

# Livestock Health Monitoring Report – May 2021

The Livestock Health Monitoring program collects confidential/anonymous information on livestock diseases and conditions observed by rural service providers and abattoir data from the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project in Tasmania and produces a monthly report that is circulated as widely as possible amongst Tasmanian livestock producers and service providers. It is based on a successful pilot project conducted in 2018-19.

See [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health) for previous reports.

The program is designed to keep Tasmanian livestock producers and rural service providers up to date on what livestock diseases and conditions are currently occurring in Tasmania. This should mean earlier diagnosis, more effective treatment and better prevention of future outbreaks.

Information from these reports may be used to help convince our overseas trading partners that we don't have certain livestock diseases that they are concerned about, thus keeping our valuable export markets open and stopping risky imports coming in.

This program should also help detect an outbreak of emergency animal disease earlier, allowing effective action to stamp it out or reduce its impact.

The program has a sheep industry emphasis, but all common livestock species are covered. The National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy lies at the core of the program (see [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs))

Funding is provided by Animal Health Australia (with support from Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia) and by DPI/PWE. Private veterinarians coordinate the project.

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

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).

For farm biosecurity plans, animal health declarations and information on biosecurity practices see: [www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/](http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/)

**Livestock Data Link (LDL)** allows you to access information on carcass data, diseases and conditions detected in your sheep at slaughter through the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project. See: <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/globalassets/isc/pdf-files/ldl-pdf-files/about-livestock-data-link.pdf> for more details.

## Remember:

- Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease to the Hotline on 1800 675 888
- Never feed animal protein such as meat meal to any ruminant including sheep.
- Use NVDs and NLIS tags properly so that animals can be 'contact traced' quickly if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease.
- If you have pigs, don't feed them swill.
- Never feed raw untreated offal to dogs.
- If you have a sheep or cow showing neurological (nervous) signs you may be able to claim a subsidy for a post mortem investigation ([https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains\\_Jun16\\_WEB.pdf](https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains_Jun16_WEB.pdf)).

## Seasonal disease alerts

**Black scour worm:** sheep on permanent pastures can be picking up a lot of black scour worm larvae from now on. WORMTEST to monitor for build-up.

**Chorioptic mange in cattle:** Adult cattle are now starting to show the first signs of chorioptic mange – hair loss, usually starting around the tail head and then on flanks. Most of the mectin drenches/pour-ons should control mite numbers.

**Brown stomach worm:** June-July is the time to treat weaner cattle with a long-acting mectin to prevent brown stomach worm problems next year.

**Liver fluke:** One in every 10 adult sheep processed in Tasmania had fluke. Fluke larvae can be picked up through to July. Consider testing/treatment of both cattle and sheep this winter.

**Vibrio abortions in cattle:** Many cows are in mid-pregnancy now, so if you find an aborted foetus get it tested for Vibrio and other causes of abortion.

**Twin lamb disease:** Have ewes scanned 70 days after rams went in (most merinos scanning at 120-160% this year), identify ewes with multiples and feed them to maintain a condition score of 3.3 (especially in the last 7 weeks of pregnancy) to prevent twin lamb disease (pregnancy toxemia) in the lead-up to lambing.

**Vibrio in sheep:** Abortions can be seen from now on. Have aborted lambs tested at the lab, consider blood tests of dry ewes at marking.

## Biosecurity story of the month

The Ovine Brucellosis-Free Accreditation Scheme is designed to prevent the spread of ovine brucellosis, but is a great example of some biosecurity principles.

Ovine brucellosis is a chronic bacterial infection of the reproductive organs of the ram, reducing sperm production and is spread between rams and also during mating. Ewes may abort if infected. The main losses are from lowered ram fertility. Ovine brucellosis was diagnosed in a commercial sheep flock in Tasmania several years ago but is generally uncommon/rare.

Sheep studs are encouraged to be accredited, as infection in a stud can spread to many client flocks.

