

# Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – October 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](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health) for previous reports and to register for a free email subscription, or join the [Tasmanian Livestock Health Facebook group](#)

Funding is provided by Animal Health Australia (with support from Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia) and by NRE. Private veterinarians coordinate the project.

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

If you need more information on this project, please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or [rja69392@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rja69392@bigpond.net.au)

Also see the Resources section at the end of this report.

## Seasonal Disease Alerts

**Arthritis in lambs:** If you have more than the odd case it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas as there is a vaccine for Erysipelas but not for other causes of arthritis.

**Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis abortions and stillbirths in sheep:** Blood tests on dry ewes at marking or weaning can detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection.

**Barber's pole worm (BPW):** Can be a problem from now on, not just on irrigated pastures. Watch for anaemia, bottle jaw, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts. The NRE Animal Health Laboratory offers a Rapid Lectin test that tells you what proportion of the worm eggs detected are BPW. The Rapid Lectin test result is available the day after the egg count.

**Black scour worms:** High egg counts are being seen. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended. Lactating ewes are more susceptible to worms and may need monitoring.

**Bloat:** Is a risk in lambs on lucerne or clover on misty overcast days.

**Brown stomach worm:** Heavy burdens have been found in ewes with moderate worm egg counts and breakdowns after long-acting moxidectin pre-lamb injections have been seen.

**Body lice:** Just before shearing is a good time to inspect so that infestations can be treated off-shears.

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

**Footrot and scald:** Spreading now in wetter areas and will 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.

**Flystrike:** Cases are occurring now.

**Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes:** Don't hold lactating ewes off feed for more than 6 hours. Also beware of lactating 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.

**Liver fluke:** Eggs can be present in Fluketests now if animals have not been treated since last autumn, but immature fluke could start migrating through livers from now on, so blood tests may be the best way to detect liver fluke in live animals.

**Lucerne red gut:** Seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcase in lambs on lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay, straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.

**Mycoplasma ovis anaemia:** May be seen in lambs about 4 weeks after marking. Leave them alone to recover naturally if possible.

**Pulpy kidney (PK):** Make sure lambs vaccinated more than 3 months previously get a booster if going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne. 3-in-1 is cheaper than 5- or 6-in-1 and gives same PK immunity.

**Ovine Johne's disease (OJD):** In 6-tooth and older ewes and wethers under stress. Make sure you're vaccinating all lambs you will retain.

**Pestivirus in heifers:** Consider vaccinating your heifers to prevent pestivirus abortions, stillbirths, 'dummy' calves and poor doers that die before 18 months of age. You may like to talk to your vet about having some blood tests done to see what the herd pestivirus risk profile is.

**Toe abscess:** Can be a problem if sheep's feet are continually wet and not trimmed recently.

**Scabby mouth:** In lambs on feet and mouth, may be on ewe's teats as well.

**White muscle disease:** If lambs get stiff and stop walking when mustered for marking, suspect white muscle disease, especially on clover dominant pasture.

### **Biosecurity story of the month – 4<sup>th</sup> stomach coccidiosis in mature ewes**

Ewes on a property in Southern Tasmania scoured and lost a lot of body condition around lambing time with many deaths. At postmortem one ewe showed a 'Morrocco leather' appearance of the lining (mucosa) of the 4<sup>th</sup> stomach. About 1000 adult brown stomach worms were also present despite pre-lamb moxidectin LA injection.

A 'Morrocco leather' 4<sup>th</sup> stomach lining is common in sheep when they have high burdens of immature brown stomach worms, so inhibited brown stomach worms and moxidectin resistance were suspected.

At the Animal Health Laboratory, microscopic sections showed that the small 'pimples' in the 4<sup>th</sup> stomach lining contained a lot of coccidia. The species was *Eimeria gilruthi*. This coccidium has been reported overseas as a cause of diarrhoea, weight loss and deaths in small numbers of adult sheep.

Coccidiosis is rare in sheep older than 9 months of age, though adults of desert breeds such as Persian sheep may also be susceptible. There are usually large numbers of coccidia in the manure of at least some lambs in the mob and treatment with sulpha drugs usually gives a good response. *Eimeria gilruthi* appears to affect older sheep, coccidia may not be detected in the manure, and the disease may not respond to sulpha drugs, though little work appears to have been done on treatment. Managing brown stomach worms and drench resistance may help prevent losses.

