Livestock Health Monitoring Report – June 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 https://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)

Funding is provided by Animal Health Australia (with support from Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia) and by DPIPWE. 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-August.

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

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

Livestock Data Link (LDL) 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: 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 or sheepmeat to dogs or cats.
- 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)

Seasonal Disease alerts

Black Scour Worm: sheep on permanent pastures are picking up a lot of black scour worm larvae now. They can go down very quickly, keep a good eye on young sheep. WORMTEST to monitor for build-up.
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
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in areas where rainfall has been high.
Chorioptic mange: seen from now on. Usually responds to mectin drench.
Liver fluke: plan to treat sheep and cattle after the end of July to break the life cycle.
Twin lamb disease: Feed ewes to maintain a condition score of 3.3 in the last 7 weeks of pregnancy.
Goitre: if diagnosed in the past, or ewes are grazing brassicas, drench ewes with 300 mg of potassium iodide pre-lambing
White muscle disease: Most soils in Tasmania are deficient. Treat ewes with selenium pre-lambing using only one form of supplementation.
Hypocalcaemia ("milk fever"): Don't keep heavily pregnant ewes off feed for more than a few hours. Feed calcium/salt/magnesium loose lick if on cereal crops.
Vibrio and Toxo 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

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae, a bacteria that causes respiratory disease, pneumonia and pleurisy, has been confirmed in one large Tasmanian sheep flock. It has probably been present in Tasmania for a long time and is probably widespread. There are no regulatory controls if the infection is confirmed in your flock.

This testing was carried out because analysis of National Sheep Health Monitoring abattoir data showed that pneumonia and pleurisy were more common in Tasmanian lambs processed in mainland abattoirs than those processed within Tasmania. Some producers had up to 15% of lambs trimmed or condemned at the abattoir due to pneumonia/pleurisy.

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae can cause a range of clinical signs, from a snotty nose, sneezing, a cough (sometimes so bad the rectum prolapses), high body temperature, rapid/laboured/mouth breathing, exercise intolerance, slow growth rates, nasal discharge, sub-acute pneumonia, through to acute fatal pneumonia. Pleurisy, where the lungs get stuck to the inside wall of the chest cavity, often occurs after pneumonia and can result in part of the rib cage being trimmed from carcasses. Chronically infected ewes can have reduced milk production. How bad the outcome is dependent on a number of factors, but stress is the major factor that can turn a snotty nose into a dead lamb or trimmed carcase.

Adult sheep in infected flocks can look perfectly normal but carry the bacteria in the nasal cavity and can infect their lambs soon after birth. The lambs may show signs of pneumonia when stressed by weaning, shearing, feedlot entry, transport, overcrowding, adverse weather, mixing with other lambs etc. Lambs may have damaged lungs but may not be noticed unless deaths occur, or they are moved/yarded/handled. Most will self-cure, many with residual pleurisy. Prevention is by reducing stress.

Some antibiotics can be used to treat cases of respiratory disease, your vet can advise. There is no vaccine.

There is more information on: https://www.joanlloydconsulting.com/projects

Diseases and conditions seen in June 2021

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abortion	Five ewes in one small flock	Wide-spread	May be caused by Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella	Best diagnosis is to submit 5 aborted lambs to lab for diagnosis. Can take bloods for Toxo and Campylobacter antibody testing 2 weeks after abortion. Take vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion if no foetuses available.
Arthritis (infectious)	Common, varying % in many flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joints. In abattoir, whole leg will usually be removed often making carcase worthless or dropping it into a lower price grade on the grid.	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 you can use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
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.
Barbers pole worm	One small flock	Northern Tasmania	High worm egg count with 40% barbers pole worm on larval ID test	Although anaemia and bottle jaw and deaths are usually seen late summer to autumn, adult worm burdens carry over in the sheep. Best to remove these with an effective drench about now while frosts kill off larvae in pasture. See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Black disease	Wether deaths in one large frock	Northern Tasmania	This is a Clostridial disease covered by 5 in 1 or 6 in 1, but wethers often don't get boosters.	Sudden death. damaged areas in liver. Often associated with migrating liver fluke larvae.
Black scour worm	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval ID test at lab.	Monitor young sheep closely, they can go downhill fast. Monitor with regular monthly WORMTESTs and go to 2-weekly tests if egg counts rising rapidly. See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 4.8% of lambs and 3.8% of mutton carcases.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep at	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