There is regular testing of rams in accredited flocks by approved veterinarians, but the most important part of the scheme is the biosecurity program. Boundary fences must be adequate, any introduced rams and ewes must come from other accredited studs or be isolated and tested before being introduced to the rest of the sheep, and strays (to and from) must be risk assessed and may have to be isolated and tested as well.

The [National Sheep Health Declaration](#) has a question about ovine brucellosis and other questions about footrot, lice and OJD and it is always a good idea to ask to see one when you bring sheep onto your property. Isolating and 'testing' (inspecting for signs of any illness, foot problems, lice, etc.) and treating (quarantine drench, footbath, lice treatments and OJD vaccination if appropriate) are always worth the effort, no matter how trusted the source of the sheep. Have a sound policy for dealing with strays (onto and returned to your property) and be prepared to talk to an experienced livestock veterinarian if you see signs of disease in isolated sheep or have any queries.

## Diseases and conditions seen in May 2021

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Abdominal wall injury	1 sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Cow horned sheep.	Vet can stitch even if right through into abdomen as long as stomach and intestines not damaged.
Arthritis - degenerative	One aged sheep in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Aged sheep lame down with fusion of knee joints	Anti-inflammatory treatments. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Belly strike	Widespread	N, NW and Southern Tasmania	Dark wool seen on underline	Sheep walking through long wet grass. Treat as for body and crutch strike. Fly season should be over now.
Black scour worm	Widespread	Widespread	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval ID test at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
B12 deficiency	Several flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Slow growth rates, anaemia, may be discharge from eyes.	Blood or liver test to diagnose. B12 injections usual treatment, last several months. Cobalt bullets, cobalt in fertiliser on pastures can be used to correct.
Campylobacter abortion	One flock	Northern Tasmania	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion.	A vaccine is available and covers both strains. The course should be completed before joining. Aborting ewes can be run with unmated ewe weaners to give ewe weaners immunity. Humans can also be affected so women of child-bearing age should not be exposed to aborting ewes or afterbirth.
Cast	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Maternal ewe in good condition.	Maternal ewes can get very fat and if they get on their back cannot regain their feet. Often attacked by crows etc when down. Keep ewes at condition score 3.3 – 3.6. Check them frequently if they are overweight and getting cast.
Copper deficiency	Two flocks.	Northern and NW Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so diagnose by testing and supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 1.3% of lambs and 3.9% of mutton carcasses.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep at abattoir. Causes liver to be trimmed or condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm.	Prevented by stopping dogs from eating sheep offal and/or by treating all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated at least 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. These measures also prevent sheep measles and hydatids. See fact sheet on: <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>
Dermo (lumpy wool)	One small and one large property	Southern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Dog attack	Three sheep in three small flocks	Southern Tasmania	Bite wounds around head and neck and flanks, back legs	Treat: antibiotic cover, stitching (ensuring wound drainage), pain relief/anti-inflammatories (vet job!)

