Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – August 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-October.

If you need more information on this project, please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or rja69392@bigpond.net.au

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

Seasonal Disease Alerts

Arthritis in lambs: If you have more than the odd case it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.
Brown stomach worm: heavy burdens have been found in ewes with moderate worm egg counts.
Black scour worms: some high egg counts are being seen but warmer weather, better nutrition and longer pastures should ease the problem in young sheep. Lactating ewes and young lambs that start grazing early due to poor ewe nutrition will be susceptible.
Body lice: in sheep. Good time to inspect.
Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxoplasmosis stillbirths in sheep: stillbirths are occurring now. 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.
Chorioptic mange in cattle: is well established in many herds but most lesions healing now.
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: Will start spreading soon.
Foot abscess: active now in heavy sheep. Early treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision can heal some cases.
Grass tetany: cows from 1 week before, to 4 weeks after calving that are on short green grass especially if fertilised with potash and/or nitrogen. Cows that are overweight and taken off feed for handling are particularly at risk. Prevent by feeding Causmag on hay.
Goitre: may be a problem in newborn lambs in wetter areas or if the ewes were fed brassicas in late pregnancy. Lambs do not always have a large swelling in the neck.
Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes: don't hold heavily pregnant or lactating 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 loose 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. Use an adult flukicide from a different flukicide family if you use triclabendazole in summer/autumn.
Milk fever: can be seen in early lactation dairy cows, especially older Channel Island breeds.
Nematodirus: are still causing problems in lambs. 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.
Pneumonia: has been diagnosed in rams and weaner cattle. Slow growth rates or weight loss, some coughing when yarded, some nasal discharge but not usually that obvious, some deaths.
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 may not be cheaper than 5- or 6-in-1 but 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.
Toe abscess: can be a problem if sheep's feet are continually wet and not trimmed recently.
Weaned lamb scours: If young sheep 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 – ovine Johne's disease (OJD)

In the days before Gudair vaccine became available, some OJD infected flocks in Tasmania were losing over 10% of adult sheep every year. Now that the vaccine has been in use for many years, some flock managers are not noticing any OJD deaths, think that the disease has been eliminated, and are tempted to stop vaccinating for it.

The manufacturer claims that vaccination will control the disease, by reducing clinical cases and the shedding of the bacterium. Follow-up in a Tasmanian flock that had vaccinated for over 12 years found a very slow trickle of cases in older ewes.

A number of unvaccinated wether mobs over 2 years of age have broken down with OJD in Tasmania over recent years and had to be sold while their vaccinated sisters showed no signs of disease. You only have to prevent about 2% of deaths over the life of the mob to get a positive return on your investment in OJD vaccine. Losses do not start until sheep are over 2 years of age, so only vaccinate animals that will be retained for over 2 years. This should ideally be before they are 16 weeks of age. Waiting until lambs have been selected as breeders or woolgrowers will mean later vaccination than recommended but is better than no OJD vaccination at all.

Even if the disease was eradicated from a flock, it would quickly be re-infected as OJD spreads rapidly throughout catchments once introduced. Quarantining or testing introduced sheep will not protect your flock in this situation as the bacteria are already in the environment.

The vaccine may seem expensive, but it is only given once for life-long protection, so you need to break it down to an annual cost spread over the life of the sheep. If you add in the labour cost of annual boosters for other vaccines, it has a similar cost. But on the profit side of the ledger, it is a consistent performer and the benefit to cost ratio is almost always positive.

If you are going to economise on input costs, make OJD vaccine the last thing you drop!

Q fever

A cattle producer in Tasmania has been diagnosed with Q fever after calving some in-calf heifers from NSW. Q fever is rare in Tasmania, and so far has only been diagnosed in people associated with imported sheep, cattle or goats.

Q fever symptoms are flu-like, with body aches, sweating, and pain behind the eyes. If not treated it can cause chronic fatigue and complications such as heart problems.

