

# Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – September 2026

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

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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-November.

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

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

## Seasonal Disease Alerts

**Arthritis in lambs:** If you have more than the odd case it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.

**Barber's pole worm:** deaths can occur early in the season in areas that are wet and did not experience heavy frosts over winter. Watch for anaemia, bottle jaw, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts. A lectin test is available on Wormtest samples sent to the NRE lab.

**Brown stomach worm:** heavy burdens have been found in ewes with moderate worm egg counts.

**Black scour worms:** some high egg counts have been seen. Lactating ewes and young lambs that start grazing early due to poor ewe nutrition will be susceptible.

**Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxoplasmosis stillbirths in sheep:** Blood tests on dry or 'lambled and lost' ewes at marking or weaning can 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.

**Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes:** don't hold lactating ewes off feed for more than a few 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.

**Liver fluke:** Eggs can be detected in Fluketests. Use an adult flukicide from a different flukicide family if you use triclabendazole in summer/autumn. New infection pick-up can start from early November.

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

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

**Pneumonia:** has been diagnosed in calves. Deaths, 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.

**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 – the value of Livestock Health Declarations**

Livestock health declarations give sellers the opportunity to promote the high biosecurity status of their stock and give buyers important and useful information on the specific disease, testing and vaccination status of animal they are thinking of buying.

If a seller is aware that a disease, for example benign footrot, is present in the flock and declares this up-front on the sheep health declaration, this will ensure that there is no come-back from a buyer who may claim later that they were not informed prior to sale.

Insisting on a health declaration can be useful if you are really interested in the stock but have some reservations about their disease status. The vendor will usually refuse to provide a declaration if they know that a problem exists, and that helps you make the right decision.

There are fillable forms available, and electronic pre-filling of your vendor details is possible, and you can also fill it in with your [eNVD](#).

The health declaration is voluntary and is not required at all for animals sent direct to the processor but is a legal document and must be filled in honestly.

A new version of the cattle health declaration is available now, along with health declarations for sheep, goats and South American camelids, at:

[www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements)

## **Parvo in working dogs**

A Tasmanian working dog breeder recently lost pups to Parvovirus. The pups were fine one day and dead or nearly dead the next. They had been vaccinated at 6-8 weeks of age but hadn't receive the booster at the recommended age. Antibodies from the mother probably stopped the vaccine working at this young age. The pups had not been off the property, but adult dogs had and may have spread the virus through low-level infection or by physical transfer of the tough virus.

It is important to make sure that pups receive complete vaccination at an appropriate age where they will get a full 12 month's protection. Keep pups isolated from other dogs as much as you can until a week or so after that final vaccination.

Talk to your vet about a vaccination program that reduces the risk of Parvo in your young working dogs.