Dog bite	One line of mutton at abattoir	Northern Tasmania	Bruising and puncture wounds trimmed at abattoir	Muzzle dogs that bite.
Drench resistant worms	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Egg counts not reduced by more than 95% 10-14 days after drenching	See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance.
Ewes slow to cycle	One flock	Northern Tasmania	Rams not active in first few weeks of mating period.	Ewes may have been synchronised accidentally due to 'ram effect' and rams went in out of synch. Could be oestrogenic pastures eg oestrogenic variety of sub clover, red clover or diseased legumes or fungal toxins such as zearalenone produced by a <i>Fusarium</i> fungus in ryegrass litter.
Fleece rot	Sporadic cases in several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Green discoloration of wool at skin level.	Caused by constantly wet fleece plus some genetic predisposition mainly in Merinos. Pre-disposes to body strike. Use preventative measures/chemicals and select against this trait.
Fly strike	Moderate number of cases including body and belly strike	Wide-spread in Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mostly breech strike but body strike too. Some belly strike in sheep on paddocks with long wet grass.	Green blowfly usually only active if temperature is over 19 degrees, so new strikes should be rare now, but residual strikes could be present. Belly strike reported due to long wet grass from dew or rain – watch for dark patches of wool on lower flank. See FLYBOSS on <a href="http://www.flyboss.com.au/sheep-goats/">http://www.flyboss.com.au/sheep-goats/</a> for details on treating, preventing and breeding aspects.
Foot abscess	Rams in one medium and one large sized flock and a number of ewe flocks	Northern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage, Most in healing phase now but some active cases seen. May affect all 4 feet in some cases, but usually one foot.	Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly. Pare away hoof to allow drainage of pus. Treat with long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Footrot (virulent)	A number of flocks.	Southern, Northern Tasmania	Spread is starting on some properties on some irrigated and non-irrigated pastures.	Eradication window is over for this year. Control by foot bathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Prepare for eradication next summer by keeping number of infected sheep low. Ensure culls are fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure question 3 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival . Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: <a href="https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf">https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf</a>
Hooves overgrown	One small flock	Southern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Kidney damage	One line of mutton at abattoir	Northern Tasmania	Kidneys condemned. Unknown production effects on-farm.	Unknown cause at this stage. Investigation planned.

Lice (body lice)	Many flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	See LICEBOSS: <a href="http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/">http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/</a> for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep. Maintain good boundary fences. "Hotel quarantine" and consider treatment of introduced sheep.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 1.1% of lambs and 11.5% of mutton carcasses. Widespread reports from producers.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Abattoir detection, farm post mortem or Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year, but pickup of immature stages will continue till July. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. Consider treatment with a different flukicide family in late winter to kill adult fluke. See fact sheet on <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>
Malnutrition	One small flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep in low body condition score, bottle jaw, very thin some deaths.	Monitor condition by body condition scoring (feel for prominent ends of 'short ribs' in loin area). Supply additional feed as necessary.
Mastitis and metritis (acute)	One case in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed udder with abnormal milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency) plus discharge from vulva	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.
Nematodirus	Weaners in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Weaners scour with poor growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts may or may not be high.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. Autopsy and total worm count or treat and look for response.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	Relatively small numbers of sheep in one small flock and one large flock	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	Quickest diagnosis is by post mortem. Prevent by vaccinating lambs at marking with Gudair vaccine. If confirmed present in the flock, cull any sheep over 18 months of age that waste away and don't respond to drenching. Vaccine only claims 90% efficacy, so can still get some deaths in fully vaccinated flocks. See factsheet at: <a href="http://www.ojd.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/OJD_factsheet.pdf">http://www.ojd.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/OJD_factsheet.pdf</a>
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	One flock	Northern Tasmania	'Star gazing', blindness, other neurological signs, deaths	Usually associated with rich diet. Treat early with Vitamin B1 injections. Animal Health Australia subsidies available for post mortems on neurological cases. Prevent: reduce sulfur in diet if possible, introduce grain rations slowly.
Phalaris staggers (acute)	Six sheep in one medium sized mob	Southern Tasmania	Staggering, down, bright alert. Recently introduced to phalaris pasture	Get the mob off the phalaris paddock. Affected sheep can recover with good nursing but may take several months.

Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in 0.8% of mutton carcasses. Up to 15% reported in lambs sent to mainland for slaughter.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 8% of mutton carcasses and 0.8% of lambs.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Small 'rice grain' whitish raised lesions on outside of food pipe (oesophagus), diaphragm and in skeletal muscles. Carcase trimmed or condemned.	Spread by cats. Takes a long time to grow so not usually seen in lambs. Deny cats access to sheep meat - burn or bury carcasses promptly, persistently control feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>
Selenium deficiency	2 large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass Strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet for treatment methods: <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf</a>
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 5.9% of lambs and 9.1% of mutton carcasses.	Northern and Southern Tasmania Some carcasses condemned.	Small whitish mass about half the size of a 5 cent piece protruding from the muscle of the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim.	This is the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm. Prevented by stopping dogs from eating raw sheep meat. Freeze sheep carcase meat for 2 weeks before feeding to dogs, burn/bury sheep carcasses promptly and/or treat all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. See fact sheet on <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne or clover	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep found dead and blown up.	May be caused by 'lucerne red gut', Pulpy Kidney (PK) or frothy bloat. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, don't place hungry lambs on irrigated legumes, offer good quality hay ad lib. Some mineral loose licks may help prevent problems.
Tongue lesions	Lambs at abattoir	Northern Tasmania	Could be parasite lesions.	No laboratory samples in this case but may have been Gongylonema worms.
Urea poisoning	Suspected cases, one flock	Southern Tasmania	Shaking, quivering, fits and sudden death after access to fertiliser, feed, loose licks or blocks containing urea.	Treat with oral weak acid such as vinegar if found alive. Ensure blocks containing urea are not left out in rain. Ensure levels in feed are safe. Introduce urea to ration slowly.



Vaccination lesions	Detected at abattoir in 6.6% of sheep and 0.4% of lamb carcasses	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Caused by vaccinating into the muscle, armpit, top of neck etc. Trimming can involve removing the whole hind leg or front leg.	Extra care must be taken with Gudair vaccine as large lumps often result. Vaccinate under the skin high on the <b>side</b> of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle especially of the hind leg, or under skin of armpit. For details see: <a href="https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf">https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf</a>
Wasting	Several sheep of various ages in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	This flock negative for OJD	Worms, fluke, OJD, worn teeth (including cheek teeth – feel through cheeks), internal cancers (especially if bracken in paddocks), internal abscesses, partial gut blockage, chronic kidney or liver damage can be cause.
Wooden tongue	One sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Assumed to be caused by Actino bacteria	Sheep with stiff tongue sticking out of mouth. Antibiotics or iodide treatments may be successful if found early enough.
Worms	One small flock 900 eggs per gram.	Northern Tasmania	Worms can be diagnosed by scouring, anaemia, poor weight gain which respond to drenching, or by WORMTEST with or without larval identification, or total worm count at post mortem.	Trichostrongylus (black scour worm) numbers building up now and do a lot of damage See WORMBOSS at: <a href="http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php">http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php</a>
Yersinia	Illness and deaths in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Scouring and deaths.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST and ask lab to culture for Yersinia as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals. Some stress factor is usually present (eg poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected.

**CATTLE**

Abdominal enlargement (chronic)	One calf in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Whole belly very large in relation to size of animal. Could be fluid (ascites) urine (bladder rupture), fibre (impacted rumen)	This one appeared to be fibre (coarse vegetation available only).
Bloat	A number of cattle	Northern Tasmania	Left flank bulging out a lot.	Treat: oral vegetable oil or pleuronic can break down froth to gas and allow burping out of the gas if due to eating lucerne/clover too fast. Chronic bloat can also be due to internal damage (“vagabloat”) – a vet may be able to help. Prevent: blocks, drenches, additives to trough water, capsules.
Broken hip	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Cow is very lame in one hind leg and muscles waste over hip area.	Usually cannot be treated. Not fit to load. Euthanase. OK for pet food.
Brown stomach worm (ostertagia)	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	Worm egg counts with larval identification showed that brown stomach worm is an emerging problem.	Brown stomach worm egg counts are often low even though significant worm burdens are present. A blood test that detects a stomach wall enzyme (pepsinogen) can assist diagnosis. Worm larvae picked up over winter/spring can lay dormant in stomach wall and emerge next autumn. A long-acting ML anthelmintic to cover the winter/early spring period may be required.