If you have any association with imported ruminants, you should consider getting vaccinated against Q fever. For more information see https://www.health.tas.gov.au/publications/q-fever-fact-sheet

You could also consider testing a sample of any imported sheep, cattle or goats for Q fever while they are in "hotel quarantine" on your property soon after arrival.

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Diseases and conditions seen in August 2026

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abdominal discomfort	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Ram spent a lot of time lying down and resented pressure on abdomen when examined	Suspected hit by another ram. Treatment: antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.
Abortion, cause not determined	A number of ewes in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Ewes normal, lambs premature	Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella are common causes but not detected in this case possibly because only one lamb and no placenta submitted in one case. Neither flock vaccinated against campylobacter.
Abscess	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Swellings below ear in this case.	Surgical draining, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories by vet effective in this case.
Black Scours	Two rams in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Diarrhoea, loss of weight, deaths.	Usually caused by black scour worm (Trichostronglus). Treat with effective drench – these rams responded to moxidectin. May need to use a long-acting drench product

				if no "clean" paddocks are available as high levels of worm larvae will have built up on pastures sheep are on when scour develops. See WORMBOSS web site.
Blindness	One ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Eyes looked normal but ram stood apart with head in corner.	Possibly PEM (a vitamin B1 deficiency) encephalitis or chronic pulpy kidney. Large frequent injections of vitamin B1 and antibiotics under veterinary supervision appeared to assist recovery.
Bloat in rams on pure clover pasture plus fed concentrates	A small number of rams in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Abdomens distended but none died.	Due to frothy bloat. Frothy bloat can be prevented by adding bloat oil to troughs. Give PK booster and offer roughage (eg hay).
Body condition score low	A small number of sheep in two small flocks, a single ewe in one large flock.	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. The single ewe had aborted. Fit to load: make sure low BCS sheep are strong enough for the planned journey.
Campylobacter abortion	A number of ewes in a number of medium and large flocks	Northern Tasmania	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion, these outbreaks mostly caused by the "fetus" strain.	A vaccine is available and covers both strains, but the course should be completed before joining. Aborting ewes can be run with unmated ewe weaners to give them immunity. Humans can also be affected so women of child-bearing age should not be exposed to aborting ewes or afterbirth.
Capeweed scour	Most ewes in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Lab testing eliminated worms and bacteria gut infection as possible causes.	Capeweed contains nitrates which can cause diarrhoea and occasionally death if hungry sheep are moved onto a fairly pure stand of capeweed. Capeweed needs to be sprayed out early while still in the rosette stage.
Cast	A number of ewes in two large flocks.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Maternal ewes in good condition in late pregnancy.	Maternal ewes can get very fat, and if they get on their back cannot regain their feet, especially if they have a short neck. Often attacked by crows or get bloated when down. Keep ewes at condition score 3.3 – 3.6. Check them frequently if they are overweight and getting cast. Is repeatable – identify them and cull after weaning.
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	A number of flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with low worm egg count but high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs under veterinary supervision. Prevention by good worm control and good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Copper excess	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	High copper levels in a blood sample	Pastures treated with waste from distillery where fermentation carried out in copper vessels. Even a small excess of copper in the diet makes copper build up in the liver in sheep. A stress event releases all the copper and the red blood cells break down. No effective treatment.
Conception low	One medium flock	NW Tasmania	65% of AI ewes failed to lamb.	Teasers were not used this year but everything else was as for previous years, so no explanation.
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, other mouth injuries or nerve damage, lost molars in old sheep.
Dags	A number of lambs and ewes in a number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring. Most due to green grass and worms.	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 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.
Deaths of rams	Two rams in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Rams found dead	No indications of cause of death. A postmortem on a fresh case required to define a case.
Deaths, sudden, in lambing ewes	Several ewes in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Possible causes include Clostridial or other infections post-lambing salmonella, toxic plants. Hypocalcaemia was ruled out.	A full postmortem required.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Small numbers of young Merino sheep in two large flocks.	Southern 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: *DPI - Lumpy wool fact sheet.*
Devils grip	One wether in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Dip in the topline just behind the shoulder blades	Causes moisture to pool and predisposes to fleece rot.
Dog attack	A number of sheep in two large flocks.	Southern Tasmania.	Dog bites are often more serious than apparent on the surface.	Best assessed by vet who may drain wounds, give antibiotics and anti-inflammatories/pain relief.
Downer ewe	One ewe in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lambs at foot. The only ewe in the mob with a scour.	Possibly ovine Johne's disease, need laboratory testing or postmortem to confirm.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	Two ewes in one medium flock, 50% of maidens in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania.	Usually due to a large single lamb that gets stuck coming out. Or twins that get tangled up.	Ewe can be assisted. Prevention: Ewes bearing single lambs should be placed in paddocks with no more than 800-1000 Kg of green dry matter per hectare in last 6 weeks of pregnancy.
Ear cancer	One sheep in one medium sized flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty swelling or ulceration starting anywhere on bare parts of the ear.	Vet can remove the cancer if caught early enough. Check no swelling of the gland (lymph node) that drains that area as cancer can spread to the gland. Make sure it is 'fit to load' if transported.
Ear ulcer	One wether in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Ulceration where a horn was rubbing on the ear	Trim horn. Clean and apply antiseptic spray.
Eye injury	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Damaged skin above eye	Probably due to a collision with a yard or gate. Handle stock calmly and control dogs.
Eye cancer	One sheep in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania.	Discharge down cheek, ulcerated and raw section of eyelid.	Older sheep with white eyelids. Cull as soon as noticed.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep from one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc.