## Diseases and conditions seen in September 2026

| SHEEP                          |                                                                               |                                    |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Disease/condition              | Number of reports/cases                                                       | Region                             | Details                                                                                  | Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Abortion, cause not determined | A number of ewes in one large flock                                           | Southern Tasmania                  | Ewes normal, lambs premature                                                             | Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella are common causes but not tested for. This flock not vaccinated against campylobacter and close to houses so Toxo also likely.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Abscess, lip                   | One ram in one medium flock                                                   | Northern Tasmania                  | Swelling on lip in this case.                                                            | Surgical draining, antiseptic spray by vet effective in this case (superficial).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Bent leg in ram hoggets        | One medium mob, about 12% affected                                            | Southern Tasmania                  | Young rams given access to grain with no added calcium in lick feeder for a long period. | Probably due to a calcium/phosphorus imbalance as grain contains a lot of phosphorus but little calcium. Add 1-2% limestone and 1-2% salt to grain or offer loose lick containing limestone, magnesium and salt.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 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 lambing problems. Fit to load: make sure low BCS sheep are strong enough for the planned journey.                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Bone fractures in lambs        | Two lambs in one medium flock                                                 | Southern Tasmania                  | One lamb broke both tibias                                                               | Thought to be misadventure but could be due to vitamin D deficiency or calcium imbalance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Cast                           | One ewe in one large flock.                                                   | Northern Tasmania                  | Got down when lambing.                                                                   | Check ewes frequently during lambing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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 <u>WORMTEST</u> 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 <a href="http://www.wool.com/flystrikelatest">www.wool.com/flystrikelatest</a> . |
| Dermo (lumpy wool)             | Small numbers of young Merino sheep in one medium and one large flock.        | Southern and 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: <u>DPI - Lumpy wool fact sheet</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Diarrhoea in poddy lamb        | One lab in one small flock                                                    | Northern Tasmania                  | White scour, lamb depressed.                                                             | Keep feeding milk, also feed electrolyte solution and offer clean water with electrolyte. May need veterinary attention if persists more than 4 days.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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| Dog attack                             | One sheep in one large flock.                                           | 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 large flock.                                             | Northern Tasmania               | Late pregnancy, low BCS, probably pregnancy toxemia.                                         | Try 1/5 flo-pak under skin. Possibly ovine Johne's disease, need laboratory testing or postmortem to confirm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Dystocia (difficult birth)             | A number of ewes in a number of small, medium and large flocks.         | Northern and 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 should be scanned and 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Epididymitis in ram                    | One case in one flock                                                   | Southern Tasmania.              | A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on side 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 other testicle in good order.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Exposure losses of newborn lambs       | Several lambs died in one medium flock over a few days of cold weather. | Southern Tasmania.              | Lambs born normally but die soon after birth during wet cold weather                         | This lambing much better than last. Shelter to reduce chill index, more feed on offer (FOO) and higher ewe body condition score (BCS) at lambing will all reduce lamb losses. Keep most sheltered paddocks with most FOO for multiple-bearing ewes and aim for a BCS of 3.3 for these ewes.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Fleece rot                             | One sheep in one small flock                                            | Northern Tasmania               | Greenish, blueish or pinkish discoloration of wool at skin level.                            | Caused by constantly wet fleece plus some genetic pre-disposition mainly in Merinos. Pre-disposes to body strike. Use flystrike preventative measures/chemicals during fly season and select against this trait.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Foot abscess (heel abscess)            | Ten ewes in one large flock.                                            | Southern Tasmania               | Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage.                          | Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly. Treat with long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry e.g. on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.                                                                                                                           |
| Hooves overgrown, deformed             | One sheep in one small flock.                                           | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Horn growing into head (in-grown horn) | One ram                                                                 | 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever')           | A number of cases in heavily pregnant ewes in one large flock.          | Southern Tasmania               | Late pregnant ewes went down after period off feed for pre-lambing treatments.               | 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. |
| Injury, nose                           | One sheep in one small flock                                            | Northern Tasmania               | Wound on front of nose, possibly impact with yard.                                           | Most heal well left alone of with some antiseptic spray. Check yards for protrusions, handle sheep calmly.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| Lameness                                                                 | A small number of sheep in a small number of 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.                                                                                                                                              |
| Lip cancer                                                               | One aged sheep in one small flock                          | Southern Tasmania                  | Crusty lesion on lip                                                                                                | Surgically removed by veterinarian.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Listeria detected in silage                                              | One medium flock                                           | Southern Tasmania                  | Some species of Listeria may cause a brain infection seen as a head tilt, walk in circles, die or abortion in ewes. | This case associated with wrapped pasture silage. Test did not determine which species of Listeria was present, may have been a harmless species. But test did show that silage making technique was not ideal and improvements needed to be made.                                                                        |
| Mastitis (acute)                                                         | Two ewes 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.                                                                 |
| Navel ill (infected belly button) in 1 week old lambs                    | One lamb in one small flock                                | Southern Tasmania                  | Wet and mushy around the belly button (umbilicus)                                                                   | Try to lamb in clean paddocks without too much mud. Good colostrum intake in first 12 hrs of life. Dip umbilical cord in iodine solution. Can treat with broad-spectrum antibiotics under veterinary supervision.                                                                                                         |
| Neck injury                                                              | One ram in one medium flock                                | Northern Tasmania                  | Ram was ill with pneumonia and other rams in the group turned on him, injured his neck causing difficulty walking.  | Ram was isolated and is slowly recovering                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Neurological (nervous system) signs in 7-10-week-old lambs after marking | Multiple cases                                             | Southern Tasmania                  | Lambs down, depressed, difficulty walking, some appeared to be paralysed                                            | Can be due to copper deficiency, bacterial infection of brain, spinal abscess, anaemia. Best to have postmortem done and specific diagnosis made.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Neurological (nervous system) signs in poddy lambs soon after feeding    | One lamb in one small flock                                | Northern Tasmania                  | Seemed drunk, died soon after                                                                                       | May have been due to bloat and a ruptured fourth stomach due to ulceration. Feed milk at room temperature in a number of small feeds over the day.                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Ovine Interdigital dermatitis (OID)                                      | A number of rams in one medium flock                       | Southern Tasmania                  | Reddening and some exudate between toes. Looks similar to scald (benign footrot).                                   | Take smears on glass slides so lab can stain and examine for footrot bacteria. If no footrot bacteria, OID is diagnosed. Treated by footbathing or by anti-bacterial sprays.                                                                                                                                              |
| Photosensitisation                                                       | Nose only in one lamb in one large flock.                  | Northern Tasmania                  | Skin peeling off nose.                                                                                              | 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. |

