

Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – June 2026

The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report summarises information on livestock diseases and conditions observed by rural service providers across Tasmania.

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

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

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 or weaning can also detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection.

Black scour worms: some high egg counts are being seen and will probably get higher as winter progresses. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended. Heavily pregnant and lactating ewes are also susceptible.

Body lice: in sheep will show up from now on. 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, macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches and some combinations is relatively common and any other drench can also fail. Do a worm egg count before and 14 days after a drench (DrenchCheck) to check that your current drench is working.

Footrot and scald: Spreading now.

Foot abscess: will become more likely when heavy sheep are walking around in wet pasture all day. Early treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision can heal some cases.

Grass tetany: cows from 1 week before, to 4 weeks after calving that are on short green grass especially if fertilised with potash and/or nitrogen. Cows that are overweight and taken off feed for handling are particularly at risk. Prevent by feeding Causmag on hay.

Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes: don't hold heavily pregnant ewes off feed for more than 12 hours. Also beware of ewes on cereal crops/lush feed with no dry roughage – feed some hay and/or a calcium/magnesium/salt dry lick. Have calcium injection on hand.

Listeria: nervous signs and deaths in sheep and cattle on silage, brassica bulbs or pasture.

Liver fluke: Eggs can be detected in Fluketests, but immature fluke can still be migrating through livers now, so blood tests may be the best way to detect liver fluke in live animals and triclabendazole the best treatment for immature fluke, unless resistance is present.

Milk fever: can be seen in lactating dairy cows, especially older Channel Island breeds.

Nematodirus: are causing problems in lambs now. Scouring, sub-optimal growth rates, and some Nematodirus eggs in the egg count justify a drench.

Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): will show up from now on in 6-tooth and older sheep under stress.

Pulpy kidney (PK): Make sure sheep and lambs vaccinated more than 3 months previously get a booster if going onto rich feed such as clover, lucerne or a significant amount of grain. 3-in-1 is cheaper than 5- or 6-in-1 and may give better PK immunity.

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 toxemia: feed late pregnant ewes well, especially multiple-bearing ewes.

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.

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 – not just Neil the Seal

Neil the Seal is a southern elephant seal, a species that is very susceptible to the avian influenza virus. With the detection of H5 bird flu in wild birds on the coastline of the mainland, we are all on alert for dead or sick birds now, and the media are focussing on the potential effects of bird flu on wild birds, domestic poultry and wild animals such as seals.

H5 bird flu has also infected dairy cattle and caused a lot of problems in the dairy industry in the USA. Not that we are likely to see cases in cattle before we see it in birds, but it highlights the importance of reporting any suspicion in wild birds or wildlife even if your industry does not seem to be the most at risk.

The virus has also been found in a number of domestic species including cats, alpacas, goats and pigs that were closely associated with infected birds or dairy cattle. Human cases have been rare, and deaths even rarer.

Australia has been preparing for this strain of bird flu to arrive for a while and there are many resources available including the [Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan \(AUSVETPLAN\) response strategy for avian influenza](#).

Compensation is likely to be paid to the owner for birds that are destroyed or die due to an outbreak of bird flu, as long as the person in charge of the animals has not delayed reporting.

Clinical signs in chickens and turkeys may include sudden death, severe respiratory signs with excessively watery eyes and sinusitis; blueish discoloration of the combs, wattle and shanks; swelling of the head; ruffled feathers; listlessness; loss of appetite; diarrhoea; nervous signs. A decrease in water and feed consumption may be noticeable at the flock/farm level, and eggs from the birds may be misshapen or may be fragile. Up to 100% drop in egg production may be observed.

Ducks and geese are less likely to be affected but can show nervous signs. Wild birds can have a range of signs like chickens.

Wild mammals infected with bird flu may have neurological signs (ataxia, paralysis, seizures or tremors), respiratory signs (nasal discharge, difficult or rapid breathing), abortion or sudden death (including mass mortality events).

Report any suspicious signs as soon as you notice them to the EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888 or to your usual veterinarian.



