Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – May 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-July.

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

Barber's pole worm: Hanging on, especially on irrigated pastures, due to the mild weather. Watch for anaemia, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are being seen and will probably get higher as winter progresses. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended. Heavily pregnant and lactating ewes also susceptible.
Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear and macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail.
Footrot and scald: Active now on some properties. Scald being seen on irrigated pastures.
Foot abscess: will become more likely when heavy sheep are walking around in wet pasture all day. Early treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision can heal some cases.
Grass tetany: cows from 1 week before, to 4 weeks after calving that are on short green grass especially if fertilised with potash and/or nitrogen. Cows that are overweight and taken off feed for handling are particularly at risk. Prevent by feeding Causmag on hay.
Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes: don't hold heavily pregnant ewes off feed for more than 12 hours. Also beware of ewes on cereal crops/lush feed with no dry roughage – feed some hay and/or a calcium/magnesium/salt dry lick. Have calcium injection on hand.
Pregnancy toxaemia: feed late pregnant ewes well, especially twin-bearing ewes.
Pneumonia: has been diagnosed in ewe lambs and rams. Slow growth rates or weight loss, some coughing when yarded, some nasal discharge but not usually that obvious, some deaths.
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.
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.
Toe abscess: can be a problem if sheep's feet are continually wet and not trimmed recently.
Weaned lamb scours: If lambs are scouring and worm egg counts are zero or very low then coccidia, Yersinia or Campylobacter gut infection could be involved; consult with your vet on best options for diagnosis and treatment.

Biosecurity story of the month – fallow deer

I bang on a lot about quarantining any live animals that you introduce to your flock or herd. I talk about holding them in isolation from other resident livestock for at least 2 weeks of "hotel quarantine" and during that time using techniques such as a quarantine drench, footbathing, inspections for lice/footrot, lice treatments and even blood testing (*Mycoplasma bovis* in cattle) to reduce the risks of bringing a costly disease into your flock or herd. I think this is more critical than asking visitors to clean and disinfect their footware.

But what about deer? They don't respect boundary fences and freely move over large areas depending on where the best feed is. Could they be undoing all your hard work in the quarantine paddock?

Recent observations in Tasmania and the scientific literature show that deer can be actively infected with:

1. **Liver fluke**: over 50 % of wild deer in Central Tasmania show evidence of liver fluke damage and fluke eggs have been found in their manure. Wallabies in the same area had no signs of fluke, so it appears fallow deer are more likely to spread liver fluke back to sheep and cattle.
2. **Pinkeye**: several young wild deer in Tasmania have been observed with typical signs of pinkeye and some types of sheep pinkeye have been shown to spread from wild deer species back to domesticated sheep and goat flocks in overseas studies.
3. **Johne's disease (JD):** scientific literature from Spain shows that wild fallow deer can be infected with the cattle strain of JD. A survey of shot deer in Tasmania when JD was common in sheep showed that the risk of wild fallow deer being infected with JD is low.
4. **Lungworm:** Cattle lungworm have been seen in young fallow deer in Tasmania.

There is little evidence that wild fallow deer are commonly infected with footrot caused by *Dichelobacter nodosus* (though deer may get foot abscess, often called 'footrot' in some internet articles) and despite looking for years, I have not seen a case. But deer could spread footrot on contaminated hooves, just we can spread it through contaminated footware, and in some cases where footrot has appeared in flocks that had been free for many years, this seemed the most likely explanation.

Fallow deer do not usually carry the same roundworms as sheep or cattle.

A survey on the mainland showed that fallow deer are unlikely to be infected with or spread Pestivirus to cattle.

So, fallow deer may represent a biosecurity risk in some instances.

ESIs are important – fill in the NVD accurately!

Recording the date when livestock were treated with veterinary chemicals, or consumed feed or pasture that was still within a Withholding Period (WHP), is very important. If you are about to sell and realise that the livestock are still within the WHP or Export Slaughter Interval (ESI), talk to the purchaser, processor or your agent before you complete the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) and send them on their way.

Edible products from livestock still within a WHP or ESI may contain traces of the chemical, and detection at an export destination can disrupt our export markets, costing the exporter many thousands of dollars, creates more costs for additional testing and subsequently lower prices for livestock at the farm gate.

