Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – October 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-December.

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.
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 rapid 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.
Bloat: is a risk in lambs on lucerne or clover on misty overcast days.
Body lice: Just before shearing is a good time to inspect so that infestations can be treated off-shears.
Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxoplasmosis stillbirths in sheep: Blood tests on dry or 'lambed and lost' ewes at weaning can detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection.
Copper deficiency in sheep and cattle: delayed swayback in weaned lambs and broken bones in young lambs and cattle seem to be on the rise. Check plant tissue levels for high molybdenum (Mo) levels if Mo has been applied in a fertiliser mix.
Drench resistance in sheep: 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.
Drench resistance in cattle: Cooperia are often resistant to the ML drenches, and brown stomach worms are also developing resistance. Carry out DrenchCheck on young cattle as for sheep.
Footrot and scald: Spreading now in wetter areas and will become more active as weather warms up.
Flystrike: Cases are occurring now.

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 from last season can be detected in Fluketests if not treated. New infection pick-up can start from early November but eggs won't appear for about 2 months, so use a blood test to detect. Use triclabendazole (if no resistance) to treat from now on.
Lucerne red gut: seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcase in lambs on lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay, straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.
Mycoplasma ovis anaemia: may be seen in lambs about 4 weeks after marking. Leave them alone to recover naturally if possible.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): can show up in 6-tooth and older sheep under stress.
Pestivirus in heifers: Consider vaccinating your heifers to prevent pestivirus abortions, stillbirths, 'dummy' calves and poor doers that die before 18 months of age. You may like to talk to your vet about having some blood tests done to see what the herd pestivirus risk profile is.
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): Sheep and lambs vaccinated more than 3 months previously should 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.

Biosecurity story of the month - Listeriosis

There have been some cases of atypical listeriosis in adult sheep recently.

Listeria bacteria are very common in the environment. They usually enter through some damage to the inside of the mouth, travel up the nerves to the brain and form small abscesses resulting in nervous signs in the animal. Cattle, sheep and goats can be affected. Listeria can also cause abortions, diarrhoea, and eye infections.

Usually, we diagnose listeriosis by the clinical signs which can include:

- the head tilted to one side
- drooling saliva, more from one side of the mouth
- the tongue hanging out one side of the mouth
- walking in circles.

In this case, dead animals but no clinical signs were seen, despite the sheep being observed daily. A postmortem and laboratory tests showed that Listeria was the problem and, in this case, feeding silage that had suffered some water damage was the most likely source.

The silage feeding was immediately stopped, but the incubation period for listeriosis is up to 2-3 weeks, so the deaths continued.

Lab tests showed that the Listeria bacteria in this case were killed by a number of antibiotics, but the problem is getting the antibiotic into the brain through what is called the "blood-brain barrier". This barrier means that even though you can achieve high levels of antibiotics in the

blood, the antibiotic does not get through to the brain where the infection is. So antibiotic treatment does not always work, even when started early in the course of the disease.

Silage should be well-made (the high acid levels in good silage discourage Listeria growth) and damage to the silage wrap during storage should be prevented as well.

When sheep over 18 months of age or cattle over 30 months of age show neurological signs, a disease investigation by a veterinarian may be subsidised under the national "Bucks for Brains" program.



Listeria case, note protruding tongue and salivation.

Diseases and conditions seen in October 2026

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Acidosis	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	High grain ration.	"Porridge" scour, depressed, die. Early treatment with oral penicillin or virginiamycin can help (under vet supervision). Move affected sheep from source of grain, feed roughage. Oral bicarb not recommended.
Arthritis infectious in lambs at marking	One lamb in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swollen joints, lame.	A variety of bacteria can be the cause, including Erysipelas. Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock, then use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Barbers pole worm	Barbers pole worm eggs detected at low levels in two flocks by	Southern Tasmania	No symptoms in these cases but watch for exercise intolerance,	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.