Flystrike scar	One lamb in one small flock.	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)	Low incidence in ewe lambs in one large flock.	Northern 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.
Footrot (virulent)	A number of sheep in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Spring spread period just commencing.	Not much can be done while ewes lamb. Footbathing can recommence once marking wounds have healed in lambs. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this coming 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
Goitre	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Enlarged thyroid gland observed at postmortem.	May be caused by iodine deficient soil or some plants such as brassicas and white clover but in this case may have been due to excess iodine due to pasture treatment with distillery waste. In deficient areas give ewes 300 mg potassium iodide per ewe dissolved in water as a drench in last month of pregnancy to prevent goitre in newborn lambs.
Gut infection	A number of merino ewe lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and deaths	Yersinia and Salmonella negative, some with high worm burden, signs of gut infection in gut sections. Responded to drenching and six in one booster.
Hairy shaker lambs	A small number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Abortions, neonatal deaths, hairy lambs, some with nervous signs.	Hairy shakers are caused by infection of ewes during pregnancy with a Pestivirus, usually a different strain from the cattle strain. This flock experienced a large outbreak last year in imported ewe lambs, these cases now in older resident ewes. 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.
Hooves overgrown, deformed	A small number of sheep in two small flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying causes.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever')	A number of cases in heavily pregnant ewes in a number of medium and large flocks.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Late pregnant ewes go down after period off feed or on cereal crops or 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 are 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.
Inhalation pneumonia	Several ewes affected by hypocalcaemia	Southern Tasmania	Ewes regurgitate rumen contents that then get into lungs.	Treat ewes with antibiotics under veterinary supervision if green material seen in nostrils of ewes down with milk fever (hypocalcaemia).