The Australian National Residue Survey tests random samples taken from carcases in the abattoir. Detection of chemicals results in an on-farm investigation by regulatory officers.

Full traceability is just as important, and recording all the PICs on visual NLIS sheep tags in the consignment is still a requirement.

Diseases and conditions seen in May 2025

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abdominal hernia	One ewe in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Extra bulge in abdominal wall usually just in front of the hind leg.	Usually older ewes that have had triplets. Surgery impractical. Cull.
Barber's pole worm	Suspected and confirmed in a number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania including Bruny Island.	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	Small numbers of sheep in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, and specific deficiencies (copper, selenium, B12), broken mouth, aged, and diseases eg footrot may also be involved.
Busted udder	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Udder hangs down lower than normal. Suspensory ligaments usually damaged.	Cull. Pet ewes can be pensioned off and not used for breeding.
Cud stain	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	Tooth problems, especially molar eruption in young sheep or loosening in older sheep, tongue damage, problems with the pharynx (throat) can all cause this.
Dags	A number of lambs in a number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring. Most due to green pick after recent rain	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), but these mostly 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.

Deaths of ewe lambs	A number of ewe lambs on one medium property	Southern Tasmania	Most likely due to worms, with Barber's pole worm diagnosed soon after.	Best to have postmortems done to determine cause so that appropriate treatment and preventative measures can be used.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Small number of young Merino sheep in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline under veterinary supervision 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
Ear cancer	Two aged sheep in two small flocks	Southern Tasmania	Crusty swelling or ulceration starting anywhere on bare parts of the ear.	A veterinarian can remove the cancer if caught early enough. Check there is no swelling of the gland (lymph node) that drains that area as cancer can spread to the gland.
Ear tag infection	Two sheep in two large flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where the tag goes through the ear	Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Entropion (turned in eyelids)	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Discharge from eye usually detected at marking. Eyelid/s turned inwards and eyelashes rub on cornea.	Some cases will be corrected by simply turning eyelids out the right way. Can inject ½ ml of antibiotic just under skin of eyelid/s to turn eyelashes outwards, Surgery also possible.
Epididymitis	A small number of rams in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on inner 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 lumps. Ram may still be fertile if the other testicle is in good order.
Flystrike	A small number of cases in several flocks due to mild conditions extending longer than normal	NW, Northern 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)	One ram in one large flock.	Northern 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 and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts poultice on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Footrot, virulent	Active in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Active spread on irrigation, and now on dry land in some areas	Summer paring and eradication inspections should be finished. Long-acting oxytetracycline injections under veterinary supervision are useful while conditions are dry so unlikely to work now. Cull chronic cases or move out of replacement breeding mob. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section

			that have had some rain.	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
Growth rates low in ewe lambs	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Ewe lambs growing slowly with low worm egg counts and good feeding regime.	Possible causes can be worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), liver damage/photosensitisation, recent scabby mouth, Mycoplasma ovis, chronic infections such as pneumonia, pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Feed On Offer. This one probably pneumonia.
Hoof crack	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Crack often runs from coronary band to bottom of hoof wall but can be part way.	Could be due to damage to coronary band as the hoof grows down from there. Dietary deficiency and genetic factors possible.
Hooves overgrown	A small number of ewes in one small and one large flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Horn broken	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken and hanging down while handling in yards.	Complete removal. Pain relief under vet supervision if possible. Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover.
Lacrimal pouch ('eye gland") infection	One ram in one small flock	Southern 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.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	A small number of lambs and ewes in a large 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 laceration	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Probably dog bite but could be collision with sharp object in yards	Antiseptic spray if not too deep. Muzzle dogs, remove sharp projections in yards.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	A small number of lambs and adult sheep from a number of flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Could be first stage of Pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking if possible, only yard if you have to.
Ocular (eye) discharge, purulent, one eye	One sheep from one medium flock	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.
Photosensitisation	Two sheep in two small flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears. These were old lesions.	If acute, 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 anti-histamines and antibiotics if necessary under veterinary supervision, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.

