Livestock Health Monitoring Report – August 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 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-October.

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 your vet or 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

Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in areas where rainfall has been high.
Liver fluke: plan to treat sheep and cattle with a drench that can kill adult fluke before the end of October to help break the life cycle.
Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis (Toxo) in sheep: Consider blood tests of ten dry ewes at marking if your ewes had abortions or more stillbirths than usual.
Tail length: in lambs is an important factor in preventing tail cancer, vulval cancer, vaginal prolapse, rectal prolapse, arthritis and flystrike. Take tail off/apply ring at third joint (level with tip of vulva).
Arthritis in lambs: If you are seeing a significant number of arthritic lambs, consider talking to your vet about testing for Erysipelas, as you may be able to use a vaccine to prevent it.
Grass tetany: is still a risk until calves are 6 weeks old.
6 in 1 vaccine: Using a vaccine that contains a pulpy kidney component may be even more important this year if we have a good spring and especially if lambs are to be grown out on irrigated legumes.
Campylobacter in cattle: Consider vaccinating your bulls this year.
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.

Biosecurity story of the month

Many of you will be aware that two cases of atypical bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as 'Mad Cow Disease', were diagnosed in aged cows in Brazil recently. Brazil suspended exports until the case was confirmed as atypical by a Canadian reference laboratory. If the case had been classical BSE, Brazilian cattle products would have been excluded from a number of export markets for some years. Atypical BSE is a rare, naturally occurring form of prion disease that can be seen in older cattle and does not significantly disrupt trade.

You may recall that the USA had a small number of BSE cases around 2012, causing Japan and South Korea to ban beef from the USA and this allowed Australian beef to take a larger share of the Japanese and South Korean beef markets for about 4 years.

If a case of classical BSE was diagnosed anywhere in Australia, Australian cattle products would be excluded from many of our current export markets. This could flood the local market with cheap beef which could also impact domestic sheepmeat sales. Our local consumers may also be less likely to consume beef as well out of concern about developing variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) associated with eating beef from cattle affected by BSE. Tasmania exports about 70% of the red meat we produce, so would be hard hit if this occurred.

BSE is caused by feeding cattle contaminated meat meal or other protein meals derived from animals. This is why we have the ban on feeding animal proteins (Restricted Animal Material or RAM) back to cattle or any other ruminant (sheep, goats, deer, alpacas, etc). All processed livestock feeds must have a label or a delivery docket that states whether or not the feed contains RAM.

We also have a national surveillance program to show our export partners that we do not have classical BSE or scrapie here. If you have a cow that is 18 months to 8 years of age, or a sheep that is 18 months to 5 years of age, that show neurological clinical signs, contact your vet or Biosecurity Tasmania so that the animal can be assessed. There are subsidy payments available if an eligible animal is assessed by a vet and a post-mortem is carried out. See the "Bucks for Brains" link above.

Diseases and conditions seen in August 2021

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abortion	Multiple reports	Wide-spread	May be caused by Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella, Chlamydia	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, or ten bloods from dry ewes at marking for Campy and Toxo tests.
Arthritis - degenerative	One aged sheep in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Aged sheep slightly lame with fusion of hock joint	This one responded to long-acting cortisone treatment.
Ataxia (stumbling etc) after 24 hour fast/drenching with levamisole	All members of a small mob	Southern Tasmania	These were in light condition. No weeds in lock-up area.	Some drenches are more effective if sheep are kept off feed for 24 hours prior to drench. Levamisole breaks down to a stimulant and this may have caused the ataxia.
Barbers pole worm	A number of flocks	Widespread	Barbers pole worm on larval ID test	Although anaemia, bottle jaw and deaths are usually seen late summer to autumn, adult worm burdens carry over within the sheep over winter. Best to remove these overwintering worms 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 scour worm	Wide-spread	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. Risk will ease up from now on.
Broken mouth	A number of sheep	Several flocks across Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing, loose, food impaction.	Cull.
Busted udder	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.
Cachexia (very low condition score)	A number of weaners and adult sheep on several properties	Several flocks across Tasmania	Weaners: usually parasites and poor nutrition. Adult sheep as for weaners	Use effective drench and do follow-up WORMTEST. Improve feeding. If only a few adult sheep in the mob are very thin, talk to your vet about OJD diagnosis.

