Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – July 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-September.

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

Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxoplasmosis abortion in sheep: late abortions/stillbirths can be seen from now on. Talk to your vet about having up to 5 aborted lambs (with afterbirth if possible) tested at the laboratory (package deal). Blood tests on dry ewes at marking can also detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are being seen. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended. Heavily pregnant and lactating ewes also susceptible to worms and may need monitoring.
Body lice: in sheep are showing up now. Good time to inspect.
Chorioptic mange in cattle: is starting around the back end now and will worsen over winter.
Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear and macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail.
Footrot and scald: Likely to become more active as weather warms up.
Foot abscess: common 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.
Goitre: may be a problem in wetter areas or if the ewes were fed brassicas in late pregnancy. Lambs do not always have a large swelling in the neck. Prevent by drenching with 300 mg of potassium iodide in water per ewe pre-lambing.
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 1:1:1 calcium/magnesium/salt dry lick. Have calcium injection on hand.
Phalaris toxicity, acute: when hungry sheep enter a paddock with short, frosted Phalaris. Test paddock first for a week with a small mob of low-value sheep.
Phalaris staggers: Sheep (and even cattle) on short Phalaris pastures. Cobalt is protective.
Pregnancy toxaemia: feed late pregnant ewes well, especially twin-bearing ewes.

Pneumonia: has been diagnosed in ewe lambs and rams, and weaner cattle. Slow growth rates or weight loss, some coughing when yarded, some nasal discharge but not usually that obvious, some deaths.
Listeria: nervous signs and deaths in sheep and cattle on silage, brassica bulbs or pasture.
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.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): will show up from now on in 6-tooth and older ewes and wethers under stress.
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 – Beef imports from the USA

Australian animal health authorities have had strict controls in place for many years to reduce the risks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (also known as 'Mad Cow Disease') entering and establishing in Australia. If this disease was diagnosed here, it would stop us exporting our beef to most other countries, and as we export about 70% of the beef we produce, this could depress prices dramatically.

Part of the strategy is to have import conditions in place that stop cattle products entering our country from other countries where Mad Cow Disease has been diagnosed in recent years. The USA did have a small number of cases diagnosed some time ago, and there was a total ban on cattle product imports into Australia for nearly twenty years. However, this was relaxed about 5 years ago, and beef was allowed to enter if it could be reliably tracked back through the life of the animal and was proved not to originate from Canada, where Mad Cow Disease had occurred more recently, or Mexico.

The USA does not have the equivalent of our National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), and it was very difficult for USA processors to prove this, so virtually no beef entered from the USA.

An Import Risk Analysis has been completed by Australia and has shown that if only fresh chilled and frozen beef is imported, the risk is low. This is because the "prion" (a bit like a virus) that causes Mad Cow Disease, is mainly found in certain tissues such as the brain, and if such organs are excluded from imports, the risk is very low.

The other factor is that we have the Ruminant Feed Ban. This means that cattle must not be fed any material that could contain prions. Mad Cow Disease spread through the United Kingdom because it was legal at the time to feed meat meal back to cattle. The prion can survive meat rendering, and this practice resulted in many cattle deaths and some human deaths as well.

Make sure that every bag of processed feed, or the consignment note of bulk processed feed, you feed to any ruminants including cattle, has a statement that the feed does not contain restricted

animal material (RAM). This means that even in the unlikely chance that some waste from imported USA beef did get into meat meal, it would not be fed to any Australian cattle.

The requirement to use NLIS tags, NVDs and to observe the RAM restrictions may seem inconvenient at times but are essential if we are to maintain our export markets.