Chorioptic mange	One large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. Rough scaly skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	More common as winter progresses. Can become severe if cattle are stressed and short on feed. A number of registered treatments are available including ML drenches and pour-ons.
Cooperia – resistant to mectin family drenches	One large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Scour, sub-optimal growth rates. Weaner cattle with high worm egg counts in manure samples 11 days after ML family treatment.	High % Cooperia detected using larval ID in lab. Resistance to the Ivermectin family of drenches has been seen in Tasmania, but oral BZ drenches usually still work. Try to create “clean” paddocks for weaner cattle. Monitor with WORTEST every month.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	Two cows in two herds	Southern Tasmania	Calf not delivered within 3 hours of start of birth process. Can be due to calf presentation or oversize calf	Need to be observed frequently over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours and call a vet if unable to progress..
Eye cancer	Two cows	Southern Tasmania	Ulcerated lesion on eyelid on one, a little pink ball sitting up on eyeball on another.	Small lesions can usually be removed easily by a vet, if not removed, may become fully cancerous and if allowed to then become more advanced may require removal of eye. Do not load if eyelid cannot protect the lesion. Abattoirs may condemn whole carcass if cancer has reached glands. Advanced cases should be destroyed on farm, still OK for pet food.
Grain engorgement	One pet cow	Southern Tasmania	Depressed, porridge like scour, may die.	Treat: Rehydration, alkaline solutions orally. Prevent: Keep grain sheds securely fastened.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	Several cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Horn has damaged the skin of the head.	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 calves so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.
Ill-thrift in weaner	One heifer sent on agistment.	Northern Tasmania	Heifer in poor condition and eventually died.	Could be worms or fluke. If no response to treatment may be pestivirus.
Liver fluke in cattle	Multiple cases	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Live fluke detected in cattle slaughtered at abattoir and reported by producers	Strategic treatments in autumn and late winter with effective flukicides depending on challenge. Keep stock off areas where fluke snail survives (dam edges, lagoons, areas that flood in spring) if possible. Sheep run on same areas will also need treatment.
Low pregnancy rate in adult cows	One mob with low in-calf rate in otherwise fertile herd.	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to sub-fertile bull, Vibrio, Trichs, pestivirus, nutrition, mating management	Mob split up during mating and only one bull.
Lungworm in young cattle	Several weaners in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be complicated by bacterial and viral diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover if show signs of pneumonia. If sending cattle WORTEST samples, ask for a lungworm larval test as lungworm do not show up on standard test.
Mannheimia pneumonia	A number of cases in a pasture fed beef herd	Northern Tasmania	Respiratory signs	Antibiotics may help if caught early. Vaccine available



Mastitis	One case in one house cow	Southern Tasmania	Udder or milk abnormal. This case interesting in that culture was negative. May be due to Mycoplasma bovis.	Antibiotics via teat canal or by injection. See <a href="https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/en/animal-management-and-milk-quality/mastitis-and-milk-quality#.YFq2Z68zY2w">https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/en/animal-management-and-milk-quality/mastitis-and-milk-quality#.YFq2Z68zY2w</a>
Pestivirus	A number of positive blood tests in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age	Herd status can be assessed by blood tests or milk tests. PI animals can be detected by blood or skin sample tests. Control programs based on vaccination or exposure to PI before mating. For more information see: <a href="https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/">https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/</a>  Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: <a href="https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration.pdf">https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration.pdf</a>
Photosensitisation	A number of cows in one large dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Skin peeled off areas with little hair or white hair. Some deaths, liver damage seen on post mortem.	May be caused by Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD), blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antibiotic cover if necessary.
Pneumonia/liver damage in weaners	Twelve affected/died in one large mob.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and deaths seen in this case. Liver damage agent not identified.	Treat with antibiotics under vet direction. Change paddock. Treat for worms.
Prolapse	Two cows in two herds	Southern Tasmania	Causes or risk factors not known.	Vet can replace, suture in.
Ringworm	One herd of young cattle	Southern Tasmania	Scaly circular areas of hair loss usually around head and neck.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can spread to man so precautions must be taken.
Ryegrass staggers	Wide-spread	North, NW and Southern Tasmania	Usually more severe in young cattle - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and can drown in dams.	See <a href="https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers">https://dpiwwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers</a> for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention. Feed with additives to absorb the ryegrass toxin in the rumen may be worth a try.
Uterine prolapse and down	One cow in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Seen just after calving is usually due to milk fever.	Inject calcium to correct milk fever, replace uterus and suture to keep in. Vet job.
Vibrio (Campylobacter)	One herd	Northern Tasmania	Bacterial infection spread by bulls. Causes return to service and abortions.	Vaccinate bulls, complete course 4 weeks prior to joining. Cull empty females at preg testing and any female that aborts or not rearing a calf. If exposure to unvaccinated bulls is likely vaccinate females as well. See <a href="https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/vibriosis/">https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/vibriosis/</a>

