The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – November 2021

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

Sheep abattoir data from the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project is also summarised.

See www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health for previous reports and to subscribe.

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 Tasmanian Livestock Health Report will be out in mid-January.

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

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

Seasonal Disease Alerts

Flystrike: As temperatures exceed 20 degrees, blowflies become more active.
Lucerne red gut: Lambs on pure irrigated lucerne and clover are at risk.
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading now due to the La Nina weather conditions.
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.
Pulpy kidney: make sure a full vaccination program is maintained. Lambs may need a third vaccination if they are on rich feed.
Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD): use sheep to graze off paddocks that grow a lot of rough dog's tail weed, or make hay, so that cattle can graze in autumn.
Ryegrass staggers: Graze off paddocks with history of staggers before staggers season starts.
Liver fluke: immature fluke will start migrating through the liver soon so make sure Black Disease vaccination is up to date. Too early to start monitoring for fluke eggs in Wormtests unless not treated last winter.
Worms: first summer drench now if not already done. May need to Wormtest during January if it keeps raining.
Micronutrient (copper, selenium, B12) deficiencies: may be worse due to a wet year.

Biosecurity story of the month

A sheep producer in Southern Tasmania had to purchase ewes because he had just bought more land. He was very keen not to bring footrot into his clean flock, so he bought ewes on Auctions Plus, partly because they had a Sheep Health Declaration, and made sure that the section on footrot stated that the flock of origin did not have virulent footrot. He footbathed the sheep off the truck when they arrived and isolated them in a quarantine paddock.

After a day he checked the sheep and found 10% lame. He immediately called his vet who came out the same day. Fortunately, the lameness turned out to be mostly due to toe and heel abscess and responded to paring, drainage and antibiotics. Laboratory tests also proved negative for footrot.

This case demonstrates how some simple measures can reduce the risks of introducing costly diseases.

An Important Biosecurity Message

Australian sheep and cattle products have enjoyed good access to a number of premium export markets for many years.

Export markets are essential for Tasmanian meat products because we produce 5 times as much food as we consume, but we also want to sell this excess into markets that command high prices. For instance, on average over the last 5 years, lamb in the USA sold for about $2.30 US per kg more than in Australia.

A crucial part of our market access comes from being free of diseases such as foot and mouth disease and 'mad cow disease' (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE). We need to have programs that prevent the entry of such diseases and also continually prove that they are not present to maintain access to these lucrative export markets.

BSE in cattle is usually spread by feeding meat meal back to cattle. The infectious agent, a 'prion', is a form of protein folded in a particular way and can survive meat meal processing.

So, we have a ban on feeding most types of animal protein back to ruminants – known as the Ruminant Feed Ban. Risky feeds are known as Restricted Animal Material (RAM) and all ruminant feeds must be labelled with a statement as to whether or not they contain RAM. For bulk feed this will be on the delivery docket or invoice.

"This product does not contain restricted animal material."

So, check that the feed has the statement above before feeding it to ruminants (including sheep, cattle, goats, alpacas and deer). And also make sure the pet lamb does not eat the dog or chook pellets!

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in Tasmania in November 2021

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abdominal distension ('poddy gut')	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Orphan lamb with large belly, also stunted in comparison to other lambs	Probably due to protein deficiency and general malnutrition, and worms due to starting grazing early. Treat for worms and slowly introduce to high protein/high energy diet.
Abscess	One ewe in a small flock	Southern Tasmania	Soft or firm lump sometimes discharging pus.	Treat: Surgical draining and antibiotics (under vet supervision) usually effective. Prevention: good hygiene on the shearing board, grass seed control, muzzle dogs that bite
Arthritis, infectious	Common, varying % in lambs in many flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joints. Whole leg will usually be	Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock then use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