			abattoir. Causes liver to be trimmed or condemned and runners to be condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm.	hydatids. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Dags	Wide-spread	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia), nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to culture for Yersinia and Salmonella if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	A number of properties	Northern and 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.
Deformed ear in ram	One case in one flock	Northern Tasmania .	One ear wrinkled and irregular.	Usually starts as a blood clot (haematoma) that forms between the layers of the ear due to fighting with other rams. Usually OK if just left to heal (ear will end up looking deformed), or surgical drainage (see vet)
Dog bite	One sheep in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Bruising and puncture wounds trimmed at abattoir	Muzzle dogs that bite.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	One large flock and one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Difficulty delivering second twin or one large lamb.	Ewe can be assisted but try to avoid disturbing the rest of the mob. Interruption of the normal birth process is a cause of dystocia.
Ear tag infection	A number of sheep on several properties	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where tag goes through ear	Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Ears burnt	One sheep in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Edges of ears pink, uneven and short	May have been caught in a fire or had photosensitisation.
Empty ewes at scanning	10% of ewes in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually low % empty	Some ewes with significant Campylobacter antibody levels but other possible causes being investigated as well.
Encephalitis (inflammation of brain)	One sheep in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Nervous system signs seen.	The cause has not been determined yet. Some common conditions such as PEM and Listeria ruled out so far.
Foot abscess	Two ewes in one medium sized flock	Northern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage, 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 or 10% zinc 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 well under way on a number of properties	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine. Prepare for eradication next summer by keeping number of infected sheep low. 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 (mild, "scald")	A number of flocks	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.
Grain poisoning)	A number of mild cases in a large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep on grain feeding	Die suddenly or sick with "porridge" scour. Treat with bicarb and water. Take off grain source and feed roughage. Re-introduce grain gradually.
Hoof cracks	Several sheep in several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Crack runs from coronary band to bottom of hoof wall	Could be due to damage to coronary band as hoof grows from coronary band. Dietary deficiency and genetic factors possible.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever")	10 out of 200 heavily pregnant ewes	Northern Tasmania	Late pregnancy ewes go down after period off feed or on cereal crops.	Treat with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1) 1/5 of a pack under skin. Warm pack in hot water before injection if possible and massage in well. Should get up within 30 minutes. If green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover. Prevent with mineral supplement if on cereal crops, don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching.
Ill-thrift	A small to moderate number of cases in many flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Mostly in weaners. Poor growth rates.	Most dryland pastures over summer do not have enough energy or protein for weaner sheep and even adult dry sheep will lose body condition. Fodder crops, irrigated pastures or supplementary feed required. Worms (especially Nematodirus in autumn), fluke, footrot, chronic pneumonia and sometimes selenium, copper or B12 deficiency can also cause ill-thrift.
Inter-digital injury	One heavily pregnant ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Small slit in skin between toes next to one claw.	Entry point for foot abscess infection. Antiseptic spray or footbathing to try to stop progression to foot abscess.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot.	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.
Leg fracture	One case in one flock	Northern Tasmania	This one had healed with a bow in the leg.	Broken bones in sheep heal well if skin unbroken but must be splinted properly. Must have padding between splint and leg, splint must extend one joint above and one joint below the break. Antibiotic cover and pain relief.
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: http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ 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 6.8% of lambs and 9% of mutton carcases. Several reports from vets.	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	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year but pickup of immatures will continue till end of July. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke but has 63 ESI. Treat slaughter stock then keep them in paddocks with trough water until slaughter if possible. Consider treatment with a different flukicide family in late winter to kill adult fluke. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