Injury, inside thigh	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Wound on inside of thigh, possibly caught in fence.	This one treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision but still died of pregnancy toxaemia (triplets).
Injury, interdigital space	One ewe lamb in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Skin flap in between toes	This one probably due to sharp stones in laneway. Could pre-dispose to foot abscess. Don't use sharp stones in yards/laneways.
Kangaroo gait	Confirmed in two ewes 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-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision may help.
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.
Liver fluke	A number of sheep in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Detected by post mortem or Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year, but pickup of immatures can be starting from about November. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to June as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. Use an adult flukicide unrelated to triclabendazole at this time of year. See fact sheet on https://wormboss.com.au/liver-fluke-control/
Mastitis (acute)	One ewe in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed udder with abnormal milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency)	Acute: strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment by injection. If only one half of udder is affected ewe can produce nearly as much milk from the other half if she recovers. Chronic cases with hard udder should be culled.
Misadventure	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewe had to be assisted but when released staggered into a tree trunk and broke its neck.	Try to release staggery ewes in open areas.
Muzzle cancer	One aged ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Merino ewes most at risk.	Usually inoperable, euthanise.
Nasal discharge, purulent (snotty)	A small number of lambs in two medium flocks	NW, Northern 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.
Newborn lamb deaths	A number of triplets died in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Newborn lambs found dead in lambing paddock.	Usually due to mis-mothering but can be due to diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, or slow birth, exposure etc. Lamb postmortems can help identify causes and solutions. Keep ewe body condition score around 3, have sufficient pasture available (at least 800 kg DM/ha singles, 1200 kg

				DM/ha multiples) and shelter. Scan for triplets, feed ewes extra well and lamb in small mobs in good shelter and minimise disturbances.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	One lamb from one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Could be first stage of pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking, if possible, only yard if you have to.
Photosensitisation	Ears only in two lambs in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and/or ears.	Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-histamines, antibiotics under veterinary supervision, if necessary, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	Widespread in heavily pregnant ewes in small medium and large flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Caused by insufficient energy in diet in last 7 weeks of pregnancy. Usually in ewes carrying multiples or very a large single lamb.	If heavily pregnant ewes go down in last 6 weeks, inject 1/5 milk fever pack under skin and massage in well (to differentiate from milk fever). If ewe does not get up within an hour, twin lamb disease is most likely cause. Oral treatments rarely work unless you catch them while still able to walk but dropping out of back of mob and 'star-gazing".
Sawhorse stance	One recently lambed ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Probably due to abdominal pain	This one died soon after. Probably due to lambing injuries.
Scanning rate decline	Scanned in lamb rates in composite ewe flock declining over 4 years	Northern Tasmania	Some ewes showing signs of facial eczema (skin peeling off face) and in sections of liver.	Facial eczema toxin damages the liver and declines in conception rates can be seen even before signs of photosensitisation are seen. Pithomyces spore counts in pasture or faeces planned for this autumn.
Selenium deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), newborn lamb deaths, slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Stag	Two male lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	One or both testicles retained up in the body.	Vet may be able to remove retained testicle/s but some are still right up inside the body and cannot be easily removed.
Sudden deaths of hoggets	Twenty hoggets in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	On heavy grain ration. Found dead and blown up.	Most likely pulpy kidney. Give PK booster, offer more roughage.
Uterine prolapse	A number of cases in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Long pink organ hanging from vulva after lambing. May be damaged.	Acute fresh cases can be cleaned, gently pushed back in (elevate ewe's hindquarters) give pessaries/antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Chronic cases can be tied off and surgically removed by vet. Otherwise euthanase. Not fit to load.
Vaginal prolapse	A number of ewes in a number of medium and large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more	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