Diseases and conditions seen in July 2025

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abortion	0.5% of ewes in a large number of flocks	Statewide	Pregnancy scanner reports widespread 0.5% incidence of dead foetuses at scanning	You can identify and draft ewes with dead foetuses at scanning and take bloods for Toxo and Campylobacter blood testing 2 or more weeks later (to give time for antibodies to develop). Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.
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.
Blood poisoning post lambing	Several ewes in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	Ewe dies rapidly, carcase blows up with swelling and dark discolouration around vagina	Usually acute bacterial infection, often with Clostridial bacteria. Vaccinate ewes pre-lambing with 5-in-1 and give antibiotics under veterinary supervision if ewe has difficult lambing.
Bracken fern gut tumours	One aged ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Several tumours in the small intestine	Thought to be due to chronic exposure to bracken fern. Prevention by removing bracken if possible, or providing sufficient nutrition so sheep are not forced to eat bracken.
Broken mouth	A small number of aged rams in two large flocks	NW and Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing, loose, food impaction.	Cull if condition score starting to drop.
Calcium deficiency	Ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen as ravenous consumption of limestone/Causmag/salt loose lick when offered.	Older ewes, especially twin-bearing, are very susceptible to milk fever - treat with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1), 1/5 of a pack under the skin. Prevent with 1:1:1 limestone/Causmag/salt loose lick especially older twin-bearing ewes, and if on grass dominant pasture, short rotation ryegrass, cereal crops. Don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching etc.

Campylobacter enteritis	One mob of weaners diagnosed by laboratory test on faeces.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with foul smell.	Your vet may prescribe an antibiotic or sulpha drug. Reduce stress, provide plenty of clean water and good feed, fresh paddock, lower stocking rate.
Copper deficiency	A number of lambs in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may cause illthrift, brittle bones, poor lambs survival, 'swayback', reduced immunity to worms and other disease in young sheep. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used, but only one at a time. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Cough, hacking, persistent	Several lambs in two large flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Lambs cough, no other signs of respiratory tract disease	If little response to lungworm drench, then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as Mycoplasma, Manheimia or Pasteurella. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Crawling lambs	A number of lambs in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs walking around on knees	Can be due to scald, contracted tendons (manganese deficiency, wild parsnip ingestion by ewe during pregnancy), or other painful front leg or neck conditions. Treatment and prevention based on diagnosis
Cryptorchid	A number of 'stags' in 2 large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Only one testicle in scrotum, the other up in the body. Occasionally none in scrotum.	Usually inherited but can also be caused by hormone-like compounds in feed ewes consumed during pregnancy. Cull affected animal and sire if in a stud situation and only progeny from one ram affected. Usually still fertile but cryptorchid lambs hard to mark properly resulting in stags.
Cud stain	One sheep in one large 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 relatively small number of lambs in several flocks, a high proportion in one large flock.	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.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	One young Merino sheep in one large 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
Drench resistant worms to BZ/LEV/ML	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Egg counts not reduced by at least 95% 10-14 days after drenching with a triple active drench	See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance. This one was to a BZ/LEV/ML triple combination drench.
Downer ewe	One case	Northern Tasmania	Low body condition score.	Make sure that weak sheep in low body condition score are not loaded onto stock transport vehicles unless under veterinary direction.
Ear deformed	One case in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania.	One ear wrinkled and irregular.	Can be due to a blood clot (haematoma) that forms between the layers of the ear, shearing injury, photosensitisation, congenital, problem, dog bite. No action needed at this stage.