			plus possibility of OJD	
Campylobacter abortion	Common	Wide-spread.	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion, most of these outbreaks caused by the "fetus" strain.	Antibiotic treatment of ewes may slow the outbreak down. Prevention: A vaccine is available and covers both strains, but the course should be completed before joining. Two of these outbreaks in mixed age ewes, so consider vaccinating all age groups. Aborting ewes can be run with unmated ewe weaners to give them immunity. Humans can also be affected so women of child-bearing age should not be exposed to aborting ewes or afterbirth.
Conjunctival oedema, bleeding from eyes, hernias, paralysis, deaths	Several ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep handler malfunctioned and was clamping ewes too tight	Maintain and set up sheep handlers so that sheep are restrained firmly but are not grunting and showing signs of distress while held, even if for only a brief procedure
Cough	Several lambs in a number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs cough especially when driven and yarded	Can be lungworm, viruses and bacterial infection. Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae thought to underly a lot of respiratory disease in sheep. If little response to lungworm drench, then probably an infection. Use antibiotics (under vet direction) if production loss/deaths occur and post-mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Crow attack	A number of lambs & ewes on one property	Southern Tasmania.	Large numbers of hungry crows (forest ravens) attack ewes when they go down to lamb and start pecking lambs as they are born.	You can try crow traps, scare guns, providing plenty of wallaby carcases at a location away from the lambing paddock or population reduction with alphachloralose (contact David White, Biosecurity Tasmania on (03) 6478 4117)
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 3.4% of lambs and 5% of mutton carcases.	NW, 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 and runners to be 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: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Dags	Wide-spread	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (e.g. 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. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at www.wool.com/flystrikelatest.
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.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	A number of flocks	Northern and 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.
Eye cancer	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania.	Discharge down cheek, ulcerated and raw section of eyelid.	Older sheep with white eyelids. Cull as soon as noticed.
Exposure losses of newborn lambs	Wide-spread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Lambs born normally but die soon after birth during wet cold weather	Shelter to reduce chill index, more feed on offer (FOO) and higher ewe body condition score (BCS) at lambing will all reduce lamb losses. Keep most sheltered paddocks with most FOO for multiple-bearing ewes and aim for a BCS of 3.3 for these ewes.
Fleece derangement ('pulled wool')	Several sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Body lice, itch mite, grass seeds, wool break, shedding breed, grazing in gorse or blackberries	Check for lice by parting wool 10 times down each side. Wear your specs if you use them for reading! Look for small 2 mm long reddish wingless insects with a broad head moving away from the light. Itch mite hard to diagnose. Treat appropriate to diagnosis.
Fleece rot	Sporadic cases in several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Green discoloration of wool at skin level.	Caused by constantly wet fleece plus some genetic pre-disposition mainly in Merinos. Pre-disposes to body strike. Use preventative measures/chemicals and select against this trait.
Foot abscess	Multiple reports, widespread	Northern and Southern 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.	Treat: Pare away hoof to allow drainage of pus, inject long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry e.g. on slatted floor of shearing shed, place epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported. Prevent: 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.
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 fences. 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.
Goitre	A number of lambs in a number of flocks	Southern Tasmania Derwent Valley	Swelling (from just detectable to orange size) of upper front of neck	May be caused by iodine deficient soil or some plants such as brassicas. Give ewes 300 mg potassium iodide per ewe dissolved in water as a drench in last month of pregnancy to prevent.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One ram	Northern Tasmania	Horn has grown into and damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows horn to be removed safely. Prevention: Dehorn lambs so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.