			from heavy infestation.	
Low lambing % and prolonged lambing	Only 14 lambs from 100 ewes	Southern Tasmania	Composites joined in December	Sheep with more British breed may not be cycling while day length is increasing. This one could be sub-fertile ram or the day-length effect or abortions that were not noticed. Teasers can be used to try to stimulate British breed-based ewes to cycle before rams go in. Feel scrotal contents of rams 8 weeks prior to joining and feed ram well up to and during joining at condition score 3. Have ewes in condition score 3 or better and "flush" with extra feed at joining if possible.
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.
Mouldy, weevily grain	Possible health problems	Northern Tasmania	Toxicities possible	Fungal toxins in mouldy grain can damage liver. kidney, reproductive tract and gut. Safest to discard safely. Weevil treatments can cause chemical residues in sheep consuming treated grain – observe withholding periods.
Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae	15% of lamb carcasses trimmed/condemned in a line of over 400	Northern Tasmania	Causes respiratory disease but signs may not be noticed. Slower growth rates, take longer to finish.	Lambs infected by chronic carrier ewes and get pneumonia when stressed. Lungs may stick to inside of rib cage (pleurisy) resulting in average of 1 kg of ribs trimmed from carcase. Prevention by reducing stress if possible.
Nematodirus	Weaners in one medium flock and one small flock	Southern and Northern 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)	Significant numbers of adult sheep in two large flocks	Southern 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% efficiency so can still get some deaths in fully vaccinated flocks. See factsheet on: http://www.ojd.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/OJD_factsheet.pdf
Pink eye	A number of flocks	Northern and Southern 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.
Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in 0.2% of lamb carcases.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with correct antibiotic supplied by your vet. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Pneumonia	A number of cases in slaughter lambs	Northern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing	Early cases in front part of lungs. Antibiotic treatment of cases (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors.

Post transport lameness	15 of 45 heavy sheep transported a long way	NW to Southern Tasmania	Very lame	Most had visually normal feet. May just be footsore from standing on hard surfaces for a long period. Possibly laminitis if fed grain.
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	One flock	Northern Tasmania	Caused by insufficient energy in diet in last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Usually in twin-bearing ewes or ewe bearing 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".
Respiratory condition	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Difficult breathing may be due to pneumonia or pleurisy	Some of these will respond to antibiotics.
Salmonella	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death. Inflamed gut seen at post-mortem	Prevent by reducing stress. Antacids in formulated pellet feeds may predispose to infection.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 9% of mutton carcasses and 0.2% 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: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Scabby Mouth of feet and mouth	5% of one mob	Southern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on lips, with some on feet as well.	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.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 6.8% of lambs and 7.6% 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 carcases 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 https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Snotty nose	One small flock	Southern Tasmania	Snot seen in nostrils.	Common in some British breed rams and does not seem to be production limiting. May also be seen with nasal bots. Nasal bots can be treated with a macrocyclic lactone (ML) drench.
Strawberry footrot	Several weaners in one medium merino flock and one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Thickened skin and crusts of lower leg	Caused by same bacteria as Dermo (lumpy wool) and occurs when sheep are walking in long wet grass and lower legs are constantly wet. Can be treated as for dermo.
Sudden deaths in wethers	Several wethers in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Sheep found dead	May be caused by Clostridial disease (wethers often don't get annual booster vaccination after first year), worms, poisonous plants.

Wasting	Several sheep of various ages in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Condition score less than 2	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.
Weak hind legs in ram during joining	One ram in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Ram unable to mate, walk with difficulty	May be arthritis, injury, infection. Anti-inflammatories may be worth a try.
Wool break	Several flocks	Northern and Southern 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 eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	One small flock over 3,000 eggs per gram, many flocks having problems with young sheep.	Northern, Southern and NW 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: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Abortion	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Possible causes neospora, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, vibrio (Campylobacter), pestivirus, congenital/hereditary factors, toxins, mouldy hay, Salmonella Dublin.	Send aborted calf to lab for diagnosis. Vaccines against Vibrio and pestivirus can be used.
Chorioptic mange	Several cows in several herds and one bull in one small herd	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. Rough scaley 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.
Corneal damage	One bull in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	May be caused by injury or grass seed etc	Protect eye, vet may give antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.
Corkscrew claw	One bull on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind foot grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Diarrhoea	One cow on one small farm	Southern Tasmania	Fed apple pulp	Dietary cause. Remove apple pulp and feed good quality roughage.
Dribbling	One heifer on one farm	Northern Tasmania	Can be caused by foreign body in mouth, neurological disease, woody tongue, ulceration eg mucosal disease or possibly foot	Thorough mouth examination and treat appropriately. If deep ulceration or blisters are seen in mouth, then foot and mouth disease must be ruled out. Ring your vet or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline 1800 675 888