	lectin test on worm egg counts in laboratory		sudden death, no scouring, pale gums later.	
Bloat in 6 week old bottle-fed lamb	One lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lamb bloated soon after feeding. Caused by Sarcina bacterial infection of 4th stomach causing excess fermentation and ulceration, rupture and can cause death in severe cases.	Can relieve gas distension of 4th stomach with needle but needs careful placement. Antibiotics can control the Sarcina infection. Feed milk at room temperature, don't make milk up too rich, give small feeds more often, add 1:1000 formalin to milk.
Body condition score low	A small number of sheep in a number of small, medium and large flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern 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. Make sure that low BCS animals are fit to load - strong enough for the planned journey.
Cancer of intestines	One aged ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Pale white growths over surface of large and small bowel.	Bracken fern exposure is thought to be the cause of some intestinal cancers.
Coccidiosis in a poddy lamb.	One lamb in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Scouring with straining and blood.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs (under vet supervision). Prevention by good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas.
Copper deficiency bone fractures	A number of marking age lambs in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Lambs were down, bone fractures detected at postmortem.	This case caused by high levels of molybdenum in the pasture. Deficiencies may also reduce immunity to worms and other disease, cause 'steely' wool and reduce newborn lamb survival. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, oral drench, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching is time-consuming.
Cough	One lamb in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench	If little response to lungworm drench then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as Mycoplasma. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and postmortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cryptorchid	Two male weaners in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Only one testicle retained in body.	Usually inherited but can also be caused by hormone-like compounds in feed. Cull affected animal and sire if in a stud situation and only progeny from one ram affected. Usually still fertile but cryptorchid lambs hard to mark properly resulting in stags.
Dags	A number of lambs and ewes in a number of small medium and large 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.
Delayed swayback	A number of weaned lambs in two large flocks.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Incoordination and other nervous signs	Caused by copper deficiency in the ewe during pregnancy. Copper deficiency can be caused by high levels of molybdenum in the pasture. Deficiencies may also reduce immunity to worms and other disease, cause 'steely' wool

			in lambs about 6 months old	and reduce newborn lamb survival. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, oral drench, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching is time-consuming.
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 in hoggets, on muzzle in suckling lambs.	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.*
Downer lambs	A number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Some had copper deficiency fractures, arthritis, liver infection post marking	Postmortem a number of lambs to ensure you find the main problem then treat accordingly.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	A number of ewes in two large flocks.	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. One flock had not been scanned and was fed for twins, so singles suffered difficult births.
Ear cancer	Two sheep in one medium flock and one in a small flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Crusty swelling or ulceration starting anywhere on bare parts of the ear.	Vet can remove the cancer if caught early enough. Check that there is 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.
Epididymitis in ram	One case in one medium 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.
Fleece derangement	One sheep from one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually due to body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc.
Flystrike	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	This one secondary to an injury	Observe for wet, grey areas of wool, tail flicking, separation from mob, lying down. The AWI web site has a large number of resources and runs workshops on flystrike. See: https://www.wool.com/simplifly
Footrot (virulent)	A number of sheep in two large and one small flock.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Active spring spread period.	Too late to vaccinate, too early to start eradication on most properties, so control by footbathing for now. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Footrot, benign (mild, "scald")	Rams only in one large flock, a number of sheep in another	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.

	medium flock.		Confirmed by lab.	
Hermaphrodite	One lamb in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Lamb has deformed male and female genitals	Developmental accident. Most can survive to processing age but may need additional blowfly control as often urinate onto inside of hind legs.
Hooves overgrown, deformed	A number of sheep in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying causes.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Horn fracture	Three sheep in two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken and hanging down while handling in yards.	Complete removal. Pain relief under vet supervision if possible. Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover. Prevent by calm handling, good dog control, remove projections in yards.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One sheep in one small mob.	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.
Injury, face	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Wound on front face, possibly impact with yard.	Most heal well after antiseptic spray and pain relief. Check yards for protrusions, handle sheep calmly.
Lameness	One sheep in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on one leg.	This one looked like a fracture. Identify cause and treat accordingly.
Listeria	A number of sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Sheep may have head tilt, walk in circles, die. Sudden death in some in this case associated mainly with silage feeding.	This case associated with lucerne silage with some damage to wrap. Remove from offending feed. Treat early with antibiotics under veterinary supervision but often unsuccessful.
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 (under vet supervision). 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.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	A small number of lambs in a number of small medium and large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections, possibly nasal bot.	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Nose cancer	One case in one aged sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty growth or erosion on nose	Surgery was attempted in this case.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	A number of lambs from several small, medium and large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Could be first stage of Pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking, if possible, only yard if you have to.