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| Pink eye                               | A high proportion of lambs in one small mob            | Northern Tasmania | Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg yarding)                                                                                     | If low prevalence and on good feed and water leave alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Pizzle rot                             | One wether in one small flock                          | Northern Tasmania | Scab on end of pizzle or whole sheath swollen                                                                                                                                                               | Bacterial infection usually associated with grazing wethers on legume-rich pastures. Prevented by testosterone injections (see your vet).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease) | A number of heavily pregnant ewes in one large flock.  | 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'.                                           |
| Premature lamb                         | One lamb in one large flock                            | Northern Tasmania | Lamb born well developed, but small with sparse coat.                                                                                                                                                       | Probably late abortion, possibly Campy or Toxo. Send 5 lambs to lab or bleed 10 ewes 'lambled and lost' ewes at marking or weaning to test for Toxo and Campy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Scabby Mouth                           | Two lambs in one small flock                           | Northern Tasmania | Crusts and raw areas on lips, sometimes on feet. Ewe's teats affected as well in this case.                                                                                                                 | Caused by a tough virus that persists on a property once introduced, but skin injury needed to allow virus to establish. Best left to heal on their own. Can prevent with vaccine at marking. See: <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf</a> |
| Scrotal mange                          | 80% of young superfine Merino rams in one medium flock | Northern Tasmania | Usually seen in Merino rams but can affect other breeds. Unlikely to affect fertility unless more than 10 square centimetres of thickened skin/scabs on scrotum. Pasterns affected as well in severe cases. | The <i>Chorioptes bovis</i> mite lives on cattle and other species and survives for a number of days off the host so is hard to eradicate. Individually effected rams can be treated – see your vet.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Septicaemia                            | One 7-day-old lamb in one medium flock                 | Northern Tasmania | Pneumonia and infected joints                                                                                                                                                                               | May respond to antibiotics under veterinary supervision if detected early.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Spinal abscess                         | Four un-marked lambs in one large flock.               | Southern Tasmania | Weak or paralysed hind legs or found down                                                                                                                                                                   | Diagnosed at postmortem. In this case infection may have entered via navel or septicaemia.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Stillborn lambs                        | About 5% of births in one medium flock                 | Northern Tasmania | Possible causes include Toxoplasmosis, Campylobacter, Listeria, over-size lamb or slow birth                                                                                                                | See SheepConnect Tasmania for Toxo control. Intensively grazed and drought-lotted ewes should be vaccinated against Campylobacter. Scanning for multiples and feeding ewes appropriately should minimise deaths from slow birth/oversized lambs. Calcium supplementation can also reduce stillbirths.                                                                                                  |

