

Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – November 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-January.

If you need more information on this project, please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or ria69392@bigpond.net.au

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

Seasonal Disease Alerts

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

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.

Flystrike: Cases are occurring now.

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 bloated carcass 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.

Pleurisy: is common, slowing prime lamb growth rates and resulting in trimming at the abattoir. Check MLA's [myFeedback](#) to see if there is any data on your consigned lambs.

Pulpy kidney (PK): Make sure lambs 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 the same PK immunity.

Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): in 6-tooth and older ewes and wethers under stress. Make sure you're vaccinating all the lambs that will be retained for more than 2 years.

Ryegrass staggers: Graze off paddocks with a history of staggers before the season starts and plan to place weaners on safer pastures.

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, suspect white muscle disease, especially on clover dominant pasture.

Biosecurity story of the month – Hairy shaker disease in lambs

Hairy shaker disease in lambs is caused by a Pestivirus, similar to the Pestivirus of cattle. This sheep disease has also been referred to as Border Disease. It has been present in Australia for many years but has been uncommon. However, in recent years large-scale outbreaks have been documented in Southern NSW with resorption of pregnancies, abortion, neonatal deaths and 'hairy' lambs noticed at marking. Very few of these hairy lambs survive the first year of life, very similar to Persistently Infected (PI) calves.

A Tasmanian composite ewe flock that had recently bought in ewes from Southern NSW scanned well but experienced abortions in both ewe lambs and older ewes with a lot more lamb deaths than usual over lambing. At marking, a lower-than-expected percentage of lambs was marked and about 25 hairy lambs were seen in each mob.

Some of these hairy lambs showed nervous signs such as a head tremor or splayed hind legs. Some of the hairy lambs started to die, and one such lamb was post mortemed, and ulceration of the oesophagus (food pipe) was observed. A laboratory test confirmed the diagnosis of hairy shaker lambs.

There is no treatment for Pestivirus in sheep, and no vaccine. Hairy lambs should be kept in contact with ewe lambs and older ewes that will be mated next year so that they can be exposed to the virus and become immune before they get pregnant, protecting the foetus from infection at critical stages of development.

If you buy sheep from Southern NSW, it may be worth asking the vendor to make a statement about the Pestivirus status of the flock of origin on the Sheep Health Declaration. Quarantine on entry for at least 2 weeks and observe for abortions and any signs of abnormalities in lambs.

Ring your vet or the EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888 if you see signs of a disease that you do not recognise in any livestock or wildlife.

Avian Influenza

H5 avian influenza has been confirmed in elephant seals on Heard Island. Heard Island is about 4,000 km South-West of Perth, Western Australia, so the risk to Tasmania has not changed substantially. But if you see numbers of sick or dead birds or other wildlife, ring 1800 675 888.

Also see <https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/poultry-and-pigeons/bird-flu>



Diseases and conditions seen in November 2025

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Abortion	A number of maiden ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Campylobacter vaccinated so Toxo likely.	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 large flock	Northern Tasmania	Swelling in upper neck in this case.	Surgical draining by veterinarian and antibiotics usually effective.
Arthritis degenerative	Several aged pet ewes in several small flocks	Southern Tas	Aged ewe lame with stiff swollen joint/s.	Anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Arthritis infectious	One lamb in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swollen hock post-marking. Whole leg will usually be removed at slaughter, often making carcass worthless or dropping it into a lower price grade on the grid.	Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Make sure orphan lambs receive sufficient colostrum within 24 hours of birth. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs under veterinary supervision may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock then use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Barber's pole worm (BPW)	A low number of BPW eggs seen on Rapid Lectin test on one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lower than ideal growth rates, no scouring, pale gums.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Black udder healing	One ewe in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	One half of udder is dead, may be fly-blown, decomposing and dead tissue present.	Gently cleaned out the dead tissue, use antibiotics and anti-inflammatory/pain relief under veterinary supervision, use fly prevention. Can heal up over time but will leave scars. Best to cull ewe after ESI has expired as she will not usually rear twins of reasonable weaning weight.