Diseases and conditions seen in June 2026

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Ataxia in lambs on forage rape	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs staggering when disturbed.	Could be rape anaemia or nitrate poisoning. Lambs should have access to pasture and/or hay. Rape can be tested for nitrate, but high levels can be patchy within the crop.
Barber's pole worm (BPW)	BPW eggs in faecal samples in one medium flock, 50 lamb deaths in another medium flock.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Rapid lectin test on faecal samples is useful.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs for BPW.
Body condition score low	A small number of sheep in a two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, broken mouth, OJD, cancer and specific deficiencies and diseases e.g. footrot may also be involved. Fit to load: make sure low BCS sheep are strong enough for the planned journey.
Cough	A hacking cough in a number of rams in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Hacking cough, with no nasal discharge in this case.	If there is little response to lungworm drench, an infection should be considered. It may be a virus or bacteria such as Mycoplasma. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and postmortem examination indicates bacterial involvement.
Cryptorchid	Two rams in two medium flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Only one testicle in the scrotum in one case, no testicles in the other.	Usually inherited but can also be caused by hormone-like compounds in feed. Cull affected animal and sire if in a stud situation and if only progeny from one ram affected. Rams with one descended testicle can be fertile but progeny hard to mark resulting in stags
Cud stain	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	May be due to erupting teeth in young sheep, grass seed injury to tongue or lips, other mouth injuries or nerve damage, lost molars in old sheep.
Dags	A relatively small number of	NW, Northern and	Due to scouring. Most due to green	May be due to worms, gut infection (e.g. Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), sudden change in diet. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and, for young sheep, ask the

	lambs and ewes in a number of flocks, a significant number of rams in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	grass after recent rain and worms. Some ewe and lamb mobs showing signs of worms.	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 www.wool.com/flystrikelatest .
Dead foetuses at scanning	A significant number of ewe lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Scanner reports abnormalities in foetuses	Abortions can occur mid-pregnancy and not be noticed. Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxo most common in Tasmania, this flock had Border disease last year. Testing ongoing.
Deaths in ewes over lambing	A number of ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Some of these were weak and in-coordinated, some were "kangaroo gait".	Older ewes, some in poor condition with excessive wear of central incisors. Were offered loose lick containing calcium so milk fever should not have been a significant problem.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Small numbers of young Merino sheep in two medium flocks.	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 the skin for example after heavy rain or jetting. See: <i>DPL-Lumpy wool fact sheet</i> .
Dermo of scrotum	One young Corriedale ram in one medium flock affected on scrotum.	Northern Tasmania	Wool over scrotum a solid mat.	May have also been due to Chorioptes (scrotal mange) but looked more like dermo. Try long-acting oxytetracyclines under veterinary supervision first.
Empty ewe lambs at scanning	Only 6% of Wiltipol ewe lambs pregnant in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually 5-20 % empty ewe lambs depending on body weight.	Failure to conceive suspected. Mated earlier this year (February). Wiltshire horns are seasonal breeders, and the earlier mating date was the most likely cause of the problem.
Empty maiden ewes at scanning	40% of ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually low % empty	Some ewes with low Toxo antibody levels but dominant sub fertile ram suspected.
Epididymitis in rams	One case in one medium flock, a number of cases in one large flock. Both less than 1%.	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on inside edge 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.
Eye closed, inflamed	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Also known as blepharospasm. Eye is acutely inflamed, usually due to pinkeye or corneal damage.	Examine for and remove any grass seed or other foreign body. Apply antibiotic eye ointment under veterinary supervision.
Flexor tendon weakness both hind legs	One lamb in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Lamb walking right down on his fetlocks	Flexor tendons keep the lower leg upright. This could have been a congenital or nutritional problem. Cull if an isolated problem.

Flystrike scar	A small number of cases in a number of small flocks and medium flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Bare skin usually above tail or on body	Flystrike has damaged skin and wool has not grown back. For information on prevention, visit the FLYBOSS webpage: Learn About Sheep Flystrike Control in Australia .
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	One ewe in one small flock and one ram in one large flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage, this one in healing phase.	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, keep feet dry e.g. on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Grain poisoning in ram	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tas	Rams accidentally fed twice in one day, dominant ram affected.	Treat: drench affected animals with penicillin, an oral rehydration product and plenty of water to combat dehydration. Inject broad spectrum antibiotic under veterinary supervision.
Hooves overgrown, deformed	A number of sheep in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Horn broken	One sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken and hanging down while handling in yards.	Complete removal. Pain relief under vet supervision if possible. Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever')	A number of cases in heavily pregnant ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Late pregnant ewes go down after period off feed or on cereal crops or lush pasture. These came off lucerne onto lush pasture.	Treat with injection containing calcium (e.g. 4-in-1, Flo-Pak) 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 lush pasture, don't keep off feed long if shearing, crutching or for pre-lamb treatments.
Itchy fetlocks	Small number of adult sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep bite at fetlocks.	Usually due to Chorioptic mange mites which also cause scrotal mange in rams and mange in cattle
Lameness	A small number of sheep in a small number of medium and small flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on one or more feet.	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.	Northern 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	Visit LICEBOSS website for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Prevention: Good boundary fences, use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep, consider treatment and isolation for a month on entry.