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| Sudden death of lambs | A number of lambs in one small flock | Northern Tasmania                  | Most likely pulpy kidney or poisonous plant                                                         | Vaccinate twice with 3-in-1, 5-in-1 or 6-in-1 4-6 weeks apart (eg marking, weaning) then every 3 months if on rich feed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Undershot jaw.        | One lamb in one small flock          | Northern 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 lower body condition score. Cull.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Uterine prolapse      | One cases in one medium flock        | Southern 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      | Two ewes in one medium flock.        | Southern Tasmania                  | Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected. | Treat: There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. Prevention: Remove tails at third joint (tip of vulva) when marking ewe lambs, keep pregnant ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last few weeks of pregnancy, keep BCS 3 to 3.3. Offer calcium supplements in late pregnancy. Don't feed swedes in last 1/3 of pregnancy. Offer hay if on low dry matter feed. Shear in last third of pregnancy. Maintain steady body weight from start of mating to scanning. Treat foot conditions. See <a href="https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep">https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep</a> for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes. |
| Wool break            | One sheep each in two small flocks   | Northern Tasmania                  | Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.                                        | Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection 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 | Counts tending to be lower due to dry weather.                                                      | High larval pickup at this time of year. Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by <u>WORMTEST</u> 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 <u>WORMBOSS sheep worm control program</u> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

#### CATTLE

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| Calf deaths days after birth | A number of beef calves from one medium herd                    | Southern Tasmania                  | Can be due to Pestivirus, pneumonia, septicaemia, E Coli, Salmonella, Rotavirus, navel ill, joint ill. | Vet can diagnose. Treat as per vet findings. Calves must get adequate colostrum within 24 hours of birth – check cows don't have bottle teats, mastitis.                                                                               |
| 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 <u>Different Species of Mites in Cattle</u> in LICEBOSS |
| Corkscrew claw               | One cow in one medium herd                                      | Northern Tasmania                  | Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form                                         | Genetic cause. Cull.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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| Crusted skin on tail head              | One cow in one small herd                                                      | Northern Tasmania                  | Crusted skin over tail head                                                                                                                                                | May have been mechanical injury. Will not need treatment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Dags                                   | A number of cattle in a number of small, medium and large herds.               | NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania | Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.                                                                                                                                           | Previous scour. Worms, dietary factors and viral diseases can all be involved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Dystocia (difficult birth) in heifers  | Three heifers in one large herd                                                | Northern Tasmania                  | Calves a too large for heifers.                                                                                                                                            | Heifers should generally be 300kg+ at mating and grow at up to 1 kg per day in last third of pregnancy. Need to be observed frequently over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Eye cancer                             | One case in one medium herd                                                    | Northern Tasmania                  | Aged Hereford cow with early growths on the edge of the eyeball both eyes                                                                                                  | These were shaved off using local anaesthetic and a scalpel blade. More advanced require eye ablation surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over the growth. Prevention: breed cattle with deep-set eyes and pigmented eyelids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Grass tetany (hypomagnesaemia)         | Two cows in one large herd                                                     | Northern Tasmania                  | Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitabile. Short green grass dominant pastures fertilised with N and K, cold snap, fat cow, risk factors. | 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: <a href="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">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</a> . |
| Hip arthritis                          | One cow in one large herd                                                      | Northern Tasmania                  | Cow walks with difficulty and has trouble getting up.                                                                                                                      | Euthanase on-farm if not fit to load                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Hip skin injury                        | One hip in one cow in one medium herd. Both hips in one cow in one small herd. | Northern Tasmania                  | Skin over point of hip abraded.                                                                                                                                            | One hip affected indicates collision with object most likely. Check yards for protrusions, handle cattle calmly in yards. Both hips may reflect being down, use of hip hoist.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Melanoma                               | One 12 month old Angus Shorthorn steer in one medium herd                      | Southern Tasmania                  | More common in Angus cattle. It is usually benign (doesn't spread to other organs) but can be very large.                                                                  | This one was on the inside of the hock and weighed about 4 kg. A veterinarian surgically removed the melanoma and used tension sutures to pull the skin back over the wound which is healing well.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) | A number of young cattle and cows from a number of herds                       | NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania | Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of Pink Eye.                                                                                 | May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Poll injury                            | One bull in one medium herd                                                    | Northern Tasmania                  | Bare area on front of poll                                                                                                                                                 | Probably from fighting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Q fever                                | A small number of heifers from a medium mob                                    | Northern Tasmania                  | Owner was diagnosed with Q fever after assisting calving. All heifers were blood tested and                                                                                | People who will handle imported animals should be vaccinated against Q fever. Cattle, sheep and goats imported from the mainland could be isolated and blood tested.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