			commonly affected.	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. Treat foot conditions. See https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes.
Wool break	One sheep in one medium 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	Many high counts, many jumping from low/medium to high in 2 weeks in pregnant ewes. Nematodirus counts in some weaners. Black scour worm still dominant in larval cultures, brown stomach worm present. 14% Barber's pole worm in one sample.	High larval pickup at this time of year. 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*.
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in a number of flocks	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and deaths.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST and coccidia test and ask lab to culture for Yersinia as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals. Some stress factor is usually present (eg poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected.
CATTLE				
Abdominal wall defect newborn calf	One calf in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Difficult birth with calf's intestines free in cow's uterus	Congenital but not that likely to be inherited. Defect may be repaired by a veterinarian or calf euthanised if defect is too large or intestines damaged during calving.
Abscesses, multiple, in liver	One cow in one large dairy herd.	Northern Tasmania	Discovered at postmortem	Hard to diagnose while the cow is alive. Possibly caused by subacute acidosis (overeating grain), rumen wall damage and a shower of bacteria travelling to liver.
Arthritis, multiple joints	One young poddy calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to get up and walk.	Very important to make sure orphaned calves get 2 litres of colostrum within 24 hours of birth, otherwise they don't have any antibodies against common infections and navel ill pneumonia, gut infections and polyarthritis are common. These cases can be treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision, but response is often poor.
Bloat, chronic, gassy	A small number of weaned calves in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	Left flank bulging out a lot.	Chronic bloat can be due to internal damage ("vagal bloat"), or chronic acidosis damage to rumen – more likely in this case - a vet may insert a corkscrew canula or create a permanent hole (fistula) connecting the rumen to the outside skin to allow gas to escape. These just let to see if they would grow out of it and are improving.
Blood clots in faeces	One young poddy calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	May be due to coccidia or Salmonella	Particular antibiotics may be used by a veterinarian to cover both these possibilities. Ensure good colostrum intake in orphan calves and maintain in clean dry environment.

Bottle jaw	First calf heifer after calving	Northern Tasmania	Barber's pole worm present in herd but unlikely at this time of year. Could be type 2 Ostertagia (brown stomach worm) or less likely Johne's disease.	Some diagnostic work required to define problem, then treat as appropriate.
"Bottle" teats	Front quarters in one cow from one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Teats too large for calf to get into mouth resulting in calf only drinking from back quarters.	Check cows at marking or weaning and cull.
Collapse in newborn calf	One calf in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf bright and alert soon after birth but comatose late afternoon.	Responded to warming up so probably hypothermia.
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.	Starting to self-cure now. 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
Contracted tendons in calves	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, manganese, Vitamin D or E.	Keep cow and calf in small yard and feed cow, many of these self-correct. Bandage and/or splint to protect front of fetlock if knuckling right over.
Corkscrew penis	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Penis is diverted to one side when bull attempts to serve cows.	Observe bulls early in mating period and replace any bulls that cannot serve properly.
Dags	A small number of cattle in one small herd.	Northern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worms, dietary factors and viral diseases can all be involved.
Downer cow	Two cows in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Cows went down in late pregnancy – probably grass tetany, hypocalcaemia or pregnancy toxaemia.	Responded to Flo-Packs under skin so probably hypocalcaemia or grass tetany. Feed Causmag in hay or use magnesium boluses. For management of downers see *Down Cows Resources* on Dairy Australia website.
Drench failure	A number of young cattle affected in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Macrocyclic lactone (ML) resistance or problems with delivering an effective dose.	Responded to a combination drench so most likely ML resistance.