			each side of 10 sheep.	
Mismothering	Several lambs in one medium flock	North West Tasmania	Post mortems will show lamb has walked but not drunk milk, has burnt up all fat reserves and no sign of difficult birth.	Multiple births, behaviour of ewe, ewe breed and age – ewe lamb/maiden/Merino, disturbance in lambing paddock, low Feed On Offer (ewe must move too far from lambs in first 6 hours to graze), cold weather, lamb vigour, can all be factors.
Nasal discharge, purulent (snotty)	A number of lambs in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections or allergy.	If animal is otherwise bright and alert, just keep under observation. If any other signs of ill-health use antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	A number of sheep and lambs from a small number of larger flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Could be first stage of pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking, if possible, only yard if you have to.
Ocular (eye) discharge, purulent, one eye	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely grass seed but can be pinkeye.	Control grass seeds with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping. Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible and antibiotic cream applied.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	A number of sheep on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	Quickest diagnosis is by postmortem. Prevent by vaccinating lambs at marking with Gudair vaccine. If confirmed present in the flock, cull any sheep over 18 months of age that waste away and don't respond to drenching. For more information visit AHA website: - About JD in Sheep , and - Factsheet: Ovine Johnes' Disease
Phalaris toxicity (acute)	A number of sheep in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Sudden deaths overnight after release from confinement onto paddock with some very short Phalaris regrowth.	Get the mob off the Phalaris paddock. Prevent by avoiding grazing Phalaris pastures when very short and in overcast weather.
Pink eye	A number of ewes in one large flock, several rams in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg yarding)	Some blind in both eyes and needed confinement to small paddock/pens with good feed and trough water so they didn't drown in dams. If low prevalence and on good feed and water leave mob alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pneumonia	One ram in one medium flock, two ewe lambs in another medium flock	Northern Tas	Respiratory distress.	This one responded slowly to antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
Poll injuries, rams	A small number of rams in three medium flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Fighting injuries	Normal behaviours. Use flystrike prevention if necessary.

Poverty line in hooves	One ram in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Horizontal lines halfway down all 4 hooves.	Usually caused by a severe illness that the animal survives. Usually nothing can be done by the time you see the lines in the hooves, but foot problems such as toe abscess can result. Rams may be sub fertile for a period after the illness but can recover full fertility.
Runts	One lamb from one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Stunted lambs that are unlikely to grow out. May have been orphaned or suffered from illness.	Best euthanased but can try high protein/high energy feed (introduce slowly).
Scarring on topline	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Bare area of skin along top of spine	Can be due to sunburn in close shorn British breeds, photosensitisation or occasionally a reaction to topline pour-on chemicals. Make sure shorn sheep have access to shade, especially if photosensitised, don't leave backline applicators out in hot sun as chemical can heat up in delivery lines and scald skin.
Scour in adult ewes	40% of ewes in one medium flock	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Nutritional factors suspected, worm egg counts low, very lush grass growth.	Most likely lush feed, ewes in good condition.
Scrotal mange	A small number of rams in one large flock	Southern 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 affected rams can be treated – see your vet.
Sebaceous gland blockage (sebaceous cyst)	Walnut sized swelling on top of shoulder of one ram in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Gland which produces the oily layer on skin gets blocked and swells up. Usually on shedding sheep.	Usually harmless but can get infected if get too large. Can be surgically drained or cut out by vet.
Shearing cuts	A number of sheep on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Wrinkly merinos more susceptible	Good board hygiene to prevent infection. Prior vaccination with 5 in 1 vaccine. Can use pain relief products with veterinary advice. Serious cuts should be sutured, pressure to stop haemorrhage. If “hamstrung” rarely regain full function in that leg, valuable sheep can be operated on, otherwise best to euthanase.
Short deformed neck	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Neck shorter than usual and twisted to one side.	Congenital deformity. Cull.
Sole erosion	Sole of the hoof appears to have been nibbled away.	NW Tasmania	Associated with constant wet conditions.	Probably a bacterial condition, but footrot bacteria not isolated.