			removed, often making carcase worthless or dropping it into a lower price grade on the grid.	
Black scour worm	Many reports	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval ID test at lab.	Most significant winter worm in Tasmania. Some ewes had to be treated during lambing. Monitor young sheep closely, they can go downhill fast. Do regular WORMTESTs every 3-4 weeks 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.
Black udder scars in ewes	One ewe in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	One half of udder goes cold and grey, blood-stained fluid can be milked out of teat. Usually caused by a Staph bacteria.	Acute cases caught early – veterinary treatment with antibiotic and pain relief. If teat is cold and dead, remove it so toxic fluids can drain. Isolate from flock. A lot of udder tissue will die, must be gently cleaned out and can heal up over time as this one has, leaving scars.
B12 deficiency	One flock	Northern Tasmania	Slow growth rates, anaemia, may be discharge from eyes.	Blood or liver test to diagnose. B12 injections usual treatment, lasts several months. Cobalt bullets, cobalt in fertiliser on pastures can be used to correct.
Brisket ulceration	One sheep from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Shows that sheep has spent a lot of time lying down, usually due to foot condition but can be painful neck condition.	May be seen with chronic footrot, foot abscess and other foot conditions. Treat the foot condition. Treat brisket ulcers with antiseptic spray.
Broken mouth	One middle-aged sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing, loose, food impaction.	Cull before body condition score is less than 2.
Busted udder	A number of ewes	Several flocks across Tasmania	Usually aftermath of black udder with raw healing wound.	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	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.

			weaners plus possibility of OJD	
Cheesy gland (CLA)	A small number of lambs carcases at abattoir	Northern Tasmania.	Very common cause of trimming at abattoir 20 years ago. Bacterial infection that causes abscesses in the glands – seen as lumps full of pus in front of shoulder, thigh, in groin and internally	Use of six in one vaccine has made this disease rare now, but will return if producers stopped using it.
Copper deficiency	A number of lambs in two flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Bones break when lambs are mustered. Por growth rates. Steely wool. White bands in black wool.	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, supplement carefully – oral drenching, injections or rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
Copper poisoning	Two sheep in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep die suddenly with anaemia and jaundice. These were fed cattle or pig pellets that contain too much copper for sheep.	Even a small excess of copper in the diet makes copper build up in the liver. A stress event releases all the copper and the red blood cells break down. No effective treatment. Copper uptake can be reduced in surviving sheep in the mob.
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.
Deformed hind leg	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Leg angled outwards at stifle and unstable	Most likely an injury to bones or ligaments of stifle. Cull.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	A number of properties, including merino lambs at marking on some.	Widespread	Wool in hard blocks along topline mostly in younger sheep.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline (see your vet) during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin. See https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf
Dermatitis of lower leg	Several recently transported ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Loss of wool and pink skin above hoof	May have been due to standing in manure in the truck, or possibly from wet conditions on-farm before transport. Treat with antiseptic spray.
Fly strike	A number of reports	Wide- spread in Northern	Mostly breech strike but body strike	Prevent: Identify and correct causes of scouring. Chemical preventative treatments. Correct tail length. Select against sheep prone to dermo, fleece rot. Select for less wrinkles,

		and Southern Tasmania.	too. Some due to poor marking technique.	barer breech, less dags. Treat: frequent inspection and early treatment of strikes. See: https://www.wool.com/sheep/welfare/breech-flystrike/ and the FLYBOSS web site
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	Multiple reports	Widespread	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 (under vet supervision), 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. See https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314410/Foot-abscess-in-sheep.pdf
Foot abscess (solar abscess)	About 4% of ewes in one large flock, and a single ewe in another large flock.	Widespread	Foot looks normal but pus may leak out around edge of hoof horn. Differentiate from footrot – may need vet opinion and maybe lab work.	Pare the hoof to remove all hoof horn over the shallow pool of pus under the sole. Apply antiseptic spray to affected area.
Footrot (virulent)	A number of flocks.	Widespread	Active spread has started late on a number of properties due to the cool spring. Seen in lambs at lamb marking	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine. Prepare for eradication this 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 (intermediate)	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Under - running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof. Can be eradicated but causes less production loss than virulent footrot.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B3 and 4 confirms flock is free of 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
Horn avulsion	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Hard outer case of a short horn gets knocked off usually in yards.	Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover.
Interdigital dermatitis (OID)	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Reddening between toes. Looks similar to scald	Take smears on glass slides so lab can stain and examine for footrot bacteria. If no footrot bacteria, OID is diagnosed. Treated by footbathing or by anti-bacterial sprays.