If you are experiencing significant losses, poor production, or odd signs in any livestock in your care, you may qualify for a subsidy for a disease investigation. This can pay most of the costs of the investigation and the laboratory testing. Contact your veterinarian, or an NRE Veterinary Officer on 03 6165 377. You can also ring the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

## Avian Influenza

Avian Influenza (AI) is suspected on Heard Island as abnormal numbers of marine mammals have died there, but this will not be confirmed until the ship carrying the samples returns to Australia. So, AI could be getting closer. Report significant numbers of unusual deaths or illness in any domestic or wild bird species or wildlife to your vet or the EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888.

## Oriental Theileriosis

Oriental Theileriosis is a disease of cattle causing anaemia, usually spread by the bush tick, and has caused a lot of cattle deaths and production loss on the mainland. It has not been identified in Tasmania yet. Ticks are active over the warmer months so from now on is a good time to be on the lookout for cases. A number of areas in Tasmania could support the bush tick; see Figure 1.

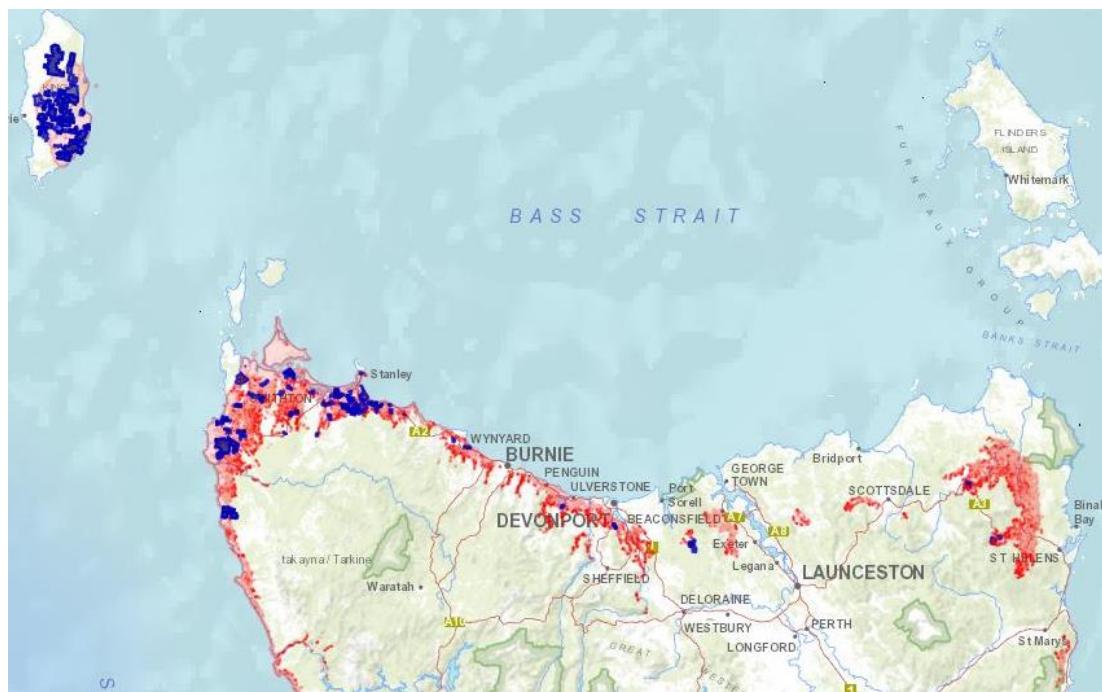


Figure 1: Bush tick and Oriental Theileriosis risk areas for Tasmania. Blue is highest risk, red is high risk and pink is marginal risk

A research project funded by DairyTas collected 51 ticks from 31 animals from risk areas in Tasmania, but no bush ticks were identified. Fifteen herds in risk areas were tested for the presence of Oriental Theileriosis and only one positive was found. This cow was Tasmanian born and raised but lived on a farm that had imported cattle from the mainland and may have been infected via a vaccination needle.

If the bush tick is in Tasmania, it is still very rare. However, cattle producers, especially in wetter, low-altitude areas with mild temperatures, should call their veterinarian if they find cattle that are anaemic, jaundiced, depressed, abort or die, so that Oriental Theileriosis can be ruled out as a possible cause. Treatment is much more effective if used early in the course of the disease.