Oxalate kidney damage	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Plants such as dock, sorrel, pigweed, fat hen contain soluble oxalates than can filter out and damage the kidneys.	Sheep that have not adapted to oxalates in the diet and are hungry are more susceptible. Wilted plants after spraying can be more palatable to sheep. Can be seen as hypocalcaemia ('milk fever' – responds to calcium injection) or kidney damage – usually fatal. Prevention: make sure sheep are not hungry when placed on paddocks dominated by sorrel, fat hen etc. Remove such plants from yards, holding paddocks.
Paralysis tick	One lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lamb was down, a tick was found attached to its skin, paralysis tick intoxication suspected.	*Ixodes cornuatis* is the Southern paralysis tick and usually only seen in Northern Tasmania but also identified on NW coast and now Southern Tasmania (Bothwell, possibly Copping). Can cause paralysis and death. Dipping in synthetic pyrethroids may help prevent tick attachment.
Photosensitisation	A number of lambs in a number of small medium and large flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mostly back of ears but also one more extensive on body, nose and around eyes.	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.
Pinkeye	A small proportion of lambs in one large flock	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 (under vet supervision). Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pizzle rot	One wether in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Scab on end of pizzle in this case but can progress to whole sheath swollen	Bacterial infection usually associated with grazing wethers on legume-rich pastures. Prevented by testosterone injections (see your vet).
Premature lambs	A number of lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs born well developed, but small with sparce coat.	These were all in maiden ewes, probably late abortion, possibly caused by Campylobacter or Toxo. Send 5 lambs to lab or bleed 10 ewes 'lambed and lost' ewes at marking or weaning to test for Toxo and Campy.
Proud flesh in toe	One ram in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Lame, hoof horn broken off at toe, proud flesh in defect.	Underlying conditions such as toe abscess must be treated. Proud flesh can be sliced off and a pressure bandage applied to reduce bleeding.
Scabby Mouth	Two lambs in one small flock, one lamb in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on lips, sometimes on feet.	Caused by a tough virus that persists on a property once introduced, but skin injury needed to allow virus to get into the skin and form scabs. Best left to heal on their own. Pain relief as per veterinarian instructions. Can prevent with vaccine at marking. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf
Scabs on lower legs	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Scabs not typical of scabby mouth. Possibly injuries from thorny vegetation.	Antiseptic spray treatment initially.
Scouring, persistent, in ewes	Most adult ewes on the property, year-round.	Southern Tasmania	Low worm egg counts, water tested within normal range.	High molybdenum levels and some weeds can cause persistent scouring. Cause needs to be identified.