			(benign footrot).	
Jaundiced lamb carcases at abattoir	Several carcases from a line of several hundred from one property	Northern Tasmania	Carcase fat appears slightly yellow.	Some carcases will resume normal fat colour after a night in the chiller. Possible causes include: too many high-carotene flat weeds in diet, Mycoplasma bacteria destroying red blood cells, feeding too long solely on brassica crop, copper poisoning or liver damage. Vet investigation may be able to determine cause.
Knees – skin on front damaged and thickened	One sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually due grazing on knees due to foot problem but can be due to neck pain as well.	Check feet and neck and treat accordingly.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot.	Could be footrot, scald, foot abscess, scabby mouth of feet, arthritis, 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.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in mutton	Northern 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 that may be resistant to triclabendazole (resistance has been demonstrated in Tasmania.) See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	A number of sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	'Star gazing', blindness, other neurological signs, deaths	Usually associated with rich diet such as brassica crop, lush pasture, grain. Treat early with Vitamin B1 injections. Animal Health Australia subsidies available for post mortems on neurological cases. Prevention may involve reducing sulphur in diet, offering hay or straw, loose licks containing lime and causmag to reduce acidity in rumen when on rich diets.

Photo-sensitisation	One ewe in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears. Can be due to plant pigments, fungi or liver damage	Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores if in summer/autumn, check water for blue-green algae, check for poisonous plants and pigment plants (e.g. storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics (if necessary and under vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pneumonia	A number of cases in slaughter lambs. One case in a poddy lamb.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing	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. Orphan lambs should be fed colostrum within 12 hours of birth if possible. See https://www.farmonline.com.au/story/7246893/stress-less-to-avoid-pneumonia-in-lambs/
Ruptured udder	Small % of ewes in many flocks	Widespread	Seen as raw area after dead tissues fall off after very acute toxic mastitis earlier.	Some of these will heal if raw area is small and clean and raw tissue does not stick out. Otherwise, should be culled.
Scabby Mouth	Small percentage of lambs on two flocks	Northern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on lips, sometimes 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. See https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/scabby-mouth-sheep
Scald	A number of reports	widespread	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Also called benign footrot but can be due to Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID) as well. Re-check in 14 days to ensure not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to footbathing and dry conditions underfoot.
Scrotal mange	One ram in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Usually seen in Merino rams but can affect other breeds. Lowers fertility if more than 10 square centimetres of thickened skin/scabs on scrotum. Pasterns affected as well in severe cases.	The Chorioptes bovis mite lives on cattle and other species and survives for a number of days off the host so is hard to eradicate. Individually effected rams can be treated – see your vet.
Selenium deficiency	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern 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), newborn lamb deaths, slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 3 mutton hearts.	Northern Tasmania	Small whitish mass about half the size of a 5 cent piece protruding from the muscle of the	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/

			heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim.	
Shelly toe	75% of one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of hoof.	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition. Is heritable and can be selected against. Best to pare off under-run hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.
Shelly toe abscess	Three ewes in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Wet dirt and faeces pack up into the shelly toe cavity and an abscess forms next to the top of the defect.	Pare off under-run hoof wall and allow abscess to drain. Spray with antiseptic spray. Vet may prescribe antibiotics.
Strawberry footrot	Several sheep in one medium merino 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.
Swelling above udder	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Golf ball sized swelling above udder	Could be an abscess or CLA of the glands.
Toe abscess	Up to 5% of ewes in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Very lame but no swelling, heat or under-running. Small amount of grey pus in toe area when pared.	Carefully pare back the toe, following any black track up front of toe until pus released. Usually no further treatment needed apart from antiseptic spray. Vet may prescribe antibiotics.
Udder abscess	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Firm lumps of varying sizes can be felt in udder. Some may drain to the outside.	Cull. Unlikely to respond to antibiotics. Maybe worth asking vet to drain if only one or two abscesses close to surface in a valuable ewe.
Udder dropped	A number of ewes in several flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Ligaments holding udder up become stretched and udder hangs low even after lambs weaned	Cull.
Udder, hard	One sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Udder is larger than normal post-weaning and feels hard	Chronic mastitis is or was present. Cull.

Vaginal prolapse	One ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.	Treat; can be replaced and plastic device fitted to keep it in. Prevention: Remove tails at third joint (level with tip of vulva) or a little longer when marking ewe lambs. Keep pregnant ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last month of pregnancy, keep BCS 3 to 3.3. Don't feed salt or swedes in last 1/3 of pregnancy. Offer hay if on low dry matter feed. Shear in last third of pregnancy. Maintain steady body weight from start of mating to scanning.
Wool break	A few sheep in 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.
Worms	Multiple reports	Widespread	Scour, High faecal egg count.	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
Yellow skin inside hind leg and in armpits	Many ewes in one medium mob	Southern Tasmania	Were run in wet long grass. Mucous membranes were pink, not jaundiced.	Yellow colour could be washed off and teats were clean where lambs had been sucking. Appeared that suint (a component of wool grease) had washed off sweaty locks onto skin.
CATTLE				
Acidosis	Two cows in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	These two gorged on bread. Depressed, porridge like scour, may die.	Treat: Rehydration, alkaline solutions orally. Prevent: Keep grain sheds securely fastened.
Aggression and nervous signs	One recently calved cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Grass tetany suspected.	Treat for grass tetany using 4-in-one. Call vet if no response to treatment.
Bowed legs in newborn calves	Two of three newborn calves in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	May be due to inherited defect, nutrient imbalance, viral infection during pregnancy, or weeds in cow's diet.	Treat; sometimes the condition will self-correct if you confine cow to small area and help calf drink if necessary. If associated with introduction of new bull may need to change bull for next mating. Check for deficiencies in diet and weeds such as wild turnip. Can have vet bleed cow to detect viral diseases.
Broken penis	One bull in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Large lump forming around penis in front of scrotum.	A vet may be able to help salvage such bulls. Make sure bull is 'fit to load' if sent to abattoir.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	Multiple reports	Southern Tasmania	Calf not delivered within 3 hours of start of birth process.	Heifers should generally be 300kg+ at mating and grow at up to 1 kg per day in last third of pregnancy but not end up overfat (BCS 4 or 5). Need to be observed frequently over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours.

