosensitisation	A number of mild cases in a number of flocks.	NW, Northern and 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.
Photosensitisation in lambs on canola	A number of cases in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears, backs of bare shorn lambs.	Usually occurs when the canola is not quite mature enough. Take lambs off canola for 2 weeks if possible. Treat with antihistamines, antibiotics, under veterinary supervision, if necessary, offer deep shade, 'pink zinc' bare areas.
Pink eye	Lambs in one large flock, rams in another large flock.	Northern and Southern 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 cases in a ram breeding operation	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.
Poll injuries on rams	Several rams in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Fighting injuries	Normal behaviours especially in lead-up to joining. Use flystrike prevention.
Post-marking deaths in lambs	Several lambs died within a few days of lamb marking	Southern Tasmania	Possibly *Mycoplasma ovis* anaemia or abamectin toxicity	Chack for anaemia (pale inside lining of eyelids), don't use a drench containing abamectin on lambs at marking.
Scarring on topline	One ewe in one medium 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 that have heated up in sun before application.

Scrotal injury	Three rams in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Injuries to skin of scrotum	Shearing cuts. Shearers should be encouraged to take great care when shearing scrotums.
Shelly toe	A large proportion of sheep 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.
Skin nodules	One aged White Suffolk ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Pink nodules 20-30 mm in diameter protruding up to 20 mm from skin	Could be sebaceous cysts. Ram in good condition and last season so no further diagnosis or treatment.
Small testicle on one side	One ram lamb in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	One testicle smaller than normal	Ram likely to be fertile but ram lambs by that ram may be hard to castrate as condition may be heritable and the small testicle may be carried high.
Spinal abscess	One 18-month-old ewe in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Seen with incoordination and later found down	Diagnosed at postmortem. This one in spine very high in neck. Possibly a vaccination abscess. Most commonly due to vaccinating too close to the topline and into muscle rather than under skin. Extra care must be taken with Gudair and other oily vaccines. Vaccinate **under the skin** high on the **side** of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle or on top of the neck/back of head. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf
Toe abscess (chronic)	A number of ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Lame but no swelling, heat or under-running.	Carefully pare back the toe and drain the abscess. Usually, no further treatment needed apart from antiseptic spray, but antibiotics and anti-inflammatories can be administered under veterinary supervision.
Vaccination lesion	One ewe in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	On side of jaw.	Vaccination on the face is not recommended as vaccination abscesses can interfere with suckling, grazing and nerve damage can also result. Extra care must be taken with oily vaccines such as Gudair as large lumps often result. Vaccinate **under the skin** high on the **side** of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mainly moderate egg counts. Black scour worm still dominating, but some stomach hair worm, brown stomach worms and Barber's pole worm dominating on some farms.	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				

Abortion	One cow in one herd	NW Tasmania	Possible causes neospora, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, vibrio (Campylobacter), Pestivirus, congenital/hereditary factors, toxins, mouldy hay, Salmonella Dublin. The cause of many abortions not determined despite lab investigation.	Send aborted calf and blood sample from cow to lab for diagnosis. Vaccines against Vibrio and Pestivirus can be used. Pestivirus: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/ Vibrio: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/110043/vibriosis-of-cattle.pdf
Blind quarter	One dairy cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	One quarter shrunken and not producing milk.	Usually caused by injury or severe mastitis and subsequent scar tissue. Some heifers are born with blind quarter/s
Body condition score low	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	BCS less than 2 (1 to 5 scale)	Veterinary investigation, check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status.
Bottle jaw	One heifer in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Soft swelling under jaw	May be caused by any condition that lowers blood protein. This one probably due to liver fluke, possibly bovine Barber's pole worm.
Botulism (suspected)	A number of cows in 2 large dairy herds	North-West Tasmania	Cows down, paralysed, tongues hanging out.	Rotting vegetation in water at edge of dam was the suspected to be the cause. Prevented by ensuring carcases are cleaned up especially in sileage paddocks, exclude cattle from dams. Preventative vaccination is available, but botulism is rare in Tasmania.
Cryptorchids	Several bull calves in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	One or both testicles are not in scrotum.	If the testicle is high above the scrotum a vet may be able to remove it surgically. The other testicle is also removed as cryptorchidism may be hereditary.
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, some 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.
Downer cow	One cow in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Beef cow with large swelling of hind leg.	Late pregnancy. Possible leg fracture. Euthanasia was performed and calf salvaged.
Hair loss back of tail head	Several steers in several herds	Northern Tasmania	Maybe due to rubbing back of tail head against the walls of the transport vehicle.	Don't pack cattle into transport vehicles too tight.
Hair loss behind pin bones	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	May have been due to riding by other cows when on heat	Local skin treatments.
Inter-digital fibroma	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Crusty hairless mass protruded from top/front of interdigital cleft	Caused by long-term wet conditions underfoot. More common in bulls. A vet can surgically remove the mass.

Stifle injury	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Mating injury	Rest and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.
Lead Poisoning	A number of cattle in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Nervous signs initially confused with grass tetany.	Cattle licked lead paint off an old bus body in the paddock. See your vet for treatment.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery, both eyes)	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.
Ocular (eye) discharge, purulent, one eye	One cow from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Most likely barley grass seed.	Control barley grass with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping. Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible.
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.
Swollen head, lame.	One poddy calf in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf was delivered by emergency caesarean a week earlier.	Responded to antibiotic injections so probably an infection that had spread through the body. Orphan calves should receive 2 litres of colostrum in the first day of life.
Vulva injury	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania.	Hard to guess how this occurred	Superficial injury, spray with antiseptic spray.
Warts	One steer in two small herds	Northern Tasmania	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				
Lice	One 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.
Piglet death predation	One piglet in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Possibly by sea eagle	Keep piglets in covered areas if eagles are present.
Sunburn	One white sow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Reddened, scaley skin	Provide ample shade for white outdoor pigs. Better to keep black pigs in outdoor systems.
Tail-biting	Several pigs in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Behavioural vice.	Ensure pigs are not crowded or stressed in any way, optimise feeding regime and diet. Often only one or two pigs doing most of the biting, identify these and remove from group. Tails can be docked within 7 days of birth if all else fails.
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.
Thin grower	A small number of growers in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Some growers are thinner than the rest of the group	A variety of conditions such as worms and pneumonia, other infections can reduce growth rates in growers. Worm out, give antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Consult your vet if incidence increases.
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
Deaths during handling	Several deer	Southern Tasmania	Traumatic injuries sustained during handling event.	Prevention: try to handle deer at night if possible. Good facility design and handle as calmly as possible.

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/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/