Shelly toe	Over half the rams in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of hoof.	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition. Nutrition and underfoot conditions can vary expression of the disease in the sheep. Has a heritable component and can be selected against. Best to pare off separated hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.
Skin cancer	One sheep from one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lump on body was squeezed out of skin and bled profusely.	Most likely a skin cancer but type not determined. May need more extensive surgical excision later.
Stinging nettle poisoning	Several lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Several lambs died after holding in yards growing a lot of stinging nettles.	Stinging nettles can cause a severe histamine reaction in wall of rumen. Could also have been nitrate poisoning. Deaths stopped after release from yards.
Toe abscess	Two rams in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Very lame but no swelling, heat or under-running. Small amount of grey pus in toe area.	Carefully pare back the toe, following any black track up front of toe until pus released. Usually no further treatment needed apart from antiseptic spray.
Udder, pendulous	A number of ewes	Several flocks across Tasmania	Udder hangs down lower than normal. Suspensory ligaments usually damaged.	Cull. Pet ewes can be pensioned off and not used for breeding.
Ulceration of front of nose	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Ulcers in bare skin of front of nose.	May be due to injury, possibly infection.
Vaginal prolapse	10% of ewes in one medium flock. One pet ewe in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.	Treat: There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. Prevention: Remove tails at third joint (tip of vulva) when marking ewe lambs, keep pregnant ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last few weeks of pregnancy, keep BCS 3 to 3.3. Offer calcium supplements in late pregnancy. Don't feed swedes in last 1/3 of pregnancy. Offer hay if on low dry matter feed. Shear in last third of pregnancy. Maintain steady body weight from start of mating to scanning. 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.
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Counts tending to be lower due to dry weather but deaths due to worms seen in maiden ewes at lambing. Some Barbers Pole worm eggs detected by rapid lectin test in the lab.	Larval pickup at this time of year is dropping rapidly. Don't delay first summer drench. Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by *WORMTEST* or total worm count (at postmortem by vet or lab). Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lambing drenched ewes. See the *WORMBOSS sheep worm control program*.
CATTLE				

Arthritis, multiple joints	One young calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to get up and walk.	This calf may not have ingested 2 litres of colostrum within 24 hours of birth and may not have had enough antibodies against common infections. These cases can be treated with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision but response is often poor.
Bare areas on hips and pins	A small number of cows in two medium herds	Northern Tasmania	Probably empty cows that were bulling and ridden by other cows with sharp accessory digits.	Minor problem.
Bottle teats	One cow from one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Teats too large for calf to get into mouth resulting in calf loss soon after birth.	Check cows at weaning and cull.
Bull failure, sub-fertile	Several bulls in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Too many empty cows at pregnancy testing	Feel the testes of bulls before mating – should be firm and springy. If soft, may be infertile or sub-fertile. Make sure cows are not still bulling late in mating period, swap bulls during mating if possible. Replace bulls before they get too old. Have bulls fertility tested.
Calf scours	One poddy calf in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	May not have ingested enough colostrum in first 12-24 hours after birth.	Keep feeding milk but also electrolyte (not at same time) to give 8-10 litres of fluid a day. Only use antibiotics under veterinary supervision. See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/animal-management-and-milk-quality/animal-health/calf-scours for more information
Castration deaths	One 9-month-old bull calf after knife castration	Northern Tasmania	Possibly due to haemorrhage or infection.	Bull calves over 6 months of age best castrated by a veterinarian or with proper band castration equipment and pain relief.
Chorioptic mange	A number of cattle in one small and one large herd.	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
Corkscrew claw	One cow in one large herd, one bull in one medium herd.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form.	Genetic cause. Cull.
Corneal scarring	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	White irregular marks on cornea (front of eye) but no inflammation or discharge.	No action required. Be aware cow will have limited vision on that side when handling.
Copper deficiency	One herd	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease, reduce growth rates, cause brittle bones that break easily, faded coat colour. Copper can be toxic in cattle though they are not as prone to poisoning as sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Crusting on top of muzzle	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Crusts behind the bare part of the muzzle	Probably scar tissue left after photosensitisation healed.
Dags	A number of cattle in a number of small,	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worms, dietary factors and viral diseases can all be involved.