If ticks are found on cattle, the ticks should be collected and Plant Diagnostic Services (NRE) on 1800 084 881 should be contacted to arrange for identification (at no cost to you).

Closely inspect all cattle that come onto your property from the mainland. Bush ticks are small, and it is best to feel for them ("scratching" with your finger-tips over the cow's skin) around the tail head, udder, inside of legs, on the brisket and inside the ears.

If no ticks are found (larval and nymphal ticks are very small) treat all imported cattle with an injectable doramectin, ideally combined with levamisole, noting the long milk and meat withholding periods, and keep the cattle isolated on a paddock with short vegetation for at least a week. This treatment should kill most bush ticks that could be present on the cattle and should also be useful as a worm and lice treatment.

## Diseases and conditions seen in October 2025

| SHEEP                                  |   |                   |   |   |
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| Disease/condition                      | Number of reports/ cases  | Region            | Details   | Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures   |
| Abortion                               | A number of ewes in one large flock                                     | Southern Tasmania | Not Campylobacter vaccinated but close to town so Toxo likely too.  | Submit up to 5 aborted foetuses to the Vet lab. You can identify dry ewes at marking and take bloods for Toxo and Campylobacter blood testing. Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.   |
| Abscess                                | One ram in one medium flock   | Northern Tasmania | Swelling over jaw in this case.   | Surgical draining and antibiotics usually effective.  |
| Barber's pole worm (BPW)               | A low number of BPW eggs seen on Rapid Lectin test on one medium flock. | Southern Tasmania | Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums.   | See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.   |
| Black scour worm                       | Still dominating larval ID of faecal egg counts.                        | Southern Tasmania | Scouring, high worm egg count, worms washed from small intestine can be identified.   | See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.   |
| Bloat in 2-6 week old bottle-fed lambs | One lamb in one medium flock  | Southern Tasmania | Lambs bloat after feeding and may die. Ulceration and rupture of 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach seen on post mortem. Caused by Sarcina bacterial infection of 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach causing excess fermentation and ulceration. Can be seen in calves as well. | Can relieve gas distension of 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach with needle but needs careful placement. Antibiotics can control the Sarcina infection. Feed milk at room temperature, don't make milk up too rich, give small feeds more often, add 1:1000 formalin to milk.   |
| Brown stomach worm                     | Present in a few larval IDs and one 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach wash        | Southern Tasmania | Scouring, high worm egg count. Brown stomach worm identified by washing worms from 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach at postmortem.   | See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies. Brown stomach worms are more common in summer and are poor egg producers, so egg counts are not always high. May be resistant to different drenches compared to Black Scour Worm, our main winter parasite, so drench resistance tests may give very different results in summer vs winter in the same flock. |

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| Body condition score low                             | Small numbers of 2T wethers in one large flock, a high proportion of ewes from one medium flock.              | 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 OJD, footrot may also be involved. Internal parasites and footrot in one case, worms and abomasal coccidiosis in the other.   |
| Club foot  | Two wethers in one large flock  | Northern Tasmania              | One or both toes are enlarged and cube-shaped.   | Usually seen after foot abscess heals but can be conformation fault as well.  |
| Coccidiosis of 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach wall in ewes. | A number of ewes in one medium flock.   | Southern Tasmania              | Scouring and high death rate in ewes around lambing. Detected in one ewe at necropsy.  | May not respond well to sulpha drugs. Little known about treatment and prevention under Australian conditions.  |
| Cud stain  | Two 4T wethers on one large property  | Northern Tasmania              | Green stain around mouth.  | Possibly due to eruption of teeth.  |
| Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")                       | Detected in one ewe at necropsy from one large flock  | Southern Tasmania.             | Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep. Can cause liver to be trimmed or condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm. | Prevented by stopping dogs from eating sheep offal and/or by treating all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated at least 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. These measures also prevent sheep measles and hydatids. See fact sheet on: <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a> |
| Dags   | A relatively small number of lambs and ewes in several flocks, a proportion of 4T wethers in one large flock. | Northern and Southern Tasmania | Due to scouring. Most due to green pick after recent rain and worms. Some ewe mobs showing signs of worms.   | May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), sudden change in diet. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to check for coccidia, culture for Yersinia and Campylobacter if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at <a href="http://www.wool.com/flystrikelatest">www.wool.com/flystrikelatest</a> .   |
| Deaths of lambs immediately after marking            | A number of smaller lambs died within hours of marking in one large flock                                     | Southern Tasmania              | Smaller marked lambs dying within hours of marking and drenching with a drench containing abamectin and selenium plus vaccine containing selenium                    | Abamectin should not be given to lambs under 16 kg liveweight and should not be given to lambs in marking cradles as they may inhale the drench into the lungs. Only use one form of selenium supplementation as selenium can be fatal in overdose.<br><br><i>Mycoplasma ovis</i> anaemia may have played a role as well.   |
| Deaths in 7-10 day old lambs                         | A small number of lambs in one large flock  | Southern Tasmania              | May have been due to mis-mothering when the mob  | Hold ewes for some time after entry to new paddock to allow lambs and ewes to mother up, especially twin mobs.  |