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 winter do not have enough energy or protein for weaner sheep and even adult dry sheep will lose body condition. Fodder crops 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.
Lambing paralysis	One old ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Nerves in pelvis get bruised if lamb is stuck for two long.	Good nursing on soft bedding with some physio (turn frequently and pump back legs) can allow ewe to recover.
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.
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.
Listeria abortion	Several outbreaks on several properties.	Northern Tasmania	Abortion in late pregnancy. Often associated with silage or brassica bulb feeding.	Abortion rates usually low. No prevention or treatment apart from avoiding silage/brassica bulbs in late pregnancy if possible.
Liver abscess	Many abscesses in two lamb livers detected at abattoir.	Northern Tasmania	Can be caused by grain feeding and mild acidosis.	Hard to diagnose in live sheep. Prevent by introducing any concentrate ration slowly eg 50 g per sheep per day for first few days then increasing by 50 g every few days.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 8.4% of lambs and 14.6% 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 from heavy infestation.	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year as pickup of immatures only continues till end of July. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke but has 63 days ESI. Treat slaughter stock then keep them on 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/
Loss of condition, pale gums and scour	1/3 of a mob of ewes in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	Possibly worms. OJD unlikely to affect this many at once.	WORMTEST, dench with effective drench. Increase feed. Consult with vet if poor response.

Lungworm (Muellerius)	Several lines of lambs in abattoir.	N, NW and Southern Tasmania	Small 2-3 mm diameter grey spots on the external surface of the lungs. Life cycle involves a snail.	Not thought to be harmful to sheep but can be harmful to goats. Long courses of anthelmintic needed to kill them in the sheep.
Muzzle skin inflammation	Several lambs in one medium mob	Northern Tasmania	Skin on top of muzzle behind the nostrils raw and red.	Possible photosensitisation or irritation due to contact with rough surfaces in hay feeder etc.
Nematodirus	Seen in a number of samples at laboratory	NW, 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.
Nephritis (kidney damage)	Detected at abattoir in 1.8% of lambs	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Kidneys are swollen, white spotted or scarred.	Infection via urinary tract. Prevention: make sure lambs have access to good quality water and have been trained to drink if source of water (eg troughs vs dams) changes at weaning.
Nervous signs and diarrhoea	10 weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	"Star-gazing", blind, eyeball flicking from side to side, watery diarrhoea	Bacterial infection, responded to veterinary treatment.
Nervous signs in adult ewes	Several ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Could be Listeria if fed silage or brassicas, PEM if on rich feed or too much sulphur in diet	Best to have post-mortem carried out if more than a few cases. Subsidy may be available for vet investigation. See Bucks for Brains link in preamble.
Nose cancer in aged ewe	One case	Southern Tasmania	Crusty growth or erosion on nose	Surgery not usually possible. Euthanasia.
Painful defecation, blood in manure	Young sheep	Northern Tasmania	Possibly whipworms or coccidia	WORMTEST and treat as appropriate.
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	One wether in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Weak in hindquarters, knuckling over on back fetlocks, down.	Usually associated with rich diet or too much sulphur in diet. Treat early with Vitamin B1 injections. Animal Health Australia subsidies available for post-mortems on neurological cases. See Bucks for Brains link in preamble.
Photo -sensitisation	Several sheep in two mobs.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears.	Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, check for poisonous plants and pigment plants (e.g. storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics if necessary, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in 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	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing	Early cases in front part of lungs. Antibiotic treatment of cases (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors.

Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	Three flocks	Southern Tasmania	Caused by insufficient energy in diet in last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Usually in twin-bearing ewes or a 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". Prevention is by scanning to detect twin-bearing ewes and feeding them well in late pregnancy.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 16.3% of mutton carcasses and 1.3% 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/
Scour in 6 week old lambs	10% of lambs in one medium sized mob	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to worms, coccidia, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Lambs can start grazing early if ewes don't have much milk due to shortage of feed. Try WORMTEST or a drench and see if they respond.
Sealed eyelids in lamb	One lamb from one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Probably a congenital condition	Surgery not economical, euthanasia justified.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 8.6% of lambs and 10.9% of mutton carcasses.	NW, 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 reflect more serious infection in younger sheep. May also be seen with nasal bots. Nasal bots can be treated with a macrocyclic lactone (ML) drench.
Sudden deaths of ram	One ram just after boxing several mobs of rams.	Northern Tasmania	Ram found dead	Most likely fighting injury e.g. broken neck.
Sudden death of lamb with frothing at mouth	One lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Most likely pulpy kidney or poisonous plant	Vaccinate twice with 5 in 1 and check for toxic plants.

Sunburn scars	Several crossbred ewes in a medium mob	Northern Tasmania	Peeling of skin along topline.	Bare shorn British breed or XB sheep that are shorn very close to skin can burn if placed in paddock without enough shade.
Tooth loss on turnips	A number of weaner sheep in two large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn off level with gums or pulled out.	Change to softer variety of turnips.
Toxoplasma abortions	Many ewe lambs in one large flock aborted, and a number in another flock.	Northern Tasmania	'Rice grain' lesions seen in one placenta. Late abortions in this case.	In one case the farm was near a rural town and a number of cats had been seen around farm buildings. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Transit tetany	Sheep go down or get jitters after long transport journey	Southern Tasmania	Usually due to low blood magnesium/calcium	Give 1/5 pack of 4 in 1 under skin and massage in well.
Wasting	Several sheep of various ages in several flocks	Northern Tasmania	Condition score less than 2	Worms, fluke, OJD (if over 2yo), 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.
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 e.g. mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (e.g. heavy worm infestation) events.
Weight loss and deaths in maiden ewes	A number of ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewes lose their immunity to worms in late pregnancy and during lactation.	Maiden ewes are usually under more stress than older ewes and can be more susceptible to worms. OJD can also be brought on by lambing stress.
Worms	Many flocks having problems with ewes and 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 easing up now but all common species detected recently. Worm problems have been much more common than usual this winter. For details on all aspects of worm management see WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Abortion	A number of cows in several herds.	Southern Tasmania	Possible causes neospora, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, vibrio (Campylobacte	Send aborted calf to lab for diagnosis. Bleed cow for testing. Vaccines against Vibrio and pestivirus can be used.

			r), pestivirus, congenital/hereditary factors, toxins, mouldy hay, Salmonella Dublin.	
Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD)	Three cattle in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Animals lost over last 3 months. ABLD caused acute liver damage, and deaths. Photosensitization often seen in survivors.	ABLD usually seen late summer/autumn when cattle graze pastures with a lot of dead matter in base and much Rough Dog's Tail weed present. Maintain such paddocks for cattle grazing by grazing during spring to eliminate dead base later, graze off with sheep (sheep have never been diagnosed with ABLD) or make hay.
Cachexia (very low body condition score)	One adult bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to BJD, malnutrition, brown stomach worm, internal injuries or abscesses, liver fluke etc	WORMTEST and FLUKETEST. If negative get a vet to examine/sample.
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. Cases should self-cure from now on.
Contracted tendons in calves	One calf on one property	Southern Tasmania.	Flexor tendons are too tight, and calf stands on tips of toes or knuckles over.	Can be caused by the pregnant cow eating certain weeds, deficiencies of selenium, manganese, Vitamin D or E. Keep cow and calf in small yard and feed cow, many of these self-correct. Bandage to protect front of fetlock if knuckling right over. Lambs with same problem on this property a month ago.
Corneal damage	One steer in one small herd	Northern 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	Usually genetic/hereditary. Cull.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	One cow in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	This calf came out backwards	Posterior presentation can be hereditary in some breeds.
Eye cancer	One cow in one small herd	Southern and Northern Tasmania	A small white 'pimple' on eyeball	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.
Fevered carcase	Two calves condemned at abattoir	NW Tasmania	Carcase shows signs of generalised illness	Calves can develop septicaemia quickly when stressed by transport. Make sure all calves get at least 2 x 2 litres of high quality colostrum within 12 hours of birth. See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/ Rearing Healthy Calves manual
Grass tetany (hypomagnesaemia)	A number of cows in a number of herds.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down,	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevent with Causmag on hay or magnesium boluses. Magnesium blocks may not ensure all cows get protective dose every day.