			and mouth disease.	
Downer steer	One steer on one property	Northern Tasmania	Could be arthritis, deficiency, injury, disease.	Treat as appropriate for diagnosis.
Epitheliogenesis imperfecta	One newborn calf in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Small area of skin absent over lower back in this case	Recessive gene inherited from both parents.
Eye and eyelid cancer	several cows	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Ulcerated lesion on third eyelid on one, a little pink ball sitting up on eyeball on another, crusty growth on eyelid on a third	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 carcase if cancer has reached glands. Advanced cases should be destroyed on farm, still OK for pet food.
Foot abscess	1 cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Swollen foot, may discharge, very lame. Wet conditions.	May respond to antibiotics and move to dry area. Sometimes need surgical drainage and curette.
Hoof cracks	Several cattle in several herds	Southern Tasmania	Crack runs from coronary band to bottom of hoof wall	Could be due to damage to coronary band as hoof grows from coronary band. Dietary deficiency and genetic factors possible.
Hooves overgrown, lameness	Several cows in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Hooves are long and deformed, cows are lame	Hereditary factors, soft ground, possible dietary deficiencies. Can be pared back into shape and any associated problems such as abscesses can be treated, but in long term better to cull from herd.
Infectious Bovine Rhino-tracheitis (IBR) virus	15/15 blood test negative heifers	Northern Tasmania	Common in Tasmania but this sample free	IBR can cause severe respiratory disease and reproductive disease in cattle
Liver fluke	Multiple cases	Southern Tasmania	Live fluke detected in cattle slaughtered at abattoir	Strategic treatments in autumn with flukicides effective against immatures 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. Lat winter/early spring (August to October) treatment to kill adult fluke can help break fluke life cycle.
Mastitis	One case in one housecow	Southern Tasmania	Udder or milk abnormal.	Antibiotics via teat canal or by injection. See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/en/animal-management-and-milk-quality/mastitis-and-milk-quality#.YFq2Z68zY2w
Pestivirus	15/15 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: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/ Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration.pdf

Parainfluenza virus	15/15 blood test positive	Northern Tasmania	Virus only infects respiratory tract and usually only causes very mild disease.	Importance is that it makes cattle vulnerable to other viral and bacterial diseases that can have severe effects on health.
Pink Eye	A number of herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Cloudy cornea and discharge down cheeks. Eyeball can rupture if not treated.	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.
Respiratory syncytial virus	15/15 positive blood tests	Northern Tasmania	Causes from mild to severe respiratory disease.	Important in predisposing cattle to other more severe bacterial and viral infections.
Sudden death	One cow in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	May be caused by pulpy kidney, ABLD, blackleg, plant poisoning, bloat, anthrax.	Best to have post-mortem carried out. Ensure Clostridial vaccination up to date, check for poisonous plants, legumes. If blood from nose/mouth/anus could be anthrax so contact vet or ring hotline on 1800 675 888.
Vibrio (Campylobacter)	Two herds	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 https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/vibriosis/
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
Urinary tract deformity in a cria	One cria on one small farm	Southern Tasmania	Only passing very small amounts of urine	Surgery required.
Dystocia (difficult birth) in an alpaca	One alpaca on one small farm	Southern Tasmania	Unable to deliver cria	Caesarean required.
Diarrhoea and death in camel	One camel died one ill on one small farm	Northern Tasmania	Whipworms found on post-mortem	Whipworm infestation can be fatal in camels. Treat with BZ drench, MLs and especially pour-ons do not work well. Whipworm eggs survive a long time in enclosures.
GOATS				
Conjunctivitis	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Discharge from eyes	Vet may use antibiotic eye ointments or injection into eyelids
Foreign body in eye	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	One eye partly closed, discharge	Remove foreign body from eye, can be behind third eyelid. May need antibiotic cover to prevent infection.
Pulpy kidney	One goat in large herd	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death or a scouring syndrome in partially immune goats	Goats are very susceptible to PK and sometimes additional vaccinations containing PK are needed to stop deaths. A full vaccination program should be maintained.
PIGS				
Fractured leg	One pig in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Leg held at abnormal angle, not bearing weight.	Can be repaired by vet. Euthanasia also an option.
Laceration	One sow on one small farm	Southern Tasmania	This one injured by boar	Can be stitched up by vet if severe. Minor cuts can be treated with antiseptic spray and keep pig in clean area.

POULTRY				
Deformed toes	One rooster in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Toes deformed, curled, and growing into foot	Toenail trimming may help. Best not to breed from such birds.