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 adult rams	Two rams in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	These were on Phalaris dominant pasture with browsed cumbungi in the dam edges. No deaths.	Drench with 20 ml of vegetable oil can relieve frothy bloat.
Bottle jaw unweaned lambs	A number of lambs in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw is a soft swelling under the lower jaw. If you press your thumb into it firmly for a minute, the depression will remain afterwards.	Commonly caused by Barber's Pole Worm (<i>Haemonchus</i>) or liver fluke at this time of year but unlikely in this case due to cold spring and age of lambs. More likely to be heavy burden of scour worms, and maybe some malnutrition. Oedema due to photosensitisation or swelling due to an abscess can also look similar.
Collapse and death	One stud ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Found down, died soon after	Fighting injury possible. Necropsy not conducted.
Copper deficiency	Lambs in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver (best) or blood tests	An incidental finding in a white muscle disease case. Deficiencies may also cause 'swayback', reduce immunity to worms and other disease, cause 'steely' wool and reduce neonatal lamb survival. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, oral drench, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Dags	A relatively small number of lambs and ewes in several flocks, a very low proportion of 4T wethers in one large flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring. Most due to green grass after recent rain and worms. Some ewe mobs showing signs of worms.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Yersinia</i> , coccidia), sudden change in diet. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to check for coccidia, culture for <i>Yersinia</i> and <i>Campylobacter</i> 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 lamb immediately after drenching	A single smaller lamb died shortly after drenching in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	This one very small and drenched with levamisole and a BZ combination drench.	Levamisole safety margin is lower than some other drenches and can cause signs of staggering and excitement and occasional deaths. There may have been an underlying disease in this small lamb as well.
Dog bite	Several sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	An un-muzzled dog was biting sheep on the nose.	Muzzle dogs that bite. Dog bite injuries have to be trimmed at the abattoir and reduce returns to supplier.
Drench resistance	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Both BZ/LEV and triple	

			drenches repeatedly failed DrenchChecks.	Different worm species may be resistant to different drenches so drench resistance tests may give very different results in summer vs winter in the same flock. See WORMBOSS web site for prevention strategies.
Flystrike	Several sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Breech strike found at crutching.	These were sent for chemical resistance testing but only 'brown bomber' maggots rather than green blowfly maggots were present. Plenty of green blowfly attracted to dead sheep observed recently though. The AWI web site has a large number of resources and runs workshops on flystrike. See: https://www.wool.com/simplify
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	A number of composite ewes in several large flocks and several rams in one medium flock.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Swelling of one foot, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage. Many in healing phase now.	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. 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 mild active lesions seen in lambs in a number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Spread is under way now.	Foot bathing is the main treatment at this time of year. Try to keep the number of infected sheep to a minimum if eradication planned for summer. Pare and footbath all sheep over summer, treat (see your vet if you want to use antibiotics) or cull chronic cases, and move cured 'chronics' to the prime lamb mob. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath, quarantine, and check feet on arrival. Footbath sheep returning from shows. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Footrot (intermediate)	One medium and several large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Under -running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof. Can be eradicated but causes less production loss than virulent footrot.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Footrot, benign (mild, "scald")	Suspected in a number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
Front leg weakness in lambs	Several lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Marked but not weaned. No Gudair vaccination.	Could be spinal abscess or swayback (copper deficiency). Necropsy/ blood and liver testing required.
Hairy shaker lambs	A significant number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Abortions, neonatal deaths, hairy lambs, some with nervous signs at marking that keep dying.	Hairy shakers are caused by infection of ewes during pregnancy with a Pestivirus, usually a different strain from the cattle strain. Large outbreaks have been recorded in Southern NSW, but this is the first large outbreak in Tasmania. There is no treatment for affected lambs, but they should be kept in contact with ewe lambs and ewes that will be mated this coming autumn to try and give them immunity before they become pregnant.

Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One wether in one large flock	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 haired skin is removed with horn.
Kangaroo gait	Suspected in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen in ewes up to 6 weeks after lambing, due to damage to nerves in front legs	Ewes move by hind leg action alone so look like a kangaroo hopping. Cause not known, will often recover if nursed. Anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision may hasten recovery.
Lameness	One ewe in one small flock, one ram in one medium flock, a number of lambs in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on 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.
Lethargy in lambs	A small number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs reluctant to walk far.	These were treated with selenium at marking so probably not white muscle disease. Barber's pole worm possible - check for pale inside lining of eyelids. Could also be Mycoplasma ovis anaemia. If still pink and lamb shows respiratory distress (panting etc) could be pneumonia. If pale, drench for BPW, if respiratory distress, try antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. If signs continue, seek veterinary involvement.
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.
Lip cancer	One aged pet sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen as crusty or ulcerative lesion on lip	Can be removed by a veterinarian, otherwise cull.
Low lamb marking % compared to scanning	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Normally expect 11% less lambs marked in singles and 20% less in multiples compared to scanning in Merino ewes	Abortion (early to mid-term abortion often not noticed), neonatal losses (slow birth or large lamb, exposure, mis-mothering etc) are usual causes. Blood test 8 dry and 8 wet ewes at lamb marking and test for Campylobacter and Toxo, review feeding levels and calcium supplementation of ewes in third trimester.
Lumpy wool (dermo)	Two 4T wethers in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Pendulous ("dropped") udder	One ewe in one large 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.

Photosensitisation	A small number of 4T wethers in one large flock, a number of Merino lambs in one medium 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, medics). Treat with antihistamines and antibiotics if necessary, under veterinary supervision, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pizzle rot	A number of wethers in one 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).
Redgut	Some lambs in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Redgut on lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on post mortem.	Provide access to roughage.
Scald	A number of rams 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.
Scrotal mange	Two single stud rams in two small flocks	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.
Shelly toe	A small number of sheep in one large flock, some rams and some ewes in two other small flocks	Northern and Southern 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.
Smothering	Three sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Sheep pile on top of one another and some suffocate.	In this case a young dog got in behind sheep in a forcing yard while handler was otherwise occupied. Treat: some can be resuscitated by depressing the chest wall a number of times. Prevention: Careful sheep handling, investigate

				and loosen them up if sheep appear tightly packed in a yard or vehicle. Tie dogs up while not required.
Solar abscess	One ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Under-running and pus under sole of hoof.	Needs to be differentiated from footrot. Usually caused by penetrating injury. Pare hooves to expose and drain all under-run areas. Anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision if necessary.
Star gazing	One pet lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Standing with head bent straight up in air ('Star gazing'), blindness.	PEM (polioencephalomalacia) from Vitamin B1 deficiency is the usual cause. Usually associated with rich diet. Treat early with Vitamin B1 injections.
Strawberry footrot	Several wethers in one large merino flock and a number of maiden ewes in one large Merino flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Thickened skin and crusts of lower leg. These were discrete 1 cm diameter scabs.	Caused by same bacteria as Dermo (lumpy wool) and occurs when sheep are walking in long wet grass and lower legs are constantly wet. Can be treated as for dermo.
Sudden deaths in adult ewes	Several lactating ewes in one medium flock and one dry ewe in another in containment	Northern Tasmania	Possible causes include hypocalcaemia (lactating ewes), pneumonia, Clostridial disease (eg PK, blackleg), salmonella, toxic plants, Anthrax (rare in Tas)	Provide lactating ewes with 1:1:1 limestone: salt: coarse Causmag loose lick. Boost ewes with 5-in-one pre-lambing. Make sure yarded ewes have access to water if in yards for more than 24 hours in hot weather. Know what toxic plants are on your property and manage appropriately. If blood oozes from mouth/nose and backside as well, get a vet to check for Anthrax or ring Emergency Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.
Sudden death of lambs	Several lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Most likely pulpy kidney or poisonous plant	Vaccinate twice with 5 in 1 and check for toxic plants.
Swollen leg	One ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	May have been swelling from injury/fighting or possibly infection	Treat: antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.
Vulval cancer	One aged ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Aged ewe with crusty/ulcerative lesion on vulva.	Best to cull such animals immediately. Destroy on farm if not fit to load. Docking tails long enough to cover tip of vulva and leaving a 'v' of woolled skin on top of tail when mulesing will help prevent.
Wall crack in hoof	Two rams in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Cracks in outer wall of hoof usually front or side of hoof	May be due to injury of coronary band, nutrition or possibly genetics. Trim out if possible. Improve nutrition.
White muscle disease in lambs	A number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs stop walking as mustered for marking. Lamb stiff with hard muscles. Whitish areas in main muscle groups would be seen if post	Treat ewes with selenium in pre-lambing drench or vaccination, with intra-ruminal pellets every 3 years or add selenium to fertiliser every 2 years. Affected lambs can be given oral or injectable selenium and can recover with good nursing.