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|   |   |                                    | changed paddocks several days earlier.  |   |
| Deaths of newborn lambs                   | A number of lambs on a number of properties   | NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania | Lambs born during rough weather (rain, wind) found dead.  | Wind chill factor when wet is main killer. Providing shelter, plenty of feed for ewes and keeping ewes in good body condition reduces losses.   |
| Deaths of ewes just after lambing         | One death in one small flock  | Southern Tasmania                  | This one probably due to sepsis or haemorrhage.   | If ewe has a difficult birth, antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision should be considered. Vaccinate with 5-, 6- or 7 in one pre-lambing.  |
| Deaths of ewes well after lambing is over | Several ewes in one large flock   | Northern Tasmania                  | Ewes in reasonable condition and no scour, found down or dead   | May be hypocalcaemia ('milk fever'), black udder, pneumonia, worms. Postmortem on a fresh case usually defines a cause.   |
| Drench resistant brown stomach worms      | One medium and one large flock  | Southern Tasmania                  | Brown Stomach worm found in 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach wash at postmortem 5 weeks after long-acting moxidectin injection.                                      | See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies. Brown stomach worm more common in summer and are poor egg producers so egg counts not always high. May be resistant to different drenches compared to Black Scour Worm, our main winter parasite, so drench resistance tests may give very different results in summer vs winter in the same flock.   |
| Epididymitis in ram                       | One case in one medium flock  | Southern Tasmania.                 | A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on inside or top.   | Can be due to trauma or infection. Ovine Brucellosis should be suspected if a number of rams have epididymitis (see vet). Ram may still be fertile if the other testicle is in good order.  |
| Foot abscess (heel abscess)               | A number of composite ewes in one large flock and several rams in one medium flock.   | Northern Tasmania.                 | Swelling of one foot, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage.  | 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.<br>Prevention; Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly   |
| Footrot, virulent                         | Active spread in a small proportion of sheep in one large flock and new active lesions in a new detection in a composite flock. | Northern Tasmania                  | Mostly carryover lesions from last spring, but spread is under way now. Composite sheep presented with low foot scores but lab tests showed high virulence. | Vaccine and foot bathing are the logical treatments at this time of year. Try to keep the number of infected sheep to a minimum if eradication planned for summer. 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:<br><a href="https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf">https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf</a> |
| Fractured leg                             | Two rams in one medium flock  | Northern Tasmania                  | Caught legs in cattle grid.   | Broken bones in sheep heal well if the skin is unbroken but must be splinted properly. Must have padding between splint and leg (baby nappies are good), splint must extend one joint above and one joint below the break. Antibiotic cover and pain relief must be given under veterinary supervision. Feed well balanced diet (especially for calcium) during recovery.   |
| Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever')              | A number of cases in lactating ewes in at   | Northern and Southern Tasmania     | Lactating ewes go down after period off feed  | 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 are coming out of the   |

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|  | least three flocks  |                   | for marking or weaning.   | nostrils give antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision. Prevent with mineral supplement if on cereal crops or lush pasture, don't keep off feed long if handling.   |
| Lambing paralysis                      | Several ewes in one medium flock                              | Southern Tasmania | Nerves in the pelvis get bruised if lamb is stuck for too long.   | Good nursing on soft bedding with some physio (turn frequently and pump back legs) can allow ewe to recover. Observe lambing ewes often and intervene if no progress.  |
| Lump on rump                           | One ram in one medium flock                                   | Southern Tasmania | May have been an abscess or a haematoma (blood clot)  | Treat: A vet can shave and disinfect skin over the lump and introduce a needle to see whether blood or pus are inside and then treat appropriately.  |
| Nervous symptoms in bottle-fed lambs   | A number of lambs in a number of flocks.                      | Southern Tasmania | Appear blind, lying on side, head thrown back, stiff legs etc.  | Can be due to 'chronic pulpy kidney', B1 deficiency, poisonous plants, E coli 078 brain inflammation. Postmortem and laboratory tests can assist diagnosis. Give 5 in 1 booster, treat early cases with large doses of vitamin B1. Identify and exclude from poisonous plants (many common garden plants are poisonous to ruminants).  |
| Nitrate poisoning                      | A significant number of wethers in one large flock died.      | Southern Tasmania | Wethers off feed for some hours held in laneway with a lot of marshmallow weed growing.                 | Marshmallow usually causes a staggers syndrome but can contain high levels of nitrate. Nurse acute down cases but do not use intravenous injection of methylene blue, as it is no longer approved because of a very long withholding period. Keep stock off dense stands of marshmallow if possible, but if you do have to graze such areas, make sure sheep (or other stock) are not hungry when they go onto the paddock and do not get short of other feed while in the paddock (or yard).<br><a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/111003/nitrate-and-nitrite-poisoning-in-livestock.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/111003/nitrate-and-nitrite-poisoning-in-livestock.pdf</a> |
| Paralysed hind legs after lamb marking | One case in one flock   | Southern Tasmania | Most likely spinal abscess, but broken back looks similar.  | Euthanase. Post mortem can diagnose cause. Fractures can be due to accident/trauma, copper or Vitamin D deficiency. Test and correct. Risk of spinal abscess reduced by removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs)   |
| Pastern Injury                         | One stud ram in one medium flock                              | Southern Tasmania | Probably caught on sharp object   | Treat: antibiotic cover and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. Prevention: remove sharp protruding objects from yards and pens.   |
| Photosensitisation                     | A small number of sheep in one large flock.                   | Northern Tasmania | Skin peels off face, ears, around eyes. These were mostly old lesions, some within the last month.      | If acute, blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for <i>Pithomyces</i> (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medicis). Treat with antihistamines and antibiotics if necessary, under veterinary supervision, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.  |
| Pizzle rot                             | One wether in one large flock, one ram in another large flock | Northern Tasmania | Scab on end of pizzle in these cases but whole sheath can be swollen in advanced cases.                 | Bacterial infection usually associated with grazing rams or wethers on legume-rich pastures. Prevented by testosterone injections (see your vet).  |
| Runts                                  | A small number of lambs from one large flock                  | Northern Tasmania | Stunted lambs that are unlikely to grow out. May have been triplets, orphaned or suffered from illness. | Best euthanased but can try high protein/high energy feed (introduce slowly).  |

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| Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")      | Detected at postmortem in one aged ewe in one medium flock. | Southern Tasmania              | Small 'rice grain' whitish raised lesions on outside of food pipe (oesophagus), diaphragm and in skeletal muscles.  | Spread by cats. Takes a long time to grow so not seen in lambs. Deny cats access to raw untreated sheep meat, burn or bury carcasses promptly, eradicate feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>  |
| Scald                        | A number of ewes in one medium flock                        | Southern Tasmania              | Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)  | May be caused by benign footrot but can be seen in the early stages of intermediate or virulent footrot, and also with Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID). British breed and composite sheep may only show scald but the same footrot bacterium may display as virulent in Merinos. Laboratory tests can show whether it is OID and the true virulence of footrot bacteria, if present. Re-check in 14 days to ensure not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to footbathing and dry conditions underfoot if it is just benign footrot or OID.    |
| Scouring with low egg counts | Most ewes in two medium flocks                              | Northern and Southern Tasmania | Egg counts close to zero, faecal culture negative in one.   | Possibly dietary – low dry matter content in pasture and capeweed present in one case, very lush pasture in the other. Offer hay or move to another paddock with less capeweed.  |
| Scrotal mange                | A number of young rams in one medium 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 <i>Chorioptes bovis</i> 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.   |
| Sheep measles                | Detected at postmortem in one aged ewe in one medium flock. | Southern Tasmania              | Small whitish masses about half the size of a 5-cent piece protruding from the muscle of the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim.                      | This is the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm. Prevented by stopping dogs from eating raw sheep meat. Freeze sheep carcase meat for 2 weeks before feeding to dogs, burn/bury sheep carcases promptly and treat all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. See fact sheet on <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a> |
| Shelly toe                   | A small number of sheep in one large flock                  | Northern Tasmania              | Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of hoof.   | Conformational defect influenced by nutrition rather than a disease condition but an abscess can form at the top when dirt and faeces pack into the defect under wet conditions. It is moderately heritable and can be selected against but nutritional and other factors influence expression. Best to pare off the separated hoof wall.  |
| Swollen leg                  | One ram in one medium flock                                 | Southern Tasmania              | May have been swelling from injury/fighting   | Treat: antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.   |