Dystocia (difficult birth) posterior presentation	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf presented backwards.	These can be difficult to deal with if the back legs are pointing forwards and a veterinarian may need to assist.
Eye cancer	One case in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in breeds with white pigmentation around eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require eye ablation surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over the growth.
Grass tetany (hypo-magnesaemia)	Two cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitable.	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevent with Causmag on hay or magnesium boluses. Magnesium blocks may not ensure all cows get protective dose every day. See: https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/grass-tetany-beef-cattle-prevention-and-treatment#:~:text=Grass%20tetany%20is%20a%20highly,Angus%20cattle%20and%20their%20crosses.
Hooves overgrown	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Hooves long and at abnormal angles	Probably some environmental and genetic factors at play. Can pare hooves back into shape but best to cull in longer term.
Lead contamination	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Survivor of lead poisoning incident.	Blood lead levels in this steer have taken over a year to reduce by 50% and will probably take another 300 days to reduce to a level where consignment for local processing is allowed. Beef from this animal cannot be exported so price will be lower. Prevention: dispose of old batteries properly and deny access to items that could have been painted with lead paint.
Lump between jaws	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be Actino or another bacterial abscess, a blood clot, a cancer or scar tissue.	Vet can investigate and drain if it is an abscess.
Lungworm in young cattle	A large number of weaners in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be complicated by bacterial and viral diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover 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.
Macrocyclic lactone resistance in multiple worm species	A number of medium and large herds	NW Tasmania	Positive egg counts within protection period claimed by drench manufacturer.	Use non-ML drench families, monitor egg counts, clinical signs and scouring in young cattle, grazing management: graze with alternative species, adult cattle, crop or cut hay to "clean" paddocks for young cattle. Select for resistant cattle (quite heritable).
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	A number of cattle from two small herds	Northern and Southern 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.
Pneumonia and pleurisy	A number of weaner heifers in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Associated with a lungworm infection.	Treat lungworm. Early treatment under veterinary supervision with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories can resolve some cases. Vaccines are available that can help prevent.

Retained afterbirth	One cow in one medium herd and a number of cows in one large herd.	Northern and 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. Can be associated with selenium deficiency so also test for and correct any such deficiency.
Schistosomus reflexus foetus	Two foetal calves in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	No abdominal wall and deformed body of calf preventing normal birth.	Schistosomus reflexus is a congenital deformity mostly seen in cattle but can be seen in sheep as well. Deformed calf usually cannot be delivered so vet may cut the calf up inside the cow using embryotomy wire or perform a caesarean.
Ostertagia (brown stomach worm) type 2	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Scouring, loss of weight in 4-year-old cow.	Caused by Brown stomach worm larvae resting in the lining of the 4th stomach and maturing to adults when the cow is stressed. Most drenches apart from levamisole kill the inhibited as well as adult worms. Using a long-acting anthelmintic on young cattle in July helps prevent if ML resistance is not present.
Pink Eye, winter	Severely affecting a number of cattle in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Discharge from both eyes usually, rapid development. Highly contagious within group. Front of eye may get cloudy, ulcerated, middle of eye can go yellow, eye can rupture.	Winter pinkeye often caused by Moraxella bovoculi, different from summer pinkeye caused by Moraxella bovis. May require whole herd treatment, talk to your vet. Start treatment early. Separate affected cattle, use eye creams, antibiotic injection into eyelids, eye patches or vet can stitch eyelids. There is a vaccine available that covers most of the strains of pink eye bacteria that occur in Tasmania, but does not cover Moraxella bovoculi, but customised vaccines can be made up. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/103904/pinkeye-in-cattle.pdf
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Undershot jaw.	Several goats in one large feral herd	Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth do not meet dental pad on upper jaw neatly but meet further back.	Hereditary conformational fault. Causes difficulty eating and slow growth, smaller adult body size and body condition score. Cull.
Overshot jaw	One goat in one large feral herd	Southern Tasmania	Bottom row of incisor teeth protrudes past top row of incisor teeth.	Hereditary fault. Inbred herd. Cull.
Lice, biting	Several goats in one large feral herd	Southern Tasmania	Body lice (smaller, lighter colour) can be seen moving away from light when coat parted. Only survive a few days off goat.	In owned goats use spray, pour-on, injectable (under veterinary advice note) and powder treatments. Re-treat (sprays, powder) after 15 days to break life cycle.
Body size small	A number of goats in one large feral herd	Southern Tasmania	This herd has probably been inbreeding for	Cull. Owned goats could be outcrossed to larger body size and more diverse genetic pool.

			a number of years.	
PIGS				
No cases reported				
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
No cases reported				
WORKING DOGS				
Dislocated hip	One aged bitch in one large group	Southern Tasmania	Hung up in fence.	Replaced under anaesthetic, given cage rest, bandaging but still came out again. May require hip operation.

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)

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 the *Tasmania region*.