			mortem conducted.	
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Some high counts and some deaths seen. Barbers pole worms seen in some larval ID and Rapid Lectin tests.	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: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Body condition score low	Two heifers in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	BCS less than 5 (1 to 5 scale)	Veterinary investigation, check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status. Possibly type II Ostertagia (brown stomach) in this case.
Calf diptheria	One calf in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Difficult breathing, cough when throat pressed	Vet can give antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.
Corkscrew claw	One bull on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind foot grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Hardware disease (traumatic reticulitis)	One bull in one herd.	Southern Tasmania	A sharp object (usually metal eg a nail) penetrates front part of rumen.	Animal shows signs of abdominal pain. Surgical removal can save animal if carried out early enough.
Lead Poisoning	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Post exposure blood lead monitoring shows blood levels are not low enough to process one steer.	This steer has been monitored for 12 months since exposure to lead paint on old vehicle.
Lice	One heifer in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	Biting lice cause irritation and rubbing against objects, sucking lice can cause a degree of anaemia in young cattle	Treat: a number of pour-on products are registered for use. Injectable and oral products can be effective depending on the species of external parasites present.
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	Several mated heifers on one property.	Northern Tasmania	PEM caused by bacteria in paunch that destroy vitamin B1 or excess sulphur in diet.	Possibly excess sulphur in dam water in this case. Cattle show nervous signs early in course of PEM and may be saved if treated really early with B1 (thiamine) injections. PEM is seen on crops or weeds with high sulphur content, or grain or rich feed eg brassica crop. Prevent by offering good quality hay. Can add thiamine to diet. Best to get a vet involved. If the vet does a post mortem and takes the brain

				you may be eligible for a \$300 subsidy (see https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains_Jun16_WEB.pdf)
Photosensitisation	1 Angus steer in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair, but in this case the steer was shaking his head continually and licked his nostrils raw.	May be caused by Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD), blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antihistamines antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision if necessary.
Preputial ulceration	One bull in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Soft tissue of sheath ulcerated and drops in and out of sheath.	Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis negative. Treat with ointments under veterinary supervision.
Reddish coat on Angus calves	A number of calves in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Selenium and/or copper deficiency or genetic factors could be responsible.	Test or try selenium and/or copper treatments first.
Vaginal prolapse in non-pregnant females	One cow and one heifer in two separate herds	Southern Tasmania	Cow had rectal wall injury causing straining, heifer was yarded for 3 weeks post-calving	Vet can replace, suture in.
White scours	One young beef calf died in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by an E. coli bacteria.	Treat with rehydration fluids. Can be prevented by vaccinating cows if a significant problem exists.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Drench failure	Several young goats in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Egg counts reduced by less than 95% 14 days after drenching with white (BZ) drenches.	Goats need higher dose rates of drench than sheep to kill worms, so this case may be drench failure rather than drench resistance. See your vet and WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance.
Worms	A number of goats one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vet's instructions.
PIGS				
Lameness and weakness in hindquarters	Several sows in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Unmated aged sows.	Probably degenerative arthritis. Rest and anti-inflammatories may help, but aged sows may need to be euthanased.
Malnutrition	Several aged sows died in one small herd.	Northern Tasmania	Thin, weak, go down easily.	Monitor nutrition levels by condition scoring. Start supplementary feed before condition score gets below 2.

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/>