|                            |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                            | imported from NSW                       |                          | a small number were positive                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Saw-horse stance           | One bull in one small herd              | Northern Tasmania        | Standing with front legs forward and back legs back further than usual.                                                    | Usually indicated abdominal pain. Observe and may need vet diagnosis.                                                                                                                                                        |
| Redwater (haemoglobinuria) | A number of cows in several dairy herds | NW and Northern Tasmania | Urine appears red                                                                                                          | Can be caused by brassica anaemia, a Clostridial disease associated with liver fluke (but cow usually dies), phosphorus deficiency, possibly Leptospirosis. Need vet diagnosis first, then treat. Remove from brassica crop. |
| Stillborn calves           | Several calves in one large herd        | Northern Tasmania        | Calves found dead                                                                                                          | Possible causes: difficult birth, diseases such as Pestivirus, Campylobacter, Neospora, deficiencies of iodine, copper or selenium.                                                                                          |
| Tail amputation by dry dag | One steer in one medium herd            | Northern Tasmania        | Dag forms right around tail, then dries and shrinks and cuts off blood supply.                                             | Remove dags and treat wound. Prevent scouring.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>ALPACAS and CAMELS</b>  |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| No cases reported          |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>GOATS</b>               |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Lice, biting               | One doe 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.                                                             |
| Sudden deaths in kids      | A number of kids in one large herd      | Northern Tasmania        | Possibly due to pulpy kidney                                                                                               | Vaccinate twice 4-6 weeks apart as a kid, then every 3 months if on rich feed.                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>PIGS</b>                |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Mange (sarcoptic)          | Widespread in one large outdoor piggery | Southern Tasmania        | Itching, rubbing against objects and crusting around ears. Reddened crusty skin on body.                                   | A number of effective treatments are available.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>POULTRY</b>             |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| No cases reported          |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>DEER</b>                |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| No cases reported          |                                         |                          |                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| WORKING DOGS        |                                                     |                   |                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Parvovirus          | Two pups died and one recovered in one large kennel | Northern Tasmania | Vomiting diarrhoea, dehydration, death. | First two pups found dead or nearly dead. Oral rehydration saved third pup. All three had only had their 6-8 week temporary vaccination. Prevention: Vaccinate young dogs and maintain boosters as advised by veterinarian. |
| Scar tissue on face | One dog in one large group                          | Northern Tasmania | From dog fight                          | No action needed if healing well.                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## 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](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](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](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs)

**Phone A Vet**

A telemedicine app that caters for production animals. Download the app from your usual provider. Can use video, photos, texting, you can select your vet. Experienced sheep, cattle, goat, camelid and pig vets are available. See: <https://www.phoneavet.com.au/>

**Farm Biosecurity Apps**

If you want to know who is coming and going, warn visitors of risks and areas to avoid without spending your whole day on your mobile, you may like to consider an app that combines with a QR code on your farm entrances. See: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/biosecurity-at-your-fingertips/>

**Paraboss**

The previous WormBoss, LiceBoss, and FlyBoss websites are now all in one place and have a wealth of information on, and tools to manage sheep, goat and cattle parasites. 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](#).