	medium and large herds.			
Drench failure	One mob of young cattle in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Worm egg count reduction of 90% after moxidectin levamisole combination pour-on.	Under-dosing due to application method may have been the problem rather than true drench resistance.
Downer cows	A number of beef cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Some beef cows went down late pregnancy and early lactation - either grass tetany or milk fever or combination.	Feed Causmag in hay or use magnesium boluses and feed well in late pregnancy. See: https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/animal-management-and-milk-quality/animal-health/down-cows#.Yom42KhBw2w
Empty cows at pregnancy testing	15% of adult cows in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Semen testing of bulls detected sub-fertile bulls.	Pre-mating bull check including semen testing is worthwhile.
Eye cancer	One case in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Aged Hereford cow with early growths on the edge of the third eyelid of one eye.	This one was an early lesion and empty at pregnancy test so was culled. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over the growth. Prevention: breed cattle with deep-set eyes and pigmented eyelids
Inappetence	One steer in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Had gained access to garden so may have eaten a poisonous plant.	Recovered uneventfully.
Lameness and deformed leg in young calf	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf walking 'peg-legged' on one forelimb	Full clinical examination required.
Muzzle ulcers	One steer in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Shallow skin ulcers on muzzle.	No sign of ulcers anywhere else on mouth or feet. Possibly Pestivirus related.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	A number of young cattle and cows from a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be caused by an irritant such as 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.
Pestivirus	Very high percentages of cows in one medium herd and heifers in one large herd were positive to the blood test.	Southern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age.	Herd status can be assessed by blood tests or milk tests. PI animals can be detected by blood, skin or tail hair sample tests. Control programs based on vaccination or exposure to PI before mating. For more information see: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and- https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: see: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/
Pinkeye	Widespread in a number of herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge from both eyes usually, but may be only one. Watery then may become purulent. Front of eye may get cloudy, ulcerated, middle of eye can go	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. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/103904/pinkeye-in-cattle.pdf

			yellow, eye can rupture.	
Pneumonia (calf)	One young calf in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Calves may show high temperature and respiratory signs when alive.	Prevention mainly by ensuring calf drinks 2 litres of good quality colostrum in first 12 hours of life, good shelter and clean bedding.
Poll injury	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Bare area on front of poll	Probably from fighting.
Scar on coronary band	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Damage to coronary band may cause hoof deformity	Monitor, cull if hoof deformity cannot be managed with trimming.
Shivering post transport	One heifer in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	May have been due to cold change or could be first stage of travel tetany.	May need treatment with calcium/magnesium injections.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
Footrot	Many goats in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Same disease as sheep and can easily spread between goats and sheep	See virulent footrot, intermediate footrot and scald in sheep section above. Include sheep in program if attempting eradication.
Neurological signs, chronic	One goat in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Abnormal gait and head control	Had a head injury as a kid.
Ringwomb	Two does in one medium herd	NW Tasmania	Cervix does not dilate fully, causing difficult birth	Probably due to low blood calcium. Veterinarian may give drugs to relax uterine muscle or perform caesarean.
Scald	A number of goats in one medium herd	NW Tasmania	Inflammation between the toes with whitish scant pus.	Virulent footrot may present as scald in goats, so if some goats or sheep on the property have significant under-running of hoof horn then it is probably due to virulent footrot. Lab test may be needed to determine virulence. Treat as for scald in sheep section above.
Shelly toe	Several goats in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of hoof.	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition. Nutrition and underfoot conditions can vary expression of the disease in the goat. Has a heritable component and can be selected against. Best to pare off separated hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.
PIGS				
Arthritis (degenerative)	One old pig on one property	Southern Tasmania	Lame, hard swollen joint, not hot to touch.	Use anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision or cull.
POULTRY				

Chronic respiratory disease (CRD)	One chicken in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Can be caused by a number of different infectious agents.	A veterinarian may prescribe antibiotics.
DEER				
No cases reported				
WORKING DOGS				
Abscess	One cattle dog	Northern Tasmania	Small discharging wound on body.	A course of antibiotics may be effective but may be due to a migrating grass seed and may require surgical drainage and curette by a veterinarian.
Arthritis	One aged dog on one small property	Northern Tasmania	Stiff after a day's work.	Anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision.
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Two pups from one litter	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Recently vaccinated	Probably a reaction to different food in new homes, but could have been a mild gut infection.
Ear canal infection, chronic	One adult dog on one small property	NW Tasmania	Discharge, foul smell.	Veterinarian may take swab and smear or try ear ointment.
Osteomyelitis	One young dog in one medium kennel	Northern Tasmania	Toe injury led to bone infection.	Failed to respond to long course of antibiotics so toe was amputated by a veterinarian.

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*.