Stags	A small number of stags in one small and one large mob of wethers	Northern Tasmania	One testicle retained in body.	Make sure both testicles are beneath the ring when marking.
Sub-fertile ram	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Single sire mated, some lambs born early then none.	Infertility probably temporary probably due to high body temperature due to infection. Poverty line seen in all 4 hooves. Semen test to make sure it has recovered full fertility.
Swollen carpus (knee)	One ewe in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Knee swollen but ewe not lame	Could be old, healed arthritis or scar tissue under skin. No action needed.
Torn ear	Two sheep in two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Ear tag has been caught on an object and torn the ear.	Remove protrusions in sheepyards and handle sheep calmly.
Undershot jaw.	One ewe in one small and one medium flock	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Incisor teeth do not meet dental pad on upper jaw neatly but make contact further back.	Hereditary conformational fault. Causes difficulty eating and slow growth, smaller adult body size and body condition score. Cull.
Wool break	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection e.g. mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (e.g. heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Some high counts but generally counts are low to medium. High Nematodirus counts in some weaners. Black scour worm still dominant in larval cultures, brown stomach worm present. Barber's pole worm detected in some larval ID and Rapid Lectin tests.	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST or total worm count (at postmortem 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-lambing drenched ewes. See the WORMBOSS sheep worm control program .
CATTLE				
Barber's pole worm (BPW)	Detected in one large herd in routine egg counts with larval ID.	Southern Tasmania	Potentially anaemia, bottle jaw and sudden deaths.	These cattle recently introduced from a herd in Northern Tasmania where BPW had been seen in sheep on irrigated pastures. Rare in cattle this far south in Australia. See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.

"Bottle" teats	One cow from one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Teats too large for calf to get into mouth resulting in calf loss soon after birth.	Check cows at marking or weaning and cull.
Calf diphtheria and pneumonia	One calf in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Ulceration of throat area, plus pneumonia in this case. Found at postmortem	Vet can give antibiotics and anti-inflammatories if diagnosed in live calf.
Chorioptic mange	A number of cattle in a number of small medium and large herds.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. Rough scaly 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 Different Species of Mites in Cattle in LICEBOSS
Coccidiosis	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Diarrhoea, often with blood and mucous, in calves over 2 weeks old.	Can treat with Sulfa drugs or Baycox (under vet supervision). Prevention in beef calves involves moving to fresh paddocks. This outbreak associated with an injured, stressed calf in wet conditions.
Contracted tendons in calf	One calf in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania.	Flexor tendons are too tight and calf stands on tips of toes or knuckles over. Can be caused by the pregnant cow eating certain weeds, deficiencies of selenium, copper, manganese, Vitamin D or E.	Keep cow and calf in small yard and feed cow, many of these self-correct. Splint/bandage to protect front of fetlock if knuckling right over.
Corneal scarring	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	White irregular marks on cornea (front of eye) but no inflammation or discharge.	Sequel to pinkeye. No action required. Be aware cow will have limited vision on that side when handling.
Cough in young cattle	One yearling in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to lungworms, viral or bacterial diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision if show signs of pneumonia. There are vaccines that can prevent some bacterial lung diseases.
Coumarin (anticoagulant) toxicity	A number of deaths in a medium beef herd	NW Tasmania	Cattle fed sweet vernal grass (<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>) hay.	Cattle with swollen legs etc and die within 24 hours. Massive bleeding under skin and elsewhere. A mould that grows in this hay produces an anticoagulant, any bump results in bleeding to death.
Dags	A small number of cattle in one medium herd.	Northern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worms, dietary factors and viral diseases can all be involved.
Diarrhoea in young cattle	A number of 10 month old calves in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Low worm and coccidia counts, negative <i>Yersinia</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> cultures, could be virus or dietary.	Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay.