Pinkeye	A large number of sheep and lambs in a number of flocks	NW, Northen 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.
Poll injuries on rams	A number of rams in two medium flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Fighting injuries	Normal behaviours especially in lead-up to joining. Use flystrike prevention. Keep smaller/younger rams separate if possible.
Ryegrass staggers	A number of lambs in one large flock	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.
Scarring on topline	Several sheep in several flocks	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.
Scour in lambs 20 days after combination drench	10% of lambs in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to worms, coccidia, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Worms could be cause if drench failed or rapid pickup of worm larvae. WORMTEST and ask for coccidia/Yersinia etc cultures if worm egg counts are low. Check for sudden diet change to lush feed, plants such as capeweed. May need veterinary involvement if growth rates are low.
Scrotal mange	Two rams in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually seen in Merino rams but can affect other breeds. Unlikely to affect fertility unless more than 10 square centimetres of thickened skin/scabs on scrotum. Pasterns affected as well in severe cases.	The Chorioptes bovis mite lives on cattle and other species and survives for a number of days off the host so is hard to eradicate. Individually effected rams can be treated – see your vet.
Shearing cuts	A number of sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Wrinkly merinos more susceptible	Good board hygiene to prevent infection. Prior vaccination with 5 in 1 vaccine. Can use pain relief products with veterinary advice. Serious cuts should be sutured, apply pressure to stop haemorrhage. If "hamstrung" rarely regain full function in that leg, valuable sheep can be operated on, otherwise best to euthanase.
Sole bruise	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Reddened area on sole of hoof. May or may not be lame.	Usually from standing on a sharply protruding object. May develop into a sub-solar abscess. Cut out the damaged sole with a horse hoof knife. Rest.

Sunburnt mulesed tails	A number of sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Reddened skin of tail, seeks shade during day.	Could also be photosensitisation from eating plants such as medics or storksbill or due to liver damage. Check gums for jaundice. Good nursing and provide good shade or protective skin cream.
Testicular abscess	Two young rams in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Swollen testicle, more on one side.	Vet may drain abscess if free pus inside, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Ram may still be fertile later if other testicle unaffected.
Teste smaller on one side	One ram lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to late migration of teste into scrotum.	Can reflect tendency to cryptorchid (testicle/s retained inside body) and best not used for breeding.
Testicles both small, soft	Several rams in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	May be due to recent illness or may be hereditary.	Treat any disease conditions but if not recovered in several months may be hereditary, best to cull.
Undershot jaw	A small number of sheep in one medium and two small flocks	Northern 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 lower body condition score. Cull.
Wasting in small numbers of adult ewes	A number of adult ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Could be OJD, worn teeth, worms, fluke, cancer, liver or kidney damage, pneumonia.	A postmortem of several typical cases may identify a common cause. Gudair vaccine claims to reduce OJD losses by 90% so an odd OJD case in fully vaccinated flocks is not uncommon.
Wool break	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mainly moderate egg counts, but some high in association with barber's pole worm. One significant count 30 days after using long acting moxidectin injection.	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				
Body condition score low	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	BCS less than 2 (1 to 5 scale)	Veterinary investigation, check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status.
Chorioptic mange	One bull in one large herd, one steer in one medium herd.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. Rough scaley skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	More common as winter progresses. 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
Dags	A number of young cattle	NW, Northern and	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worm control, dietary control, viral diseases can all be involved.

	in a number of herds	Southern Tasmania		
Downer cow during transport	One cow in one small beef herd	Northern Tasmania	Possibly transport tetany, ryegrass staggers, spinal or hind leg injury.	Inject 2 bags of calcium/magnesium solution under skin. May need to euthanase if can't get back on feet and proper care not available.
Eye cancer in Hereford cow.	One case in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Growth on third eyelid in this case. 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. Third eyelid cancers caught early can be completely removed under local anaesthetic as a minor operation.
Foot abscess	1 bull and 16 other cattle in a medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Swollen foot, may discharge, very lame. Unusual due to high incidence and not wet muddy conditions.	May respond to antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision if treated early in course of disease, and moved to dry area. Sometimes need surgical drainage and curette (vet job). There are more virulent strains of the bacteria that are associated with foot abscess in cattle. Additional zinc in the diet has helped some herds.
Hair loss, circular around both eyes in an Angus cow	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	May be B12 deficiency, the start of chorioptic mange or injury.	Try B12 first. Skin scrapings may be worth taking if seen as a problem worth investigating. Ringworm should not occur in this age group but a test may be worthwhile.
Hair loss over one hip	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	May have been due to riding by other cows when on heat or collision with projection, probably in yards when loading.	Local antiseptic skin treatments. Prevent by removing any projections in yards.
Lameness after transport	A number of steers transported by sea and land.	Northern Tasmania	Necropsies indicated blackleg	Muscle injuries can stimulate blackleg organisms to grow. Give anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, booster vaccinate with 5-in-1.
Lump on eyelid	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be Actino or another bacterial abscess, a blood clot, a cancer, blocked hair follicle gland or scar tissue.	Vet can investigate and drain if it is an abscess, remove if it appears cancerous.
Milk fever	Several cows in one large dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Usually mature cows, more in Channel Island breeds	Treat with calcium injection under skin. Prevent with anionic transition diet in late pregnancy.

Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	Two cows from two medium herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of Pinkeye.	May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pinkeye is not developing.
Pestivirus	Several runt calves in one beef herd.	Northern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age	Herd status can be assessed by blood tests or milk tests. PI animals can be detected by blood or skin sample tests. Control programs based on vaccination or exposure to PI before mating. For more information see: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and- https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration_Fillable_2022.pdf
Pimples around one eye	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	May be a skin infection or mites.	May just self-heal with time. If worth acting on, try injectable ML drench.
Retained afterbirth	One cow in one medium herd.	Southern Tasmania	Afterbirth still hanging out more than three days after giving birth	If afterbirth cannot be easily removed manually, antibiotic treatment should be started under veterinary supervision and a weight such as a plastic bottle of water tied to the afterbirth to help it come out over the next few days.
Ringworm	Several young cattle in two small herds	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Scaley circular areas of hair loss usually around head and neck.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can spread to man so precautions must be taken.
Ryegrass staggers	Wide-spread on King Island	NW Tasmania	Usually more severe in young cattle - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have mortalities.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention. Feed with additives to absorb the ryegrass toxin in the rumen may be worth a try.
Shoulder injury	One bull from one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Shoulder joint swollen, lame.	This one was long-standing and improving so additional rest advised.
Vaccination lesions	One cow in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Caused by vaccination.	Some individuals react more to vaccines, especially oily vaccine such as the pinkeye vaccine or to vibrio vaccine. Make sure equipment has been sterilised and that needles are clean and sharp. Don't vaccinate if skin is wet or in very dusty conditions.
Wild weaners	One mob of weaners introduced to one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Still wild despite feeding in small paddock for a number of weeks.	Pen feeding for 2 weeks usually settles most weaners. Suggest adding magnesium to water troughs, maybe vitamin B1 if that doesn't work.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				

No cases reported				
GOATS				
Dog attack	One wether in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Owner's aged dog attacked goat in secure yard	A veterinarian attended and sutured wounds, gave antibiotics and anti-inflammatories but goat did not stand again and died. Often there is a lot more tissue damage than indicated by skin injuries.
PIGS				
Scouring (grey) in piglets	One litter affected	Southern Tasmania	Usually an E. coli or rotavirus	Farrow sows separately and ensure piglets get a good drink of colostrum within 6 hours of birth. Scour treatment: antibiotics under veterinary supervision, rehydration and good nursing.
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.
POULTRY				
No reports				
DEER				
Liver fluke	60% of fallow deer	Central Highlands	Live fluke detected in necropsies of culled fallow deer	Fallow deer represent a major source of fluke egg contamination in some areas. Fallow deer numbers can be controlled and/or sheep and cattle monitored and treated.
Liver damage from steroidal sapogens	20% of fallow deer	Central highlands	Detected in necropsies of culled fallow deer	No plant species known to contain steroidal sapogens present. Steroidal sapogens are associated with photosensitisation and liver damage in sheep in Australia.
Metritis (infection of uterus)	25% of breeding age does	Central Highlands	Detected in necropsies of culled fallow deer	A Strep bacteria associated with infections in man isolated.
Pinkeye	11% of young deer	Central Highlands	Detected in necropsies of culled fallow deer	Typical damage to both eyes but in healing stage so no organisms cultured. *Mycoplasma conjuntivae*, a type of bacteria associated with pinkeye in sheep and goats is known to spread from deer species back into domestic sheep and goats overseas.

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/