Epididymitis	A small number of rams in three large flocks	NW and Southern 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.
Ewe deaths with nasal discharge	Several ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewes go down mid to late pregnancy with nasal discharge	Probably hypocalcaemia possibly with pneumonia. Give 1/5 warmed flow-pack under skin and inject antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.
Ewe deaths - worms	A number of ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sporadic ewe deaths, medium levels of worm eggs in Wormtest, high numbers of brown stomach worms on necropsy	A small proportion of ewes in flock with higher worm burdens. Brown stomach worms do not produce large number of eggs, so epg can be only medium. Drench using proven effective drench and move to 'clean' paddocks if available.
Eye fold (lachrymal pouch) infection	A number of sheep in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Yellow-orange discharge from pouch on one or both sides, down cheek below fold.	Check for grass seed. Clean and apply antiseptic spray.
Eye rupture	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	No eyeball in socket	Probably due to injury or pinkeye. Best left if no infection or other problems.
Flank injury	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Long cut in skin of one flank	Probably due to impact with a projection. Antiseptic spray the wound if superficial. Check yards for projections.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep from one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc.
Fleece rot	One sheep each in two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Greenish, blue-ish or pinkish discoloration of wool at skin level.	Caused by constantly wet fleece plus some genetic pre-disposition mainly in Merinos. Pre-disposes to body strike. Use flystrike preventative measures/chemicals during fly season and select against this trait.
Flystrike scars	Several cases in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Bare skin usually above tail or on body	Flystrike has damaged skin and wool has not grown back. Prevention: see the FLYBOSS website.
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	Several ewes in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania.	Swelling of one foot, 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	Chronic lesions in a proportion of sheep in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Mostly carryover lesions from last spring, these run on dryland pastures.	Summer paring and eradication inspections should be long 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 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
Hoof cut	One ram in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	Cut in hoof wall	This one due to injury. Local antiseptic treatment, monitor, ensure drains well. Prevention: remove any sharp projections around yards.
Hooves overgrown	A small number of ewes in five small flocks, most ewes in one large flock.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever")	Fifty heavily pregnant older ewes in two large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Late pregnancy ewes went down after period off feed for pre-lamb treatments or shearing.	Treat with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1) 1/5 of a pack under skin. Warm pack in hot water before injection if possible and massage in well. Should get up within 30 minutes. If green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision. Prevent with mineral supplement if on cereal crops or grass dominant pasture, don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching.
Incoordination in ewes	Three 3-year -old ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Unable to walk normally.	Could be injury to neck, but pain in several feet can appear to be incoordination. Can also be due to PEM (B1 deficiency), FSE, brain or spinal abscess, tumour, Phalaris staggers.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One wether	Northern Tasmania	Horn has grown into and damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows horn to be removed safely. Prevention: Dehorn lambs so that a margin of skin is removed with horn.
Lameness	Small numbers of sheep in a number of mobs	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot.	Could be footrot, scald, foot abscess, scabby mouth of feet, injuries, toe abscess, laminitis, standing on concrete surfaces too long. Identify cause and treat accordingly.
Lice (body lice)	One large flock	Southern Tasmania.	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	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 and inspect thoroughly on arrival and at the end of their 'hotel quarantine' period. Treat on arrival if wool is short enough or use the oral product and isolate for 4 weeks.
Liver fluke	A number of sheep on a number of properties	Derwent Valley in Southern Tasmania	Abattoir detection, farm postmortem or Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year, but pickup of immatures will be starting about now. Triclabendazole usually best treatment (if no resistance) from November to June as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

Liver fluke resistance to triclabendazole	One large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Fluke eggs still present in faeces 10 days after triclabendazole treatment.	Check using the FLUKETEST faecal test 10-14 days after triclabendazole treatment. Use a different flukicide family to treat.
Lungworm (large)	One aged ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lungworm rare in general and more so in older sheep	Large lungworm in sheep take a long time to develop (7 weeks) and larvae rather than eggs are found in the sheep's faeces so a special test must be requested for detection in faecal samples. Most broad-spectrum drenches kill lungworm – check label.
Mastitis (acute)	Three ewes in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed udder with abnormal milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency).	Acute: strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment by intramuscular injection and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. If only one half of udder is affected ewe can produce nearly as much milk from the other half if she recovers.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	A small number of lambs in one large flock.	Northern 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 injuries from dog bite	A number of sheep in one large mob	Northern Tasmania	Bruising and puncture wounds of nose	Muzzle dogs that bite.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	A number of lambs and adult sheep from a number of flocks.	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.
Photosensitisation	A small number of sheep in a number of large and small flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off face, ears, around eyes, on back. 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.
Pleurisy	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in trimming but whole carcase can be condemned.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Pneumonia in aged ewe	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tas	Respiratory distress.	This one had lungworm as the cause. Treat the lungworm with an effective drench. Antibiotics under veterinary supervision as well if necessary.
Poll injuries on rams	A number of rams in one large and one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Fighting injuries	Normal behaviour, especially in lead-up to joining. Use flystrike prevention in fly season. Keep smaller/younger rams separate if possible.
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	A number of ewes in a number of small and large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Caused by illness eg Footrot/foot abscess or insufficient energy in diet in last 7 weeks of pregnancy. Usually in ewes	If heavily pregnant ewes go down in last 6 weeks, inject 1/5 milk fever pack under skin and massage in well (to differentiate from milk fever). If ewe does not get up within an hour, twin lamb disease is most likely cause. Oral treatments rarely work unless you catch them while still able to walk but dropping out of back of mob and 'star-gazing".

			carrying multiples or very a large single lamb.	
Rickets	A number of weaned lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lameness, fractured bones, poor growth rates in July/August on short rotation ryegrass or cereal crops.	Treat with Vitamin D and additional limestone/Causmag/salt in feed if possible to avoid yarding. Prevention through Vitamin D3 injections (usually as ADE) prior to grazing short rotation ryegrass or cereal crops plus offer limestone/Causmag/salt loose mix.
Scald	A number of lambs in two large flocks and suspected in a small flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Also called benign footrot but can 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.
Scrotal mange	A small number of rams in one medium and one large flock.	Northern and NW 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.
Selenium deficiency	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), newborn lamb deaths, slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Shelly toe	A small number 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 under-run hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.
Sudden deaths on regrowth barley	One large flock 12 dead ex 400	Northern Tasmania	Ewes found dead.	Most likely caused by hypocalcaemia but possibly plant poisoning e.g. nitrate. Provide lime/salt/Causmag loose lick, check nitrate levels in cereal crop.
Teat erosions in lactating ewes	Seventeen out of 110 ewes in 3rd week of lactation	Northern Tasmania	Erosions all at rear of teat.	Suspected injury by lamb's incisor teeth but no under- or overshot jaws noted.
Toxoplasmosis (suspected)	Ewe lambs in one large flock aborting.	Southern Tasmania	Ewes fully vaccinated against Campylobacter, so Toxo is suspected.	Toxo causes foetal and neonatal lamb losses if ewes are infected during pregnancy. Ewes may become barren if infected in first 60 days of pregnancy. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Vaginal prolapse	A number of ewes on a number of small and	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe.	Treat: There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. Prevention: Remove tails at third joint (tip of vulva) when marking ewe lambs, keep pregnant

	large properties.		Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.	ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last few weeks of pregnancy, keep BCS 3 to 3.3. Don't feed swedes in last 1/3 of pregnancy. Offer hay if on low dry matter feed. Shear in last third of pregnancy. Maintain steady body weight from start of mating to scanning. See https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes.
Wool blind	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Muffly faced sheep with wool totally obscuring vision.	Wig the sheep more often. Breed for open-faced sheep.
Wool break	Small numbers of sheep in a number of small flocks	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mainly moderate egg counts but some high counts and deaths seen. Brown stomach worm in some deaths.	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
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and deaths after heavy worm burden removed.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST and ask lab to culture for Yersinia as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals. Some stress factor is usually present (eg poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected.
CATTLE				
Abortion	One cow in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Possible causes Pestivirus, 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
Aborted calf with congenital deformity	One foetus in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Deformed jaw/face Possible causes viral infections, congenital/hereditary factors or toxin ingested by dam during pregnancy.	Blood test on cow can detect evidence of exposure to viruses. Genetic testing can detect some hereditary conditions.

Bloat on brassica crop	Several young cattle	Northern Tasmania	Left flank bulging out a lot or found dead and blown up.	Treat: oral vegetable oil or pleuronic can break down froth to gas and allow burping out of the gas. Prevent: blocks, drenches, additives to trough water, capsules.
Brown stomach worm (Ostertagia)	A number of young cattle in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and slow growth rates.	Brown stomach worm egg counts are often low even though significant worm burdens are present. A blood test that detects a stomach wall enzyme (pepsinogen) can assist diagnosis. Worm larvae picked up over winter/spring can lay dormant in 4th stomach wall and emerge next autumn. A long-acting ML anthelmintic to cover the winter/early spring period may be required. See; http://www.wormboss.com.au/cattle/worms/roundworms/brown-stomach-worm.php
Chorioptic mange	Small numbers of cattle in several herds, a high proportion of cattle in one large herd.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and pins at the early stage, then thighs, flanks and top of neck later. 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
Cold shock effect on semen	A number of bulls in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Poor motility and certain types of sperm abnormalities.	A very cold day with snow on mountains and freezing cold wind. A number of bulls also did not ejaculate. A second session on a warmer day resulted in all bulls ejaculating and nearly all passing the fertility test.
Convulsions	Several steers in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Steers found down and fitting.	Postmortem showed severe liver damage. Ammonia that is normally broken down in the liver can build up in blood and cause brain damage and convulsions. Eating river trident bush can also cause convulsions.
Copper deficiency	One herd	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver (best) or blood 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 time-consuming.
Corkscrew claw	two bulls and one cow in three small herds	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Conformational fault, genetic cause. Cull.
Corkscrew penis	Several bulls in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Penis in corkscrew form when trying to serve	Can be genetic cause. Usually unable to mate. Cull.
Curly calf	One newborn calf in one large Angus herd	Southern Tasmania	Also known as Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM)	Hereditary recessive gene, calves usually born dead.
Dags	One yearling in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worm control, dietary control, viral diseases can all be involved.
Deaths in bought-in young cattle	A number of deaths in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Weaner cattle found dead	Possibly acute pneumonia, as quite common in young cattle after passing through saleyards and transport.
Downer heifer	One heifer from one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Unable to stand on front legs	Possible front leg nerve damage while down calving. May improve with good nursing – place on soft bedding, turn onto opposite leg every 8 hours, lift up with hip hoist and support for 10 minutes every day, provide feed, water, shelter. Anti-inflammatories under vet supervision.

Dystocia (difficult birth)	1 heifer in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf not delivered within 3 hours of start of birth process.	Heifers should generally be 300kg+ at mating and grow at up to 1 kg per day in last third of pregnancy. Need to be observed frequently over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours. This one a posterior presentation, both hind legs forward.
Eye cancer of 3rd eyelid.	One case in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Ulcerated growth of 3rd eyelid, discharge down cheek.	Third eyelid cancers can be removed completely if caught early.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One steer in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Horn has damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows horn to be removed safely. Prevention: Dehorn calves so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.
Ill-thrift in young cattle	A small proportion of yearlings in one medium mob.	Northern Tasmania	Not putting on weight, rough coats, scouring, poor response to ML drench.	Most likely Cooperia worms but also responded to a fluke treatment.
Ill-thrift and scouring in weaners	A large proportion of weaners in one medium mob.	Northern Tasmania	Not growing well. High egg count, Yersinia cultured, suspect selenium deficiency	Treat for worms and Yersinia too if little response to drench. Supplement with selenium.
Ill-thrift in bulls	Three bulls in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Could be age/broken mouth or a number of other causes	Diagnostic work-up required or cull if aged.
Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) (suspected)	All first calf heifers in one medium dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Cough, mucous discharge from both nostrils, milk drop, increased cell count.	Rhinogard vaccine used to help control outbreak.
Infertile bull	One bull in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Semen had poor motility/ excess deformed sperm	If due to illness keep and reassess later, or cull if no excuse.
Inter-digital fibroma	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Crusty hairless mass protruded from top/front of interdigital cleft	Caused by wet conditions underfoot and excess spreading of toes. More common in bulls. A vet can surgically remove the mass.
Liver fluke	One cow in one small herd, yearlings in another medium herd.	Northern Tasmania	Bottle jaw seen and responded to flukicide treatment.	Strategic treatments in autumn and late winter with effective flukicides depending on challenge. Keep stock off areas where fluke snail survives (dam edges, lagoons, areas that flood in spring) if possible. Sheep run on same areas will also need treatment. See; https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/114691/liver-fluke-disease-in-sheep-and-cattle.pdf
Metabolic crisis in heavily pregnant cows	A number of heavily pregnant	Northern Tasmania	Short grass dominant pastures, cold, wet snap.	Low calcium/magnesium levels and evidence of pregnancy toxaemia found on lab samples. These did not respond well to 4-in-1 treatment. Prevention: don't let cows get over-fat and then restrict diet too hard in late pregnancy. Provide

	cows in one large herd			Causmag treated hay daily or some other form of magnesium supplementation and long roughage, especially if cold/wet change comes through.
Metritis	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Foul dark discharge from vulva after calving	Premature birth. This one had an Erysipelas bacterial infection resistant to oxytetracycline but responsive to penicillin.
Nasal discharge, purulent (snotty) in neonatal calf	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections.	This calf was ill so required antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision.
Nasal erosion	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Raw area inside nostril	May have been due to a healing injury or virus such as IBR.
Neospora abortions and stillbirths	A number of cows in one medium and one large dairy herd.	Northern Tasmania	Abortions and stillbirths. Dogs or infected cows spread infection.	Infected cows abort, have stillborn calves or live calves that remain infected for life. Infected females have high chance of repro failure every year. Best to cull cows on blood test. Keep dogs from defecating on pastures if possible.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	One cow in one medium herd	Northern 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.
Penile adhesion	One bull in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Penis stuck to inside of sheath	Surgery unlikely to be successful. Possibly heritable. Usually cull.
Pestivirus	One cow in one large beef herd.	Southern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age. This cow calved prematurely.	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
Pinkeye, winter	Severely affecting a number of cattle in two large herds.	Northern Tasmania	Discharge from both eyes usually, rapid development. Highly contagious within group. Front of eye may get cloudy, ulcerated, middle of eye can go yellow, eye can rupture.	Winter pinkeye often caused by *Moraxella bovoculi*, different from summer pinkeye caused by *Moraxella bovis*. May require whole herd treatment, talk to your vet. Start treatment early. Separate affected cattle, use eye creams, antibiotic injection into eyelids, eye patches or vet can stitch eyelids. There is a vaccine available that covers most of the strains of pink eye bacteria that occur in Tasmania but does not cover *Moraxella bovoculi*. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/103904/pinkeye-in-cattle.pdf In one of these herds both *Moraxella bovoculi* and *Moraxella bovis* were cultured. Cultures pending in the other.
Pneumonia, acute, in neonatal calf	One calf in one herd.	Southern Tasmania	Sudden deaths or depressed with respiratory	Cold conditions and stress may have been part of problem. Treat cases with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.

			distress and some nasal discharge.	
Premature calves	Ten prem calves in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to Neospora, vibrio, Pestivirus, congenital abnormality	Lab work showed that one of two cows tested had recent exposure to Pestivirus. There are vaccines against pestivirus.
Selenium deficiency	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	History of low conception rate in heifers.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (rare but does occur in calves), slow growth rates in young cattle, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility, faded coat colour. Young cattle don't always grow faster under treatment even when blood selenium levels are low, so only treat if there clinical signs and a production reason. See https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/selenium-deficiency-cattle
Seminal vesiculitis	One bull in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	White blood cells, abnormal sperm and sometimes pus in semen.	Inflammation of the seminal vesicles, reproductive organs in the pelvis of the bull. Usually due to infection and some bulls respond to antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision.
Stifle injury	One bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Ligaments or joint surfaces damaged.	Swollen stifle and wasting of hip muscles due to lack of use of limb. Treatment unlikely to be effective if some time since original injury. Make sure fit to load if transported to an abattoir.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Metritis	One doe in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Doe not getting in kid. Vaginal swab grew a disease-causing bacteria.	A course of antibiotics under veterinary supervision may assist recovery.
Mastitis	One doe in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Hot hard udder, clots in milk.	A course of antibiotics under veterinary supervision may assist recovery.
PIGS				
Nervous signs in weaner pig	One pig on one property	Southern Tasmania	Pig showed 'head pressing' and other nervous system signs	Probably 'oedema disease', caused by an E coli infection. Outbreaks can be stopped by diet change eg adding more roughage. Case can be treated with broad spectrum antibiotics and drugs to reduce oedema under veterinary supervision but not usually successful.
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/