Downer cows	A number of cows in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Cows went down late pregnancy - grass tetany, hypocalcaemia, pregnancy toxaemia or low body condition score.	Feed Causmag in hay or use magnesium boluses and feed well in late pregnancy if grass tetany/pregnancy toxaemia. Possibly pregnancy toxaemia if on poor feed, a urine test can help confirm. Ketosis treatments. Also possible are infections and poisonous plants. For management of downers see Down Cows Resources on Dairy Australia website.
Downer heifer	One non-pregnant 2 yo heifer in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Heifer found down the day after multi-mineral injection	May have been coincidental to handling and treatment.
Drench resistance	A number of young cattle affected in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Macrocytic lactone (ML) resistance in Cooperia, Trichostrongylus and brown stomach worm.	Worm egg counts were zero after using an oral triple active drench.
Dry quarter in dairy cows.	One cow from one large herd	NW Tasmania	One quarter shrunk and empty while other are full of milk	For more information, visit the Dairy Australia webpage: Milk Quality and Mastitis .
Empty heifers at pregnancy testing	60% of heifers in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Could be body weight, vibrio, bull failure, Pestivirus, possibly tri-trichomonas.	Veterinary investigation required.
Empty second calf heifers at pregnancy testing	50% of heifers in one medium herd.	Northern Tasmania	Most likely cause is post-calving nutrition.	Give priority nutrition to first calf heifers to ensure that they get back in calf.
Eye cancer of 3 rd eyelid.	One case in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Ulcerated growth of 3 rd eyelid, discharge down cheek	Third eyelid cancers can be removed completely while saving the eye if caught early. In this case it was too advanced and the whole eye had to be removed.
Heart tumour	One adult beef cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Died and tumour found at postmortem.	Sporadic event, no treatment or prevention. Test for Enzootic Bovine Leucosis (EBL).
Horn broken	One heifer in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken but still attached to head	Complete dehorning taking a margin of haired skin around the base. If over 6 months old should be done by vet.
Hydrops	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Cow's abdomen becomes very large in late pregnancy as fluid accumulates around foetus.	A veterinarian may be able to drain the fluid and deliver the calf, though calf is usually does not survive.
Injury to eye rim	One steer	Northern Tasmania	Post transport	Prevention: ensure cattle handling facilities do not have any sharp protruding objects. Handle cattle calmly.
Lungworm, pneumonia and ill thrift in young cattle	Several weaners in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Lungworm can be complicated by bacterial and viral diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision if show signs of pneumonia. If sending cattle WORMTEST samples, ask for a lungworm larval test as lungworm do not show up on standard test.

Lumpy jaw	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Infection of bone of face	Antibiotics can work, contact your veterinarian.
Melanoma	One 18-month-old Angus steer in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	More common in Angus cattle where it is usually benign (doesn't spread to other organs) but can be very large.	A veterinarian may be able to surgically remove the melanoma.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	One steer in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections	If cattle are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	One cow from one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be caused by an irritant such as flies, 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.
Penis damage	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Damaged penis protruding from sheath	Damage can be due to virus infection (IBR) or injury while serving cows.
Pestivirus	A moderate proportion of heifers in a large beef cattle herd had strong reactions to the antibody test.	Northern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age	These deliberately exposed to a persistently infected (PI) animal. 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, visit the MLA webpage: Pestivirus Ask for the Cattle Health Declaration (recently updated) to ensure you know the health status of cattle (including bulls) before buying. For more information and to access health declarations for other species, visit: Declarations on Farm Biosecurity.
Pink Eye, 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 <i>Moraxella bovoculi</i> , different from summer pinkeye caused by <i>Moraxella bovis</i> . 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 pinkeye bacteria that occur in Tasmania, but does not cover <i>Moraxella bovoculi</i> , but customised vaccines can be made up. Visit the NSW DPI resource: <i>Pinkeye in Cattle</i> .
Pneumonia	Several weaner heifers in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Heifers bought in from several sources. A few affected soon after introduction.	Early treatment under veterinary supervision with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories can resolve some cases. Vaccines are available that can help prevent.
Preputial prolapse	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Soft tissue of sheath hangs out. If injured while out, becomes swollen and can't go back in.	A veterinarian may be able to operate even if damaged.