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|   |                                      |                                    | or possibly infection   |   |
| Swollen foot                            | One ram in one medium flock          | Southern Tasmania                  | May have been early foot abscess  | Treat: antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. Keep on slatted floors for a few days to dry foot out.   |
| Vaginal prolapse                        | A number of ewes in one large flock. | Southern Tasmania                  | Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.   | 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 ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last few weeks of pregnancy, keep BCS 3 to 3.3. Offer calcium supplements in late pregnancy. 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 <a href="https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep">https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep</a> for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes. |
| Worms                                   | A number of flocks.                  | NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania | Some very high counts and some deaths seen. Brown stomach worm caused some deaths. Barbers pole worms seen in some larval ID and Rapid Lectin tests.  | Massive larval pickup by lambing ewes has been seen on some heavily contaminated paddocks. Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST or total worm count (at post mortem by vet or lab). 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: <a href="http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php">http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php</a>  |
| <b>CATTLE</b>                           |                                      |                                    |   |   |
| Bloat in 2-6 week old bottle-fed calves | One case in one large herd           | Southern Tasmania                  | Calves bloat after feeding and may die. Ulceration and rupture of 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach seen on post mortem. Caused by Sarcina bacterial infection of 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach causing excess fermentation and ulceration. | Can relieve gas distension of 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach with needle but needs careful placement. Antibiotics under veterinary supervision can control the Sarcina infection. Feed milk at room temperature, don't make milk up too rich, give small feeds more often add 1:1000 formalin to milk.   |
| Copper deficiency                       | One herd                             | Southern Tasmania                  | Diagnose with liver 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.   |
| Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)  | Cattle delivered to abattoirs        | NW, N and Southern 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.  |

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|---------------------------|---|-------------------|---|--|
| Lameness                  | Several yearlings in one herd   | Southern Tasmania | No abnormalities detected. All in same leg (left fore).   | Possibly Chlamydial or Mycoplasma infection. Also copper and selenium deficient so possibly related to deficiencies.   |
| Pestivirus                | One PI calf in one large herd and yearling deaths in another large herds. | Northern Tasmania | Pestivirus can cause permanently infected (PI) runt calves that die at birth or scour, 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:<br><a href="https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-">https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-</a><br><a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf</a><br>Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know the status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy:<br><a href="https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration_Fillable_2022.pdf">https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration_Fillable_2022.pdf</a> |
| Selenium deficiency       | One large herd  | Northern Tasmania | Low blood levels and lameness.  | 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 is a production reason. See<br><a href="https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/selenium-deficiency-cattle">https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/selenium-deficiency-cattle</a>   |
| Stick lodged in sheath    | One bull in one herd  | Northern Tasmania | Bull presented at an abattoir   | Stick should be removed and antibiotics and anti-inflammatories administer under veterinary supervision. Stricture may result. Such case must be treated on-farm and may attract animal welfare penalties if loaded/ sent to an abattoir or saleyard.  |
| <b>ALPACAS and CAMELS</b> |   |                   |   |  |
| No cases reported         |   |                   |   |  |
| <b>GOATS</b>              |   |                   |   |  |
| No cases reported         |   |                   |   |  |
| <b>PIGS</b>               |   |                   |   |  |
| No cases reported         |   |                   |   |  |
| <b>POULTRY</b>            |   |                   |   |  |
| No cases reported         |   |                   |   |  |
| <b>DEER</b>               |   |                   |   |  |
| 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](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=dugXLaA5GP87nVpXBiMvfbcx1KKhIEXkNp9EA0v 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](http://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/>