Wasp attack	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Bare areas of skin (attacked some months ago). Blind in one eye.	Antihistamine injections may help in acute stage.
Wooden tongue	One cow each in several herds	Southern Tasmania	Tongue sticking out a bit, not eating	Intravenous iodine given by vet usually best treatment. Antibiotic injections may work. Reduce access to spikey plants.
<b>GOATS</b>				
Arthritis (chronic, degenerative)	Two goats in two small herds	Southern Tasmania	Lame, joint fusion	May respond to anti-inflammatories. Euthanasia justified.
Acidosis	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Illness after eating grain	Any feed containing a lot of carbohydrate (including grains, fruit and vegetables) can cause the rumen contents to become acidic, and the goat becomes ill and in severe cases can die. Treatment: drench with alkaline solutions. Prevent: Introduce carbohydrate rich feeds gradually so that rumen can adjust.
Contracted tendons in newborn kids.	One kid in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	May be caused by the doe eating weeds such as wild radish or be due to manganese deficiency.	Kids can recover if kept in a small yard with the doe. Administering some manganese may help in some cases. May need to strap the fetlocks to protect them if knuckling right over.
Downer	One goat on one property	Southern Tasmania	Unable to rise. Gut pain.	If thin, could be Johne's Disease, CAE virus, worms, cancer, internal tumour, loss of teeth or old age. After giving birth can be milk fever, uterine infection etc. Euthanasia often most humane option for very old, thin animals.
Entropion (turned in eyelids), one with corneal ulcer	One kid and one goat in two small herds	Southern Tasmania	Discharge from eye. Eyelid/s turned inwards and eyelashes rub on cornea.	Some cases will be corrected by simply turning eyelids out the right way. Can inject ½ ml of antibiotic just under skin of eyelid/s to turn eyelashes outwards, Surgery also possible.
Ill-thrift	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Losing weight. This one post surgery.	Additional feed, check for worms, check for infection.
<b>PIGS</b>				
Foot abscess	One grower	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen foot	Can treat with antibiotics, surgical drainage if appropriate, bandaging.
Kidney stones	One grower at abattoir	Southern Tasmania	"Stones" in the bladder/kidneys	Usually due to mineral imbalance in diet and low water intake. Make sure enough salt in diet and plenty of clean palatable water available.
Lameness and weakness in hindquarters	One boar in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	During mating	Probably due to mating injury. Rest and anti-inflammatories may help.
Melanoma (suspected)	One grower in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Dark black areas on skin after scalding/dehairing	Some miniature breeds and Duroc pigs are prone to melanoma. Only lesions with a nodular surface are melanomas, Flat or depressed surface are not usually melanomas.
Ringworm	One property	Southern Tasmania	Reddish circular skin lesions on body, can be very large and crusty.	Treat with iodine or copper sulphate solutions. May heal naturally without treatment after a couple of months. Can spread to man.
Swollen front foot	One grower in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	May be foot abscess or a strain	Rest, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics if any sign of infection develops.

<b>POULTRY</b>				
Hypothermia	One bantam in one small flock of chickens	Southern Tasmania	Depressed	Recovered with warming.