Retained afterbirth	One cow in one medium herd.	Southern Tasmania	Afterbirth still hanging out more than three days after giving birth	If afterbirth cannot be easily removed manually, antibiotic treatment should be started under veterinary supervision and a weight such as a plastic bottle of water tied to the afterbirth to help it come out over the next few days.
Ringworm	A high proportion of young cattle in one large herd severely affected. Mild ringworm in another large herd.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Scaly circular areas of hair loss usually around head and neck but can be seen anywhere on body.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can infect people, so precautions must be taken.
River trident bush poisoning	A number of heifers in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	River trident bush (<i>Micrantheum hexandrum</i>) causes convulsions and death in sheep and cattle that eat it.	Grows near waterways. Make sure animals are not hungry while on paddocks with river trident bush or fence off riparian areas with a lot of this plant. If animals are found alive a vet could try anticonvulsants.
Selenium deficiency	Several cows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	History of low growth rates retained afterbirth and faded coats combined with low blood or liver levels.	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, retained afterbirth. Young cattle don't always grow faster under treatment even when blood selenium levels are low, so only treat if there is a production response.
Slipper feet	One aged cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Both hind hooves excessively long	May be just a conformational fault or long periods in wet conditions affecting one or two individuals. If a number of cattle have the condition developing at one time the cause should be investigated.
Tissue death on foreleg of newborn calf	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Area of skin and muscle on foreleg died within a week of birth.	Suspected pressure against cow's pelvis due to contracted flexor tendons.
Vaginal prolapse	One cow in one small herd post-calving.	Southern Tasmania	Post-calving, can be associated with low blood calcium.	Vet can replace, suture in.
Worms	A number of young cattle in two large herds.	Northern Tasmania	High faecal egg counts, diarrhoea, some deaths. Cooperia dominating, but also Trichs, brown stomach worm and Barber's pole worm identified on larval culture.	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 calves. For more information, visit: WORMBOSS Resources

ALPACAS and CAMELS

Coccidiosis in a cria	One cria in one medium herd.	Southern Tasmania	Diarrhoea main sign and high coccidia "egg" count in faeces (160,000 in this case)	Oral treatments can cure, see vet.
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GOATS				
Barber's pole worm (BPW)	A number of goats in two flocks	NW and Southern Tasmania	Ongoing BPW (Haemonchus) control problems.	Diagnosis <i>WORMTEST/FLUKETEST</i> (manure sample test) – a rapid lectin test also available, or by postmortem (BPW easily seen in 4 th stomach). See your vet about appropriate drenches, dose rates and control programs. Also see: <i>WormBoss Worm Control Program for Goats – Australian Smallholders</i> on WORMBOSS
Goitre in adult goats	Several does in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Due to iodine deficiency, Responded to mineral supplement containing iodine	Soils in large parts of Tasmania are low in iodine. Obtain advice from a veterinarian about safe levels of supplementation.
Mastitis, sub-clinical	Ongoing problem in one dairy goat herd.	Southern Tasmania	Monitored via milk cell counts.	Does with high cell counts can be treated or culled.
Sub-fertile buck	One buck in one herd	NW Tasmania	Buck was unwilling to serve and semen was collected to assess fertility.	Motility and volume were lower than normal.
PIGS				
No cases reported				
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
No cases reported				
WORKING DOGS				
Abscess	One dog on one property	NW Tasmania	A leech attachment site preceded development of the abscess	A veterinarian can drain the abscess and provide antibiotics and pain relief.
Pyometra	One adult bitch on one small property	Northern Tasmania	Discharge from vulva, bitch very ill, drinking a lot of water.	Take bitch to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Resources

Farm biosecurity plans

Everything you need to know about farm biosecurity, for example how to make a biosecurity plan for LPA accreditation, can be found on: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/>

Animal health declarations

Provide an animal health declaration when selling sheep, cattle, goats and camelids, and ask to see declarations when purchasing or moving these animals onto your property. See: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/>

myFeedback allows you to access information on carcase data, diseases and conditions detected in your sheep at slaughter through the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project. See: MLA's [*myFeedback*](#) for more details.

Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease

Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease, especially slobbering/lameness in ruminants and pigs, sudden death, abortion or nervous signs in multiple pigs, to your vet or the Hotline on 1800 675 888. Early detection is critical if eradication is to be successful.

Comply with the Ruminant Feed Ban

Protect access to our export markets by never feeding animal protein such as meat meal to any ruminant including sheep, cattle, goats, deer and alpacas. See: <https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/australian-ruminant-feed-ban/>

Maintain market access through strong tracing systems

Use NVDs and NLIS tags properly so that animals can be 'contact traced' quickly if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease or a chemical residue problem. Especially important to list all PICs on NLIS tags in sale mobs of sheep on the NVD. See: [https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/multifaceted-agriculture/small-and-new-landholders/owning-livestock#TheNationalLivestockIdentificationSystem\(NLIS\)](https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/multifaceted-agriculture/small-and-new-landholders/owning-livestock#TheNationalLivestockIdentificationSystem(NLIS))

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 Toxo and Sarco if fed to cats. See: <https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/hydatid-disease>

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 provide evidence to 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 \$263 million worth of sheep meat and wool in 2023-24. 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. Visit [ParaBoss](#) for more information.

The ParaBoss website also includes an [online learning resource](#) providing practical knowledge of sheep worm control in Australia, including for [Tasmania region](#).