			hyper-excitable.	
Illness and death in recently calved cow	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be metritis post-calving	Had been treated for grass tetany earlier as well.
Liver fluke	Multiple cases	Northern Tasmania	Live fluke detected in cattle slaughtered at abattoir and in faecal tests. Detections in Tamar River area.	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. Late winter/early spring (August to October) treatment to kill adult fluke can help break fluke life cycle.
Ostertagia (Brown stomach worm) type 2	Many cases on a number of properties	NW and Northern Tasmania	Scouring, loss of weight and deaths in heifers, late lactation & dried off dairy cows.	Caused by Brown stomach worm larvae resting in the lining of the 4th stomach and maturing to adults when the cow is stressed. Most drenches kill the inhibited as well as adult worms. Using a long-acting anthelmintic on young cattle in July helps prevent.
Photosensitisation	Several cattle in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off white areas and areas with no hair eg ear edges, muzzle, udder etc	May be caused by ABLD, blue-green algae, Facial Eczema or other liver toxins, some plants such as St John's wort. Move off paddock, Keep cattle in deep shade. Vet may prescribe treatments.
Pneumonia/pleurisy in calves	Several calves at abattoir	NW Tasmania	Calves may show high temperature and respiratory signs when alive.	Prevention mainly by ensuring 2 x 2 litres of good quality colostrum in first 12 hours of life, good shelter and clean bedding.
Rapid condition loss and death on brassica crop	One heifer in one medium mob	Southern Tasmania	Could be brassica anaemia, or a number of other conditions	Veterinary visit may be required.
Scouring adult cows	Half of a mob of adult cows with watery green scour.	Northern Tasmania	May be nutritional but Brown Stomach Worm, copper deficiency etc could be involved	Worm egg counts do not always detect cattle with Brown Stomach Worm problem, a blood test for fourth stomach lining damage (pepsinogen test) can be more accurate.
Sudden death	One cow in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	May be caused by pulpy kidney, ABLD, blackleg, plant poisoning, grass tetany, 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.
Warts	One steer in small herd	Northern Tasmania	Cauliflower-like growth anywhere on body but often around head.	Normally only seen in young cattle. Will normally self-cure if left alone. A vaccine can be made up if warts persist or are very extensive.

ALPACAS and CAMELS				
Nil cases reported				
GOATS				
Coughing	All goats in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Cough during exercise	Could be lungworm, viruses, bacteria etc. Treat with drench for lungworm (or if you do WORMTEST, ask for special lungworm test). Vet may prescribe antibiotic cover.
Grain poisoning	One goat in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Diarrhoea, dehydration, groaning, teeth grinding	Remove grain and other rich feedstuff. Offer hay. Drench with bicarb, vet may administer other treatments.
Johne's Disease	Several goats over a number of months in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Goats waste away over several months despite treatment for worms etc	OJD vaccine (Gudair) can be used to help prevent JD in goats. Advanced cases should be euthanased.
Worms	One goat in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vets instructions.
PIGS				
Abdominal pain	One pig in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Grunting on palpation of abdomen, constipation.	Suspected foreign body. Surgery not economical, euthanasia justified.

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.
Respiratory infection	A number of chickens in one small and one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	May be due to mycoplasma, pullorum, Infectious Bronchitis virus (IB), Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT) virus (and secondary infections, Pasteurella, coryza, Avian influenza and Newcastle Disease.	Antibiotics in water often used initially and further testing for viruses, resistant bacteria if little response. If a high percentage of birds die or show neurological signs avian influenza or Newcastle disease could be the problem and a vet should be called or ring the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on1800 675 888.