Lameness	3 cattle in 3 herds	Southern Tasmania	Foot abscess, sub-solar abscess, injuries etc	Remove cow from mob if possible, rest in small paddock or yard, give anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories (under vet supervision), check for foot injuries and infections. Vet may be able to diagnose accurately and drain abscesses etc.
Laminitis	One cow in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Lame, swelling of lower leg. Chronic cases have growth rings in wall of hoof and "slipper foot".	This one in a cow post-calving. Treat any infections, reduce concentrate rations or offer hay if on rich forage. Vet may be able to assist.
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	Several growing cattle on one property.	Northern Tasmania	PEM caused by bacteria in paunch that destroy vitamin B1 or excess sulphur in diet.	Cattle show nervous signs early in course of PEM and may be saved if treated really early with B1 (thiamine) injections. PEM is seen on crops or weeds with high sulphur content, or grain or rich feed eg brassica crop. Prevent by offering good quality hay. Can add thiamine to diet. Best to get a vet involved. If the vet does a post mortem and takes the brain you may be eligible for a $300 subsidy (see https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains_Jun16_WEB.pdf
Photosensitisation	2 cows in two small herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair.	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 (see your vet) if necessary.
Prominent tail head	One cow in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Tail head is raised above normal level	This one was probably an injury or congenital deformity, but may also indicate hormonal imbalance.
Udder oedema	One heifer in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Soft swelling under skin in front of the udder	Usually seen in dairy breed heifers in late pregnancy. Vet may prescribe diuretics.
Wasted hip	One cow in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Muscles of hindquarter waste away due to less use because of lameness in that leg	A variety of injuries and degenerative changes of hip and stifle joints can cause wasting. Generally best to cull if fit to load or destroy on-farm if not fit to load. Suitable for pet food.
Watery eyes	A large proportion of cows from several herds	Northern Tasmania	Clear discharge down cheeks from both eyes	Could be very early pink eye, allergic reaction to e.g. pollens, irritation e.g. dusty windy conditions. No treatment, check to make sure doesn't develop into pink eye.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No reports				
GOATS				
Hair loss	Two goats in two small herds	Southern Tasmania	Loss of hair in legs and shoulder area.	Usually due to chorioptic mange or lice. Mites may not show up on skin scrapings. There are some 'off-label' treatments that can help - consult your vet.
PIGS				

Dog attack	Two pigs in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	External bite wounds may not show true extent of tissue damage	Veterinary attention recommended unless only superficial wounds that could be treated with antiseptic spray.
Shaking and deaths in newborn piglets	Seven of litter of eight died, one with shakes survived in small herd.	Southern Tasmania	First litter for gilt. Had direct contact with sheep.	Can be due to viral diseases. Get your vet to investigate.
POULTRY				
Paralysed neck	One hen in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Slow onset of head held low to ground	Most likely Mareks disease, no cure as it is a virus. Could also be botulism.

Resources

Farm biosecurity plans
Everything you need to know about farm biosecurity, for example to make a biosecurity plan for LPA accreditation, can be found on: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/

Animal health declarations
Provide an animal health declaration when selling sheep, cattle, goats and camelids, and ask to see declarations when purchasing or moving these animals onto your property. See: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/declarations-and-statements/

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.

Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease
Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease, especially slobbering/lameness in ruminants and pigs, sudden death in multiple pigs, to your vet or the Hotline on 1800 675 888

Comply with the Ruminant Feed Ban
Protect access to our export markets by never feeding animal protein such as meat meal to any ruminant including sheep, cattle, goats, deer and alpacas. See: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/australian-ruminant-feed-ban/

Maintain market access through strong tracing systems
Use NVDs and NLIS tags properly so that animals can be 'contact traced' quickly if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease or a chemical residue problem. Especially important to list all PICs on NLIS tags in sale mobs of sheep on the NVD. See: https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/animal-industries/identifying-selling-moving-livestock

If you have pigs, don't feed them swill
Check whether waste food you want to feed to pigs is "swill" or not. Swill which contains food from overseas can introduce devastating diseases such as foot and mouth disease or African swine fever into Tasmania. For more detail see: https://nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/pigs/swill-feeding

Never feed raw untreated offal or sheepmeat to dogs or cats.

Untreated offal from any species, or sheepmeat may spread diseases such as hydatids, sheep measles and bladder worm in sheep if fed to dogs or Toxoplasma and Sarco if fed to cats. See: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

Bucks for Brains
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)

Maintaining Tasmania's export markets:
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. For example, Tasmania exported approximately $100 million worth of sheepmeats and wool in 2019-20. See: https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/facts-figures/tasmanian-agri-food-scorecards

Early detection of Emergency Animal diseases
This program should also help detect an outbreak of emergency animal disease earlier, allowing effective action to stamp it out or reduce its impact. See AUSVETPLAN: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ausvetplan/

The National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy
The National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy lies at the core of this program, see: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs