The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – December 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 NRE. 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-February.

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 still 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, so that cattle can graze in autumn.
Ryegrass staggers: Graze off paddocks with a history of staggers before the season starts.
Liver fluke: immature fluke are migrating through the liver now, so make sure Black Disease vaccination is up to date. May be too early to start monitoring for fluke eggs in Wormtests unless not treated last winter.
Worms: May need to Wormtest through summer if irrigating or if it keeps raining.
Micronutrient (copper, selenium, B12) deficiencies: may be worse due to a wet year.

Biosecurity story of the month

It's a La Nina summer, so Barber's pole worm (BPW, scientific name *Haemonchus contortus),* may be more of a problem this summer/autumn. This parasite lives in the 4th stomach of sheep and goats and sucks blood. Animals don't usually scour or lose weight, but may have pale conjunctivae (inside lining of the eyelid), bottle jaw, and drop out the back of the mob when driven. BPW lays lots of eggs so burdens can build up quickly when conditions are right for the larvae to survive on pastures (wet and warm).

There are certain properties in Tasmania that have experienced BPW outbreaks in the past, but with increasing use of irrigation we expect to see more outbreaks in the future.

Keep Wormtesting over summer and autumn if you think your flock could be at risk. If you get a worm egg count over 1,000 epg get a larval identification test done to see if BPW is present.

If BPW does show up, then refer to WormBoss.com for a comprehensive coverage of how to keep it under control.

Animal Health Declarations

With many producers preparing to buy in replacement stock over the next few months, it is worth mentioning one of the most useful tools that you can use to reduce the risks of bringing a new disease onto your property.

If your flock is free of footrot, lice, ovine brucellosis and Johne's disease (JD) then the National Sheep Health Declaration will help you stay that way. Likewise, a National Cattle Health Declaration is very useful for cattle managers concerned about JD, pestivirus and Vibrio.

A declaration is a good start, but other measures such as isolating introduced stock for as long as possible before mixing with resident animals, quarantine drenching, inspections and testing are also important aspects of reducing the risks of bringing new diseases into your flock or herd.

Diseases and conditions seen in Tasmania in December 2021

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Arthritis, degenerative	One aged ewe in one small flock	Northern Tas	Aged ewe lame with swollen hock. This one became non-painful after a course of anti-inflammatories because the joint fused.	Anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision. Euthanasia if not responsive.
Broken mouth	One aged sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing,	Cull before body condition score is less than 2.

			loose, food impaction.	
Cachexia (very low condition score)	A number of weaners on one property	Northern Tasmania	Weaners: usually parasites and poor nutrition. Adult sheep as for weaners plus possibility of OJD	Use effective drench and do follow-up WORMTEST. Good paddock plus supplementation, rectify any micronutrient deficiencies. If only a few adult sheep in the mob are very thin, talk to your vet about OJD diagnosis.
Campylobacter abortion	Several flocks diagnosed by serology on blood samples taken from dry ewes at lamb marking	Widespread.	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion, stillbirths, weak newborn lambs.	A vaccine is available and covers both strains. Vaccination should be completed just before joining. Humans can also be affected so women of child-bearing age should not be exposed to aborting ewes or afterbirth.
Cough, persistent, in ewes, then their lambs.	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewes and lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench	If little response to lungworm drench, then probably an infection. May be virus. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cripples	Two flocks	Northern Tasmania	Variety of possible causes – arthritis, fractures, soft tissue injury eg to ligaments, dog bite, etc	Sheep is unable to walk properly and is not fit to load. Euthanasia justified.
Cud stain	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	This one had molar teeth loose and missing and grass impacting between molars and cheeks. May also be caused by paralysed cheek (probably due to vaccination injuring facial nerve) causing grass to impact between cheek and molars.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 8.3% of lambs and 16% of mutton carcases.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania.	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver, intestines, or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep at abattoir. Causes liver to be trimmed or condemned, 'runners' 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	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (e.g. Salmonella, Yersinia), nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count

		Northern Tasmania		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, 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
Dropped gut	Several ewes in two large mobs	Northern Tasmania	Ligaments attaching lower abdominal wall to pelvis gives way due to multiple pregnancy and gut drops down just in front of udder	Cull.
Ears shortened	One aged sheep from one flock	Northern Tasmania	Top half of both ears appeared to have been removed.	Probably due to ear cancer. Removing part of an ear should be carried out by a veterinarian under anaesthesia.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep from several properties	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually due to body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, early wool break, shedding genetics etc.
Fly strike	A number of reports	Widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Mostly breech strike but body strike too. Some due to poor marking technique.	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, 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.	Most are old, healing cases now. 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
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, cull chronic cases. Could attempt eradication this summer if number of infected sheep is low, but rain due to La Nina year may disrupt. 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)	Two medium flocks	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 if La Nina rains do not persist. 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
Footrot, benign (mild, "scald")	A number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
Fractured leg	Several weaners in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Several affected at one time suggests bone fragility problem possibly copper deficiency, calcium/phosphorus imbalance etc	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 under veterinary supervision. Feed well balanced diet. If multiple fractures in mob, have copper levels checked, and also calcium:phosphorus balance.
Hard udder	Three ewes in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Udder is very hard.	Chronic mastitis, best to cull.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One wether	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 in lambs	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Poor growth rates	Possible causes may be worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), chronic infections such as pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Food On Offer etc.
Intersex	One lamb in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Deformed external genitals	Can survive but usually urinate down legs and are prone to flystrike. Cannot be treated. Cull.
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 3.9% of lambs and 7.9% of mutton carcasses.	NW, 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.	Pickup of immatures will have started, but mature fluke may not be in bile ducts yet so Fluketest results may not be reliable. 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 or use albendazole at higher recommended dose rate even though it only kills adults. 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/
Micronutrient deficiency	Suspected in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lowered growth rates, and fertility. Can cause white bands in black wool and/or bone fractures (copper deficiency), white muscle disease (selenium deficiency), anaemia (B12 deficiency).	Collect 5 blood or liver samples (July is best time) for testing. Various options for treatment. Beware over-use of copper in sheep. Selenium can also be toxic, especially if several forms of supplement used at once eg in drench as well as vaccine.
Molar teeth loose, lost	One aged sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Can be felt through cheeks	Cull.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	Several sheep in several flocks	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Nephritis (kidney damage)	Detected at abattoir in 5.7% of lamb and 4.9% of sheep carcases	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.

Nitrate poisoning	Cases suspected in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Sudden death, scouring, anaemia in lambs on sprayed immature brassica crop	Treat acute down cases with intravenous injection of methylene blue, remove from paddock. Keep stock off brassica till more mature. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/111003/nitrate-and-nitrite-poisoning-in-livestock.pdf
Ocular (eye) discharge, purulent, one eye	A number of weaners from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely barley grass seed.	Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible. Control barley grass with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping.
Pizzle rot	Several wethers in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scab on end of pizzle or whole sheath swollen	Bacterial infection usually associated with grazing wethers on legume-rich pastures. Prevented by testosterone injections (see your vet).
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 0.3% of lamb/hogget carcasses and 15.8% of mutton carcasses.	NW, 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 seen in lambs. Deny cats access to sheep meat, burn or bury carcasses promptly, eradicate feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Scald	A number of reports	Widespread	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Caused by benign footrot or Ovine Interdigital Dermatitis (OID). Differentiate with swabs for footrot smear/culture. Re-check in 14 days to ensure not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to footbathing and dry conditions underfoot.
Sebaceous gland impaction	One aged Dorper wether	Northern Tasmania	Large lumps develop slowly in skin of back.	No action required unless become infected or cancerous, in which case veterinarian may excise under anaesthetic.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 14% of lamb and 10.9% of mutton carcasses	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small whitish mass about half the size of a 5 cent piece protruding from the muscle of the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Hearts condemned. 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/
Shelly toe	Many sheep on many properties	Widespread	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition. Is heritable and can be selected against. Best to pare off separated hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.

			near front of hoof.	
Shoulder ligament failure	One aged wether in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Front leg at 90 degrees to body when lying down. Bones in shoulder joint moving abnormally	Euthanasia.
Transport death	One sheep from one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Found dead on unloading.	Many possible causes. Ensure correct loading density per pen to ensure sheep don't smother during transport.
Udder abscess	One ewe in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Firm lumps of varying sizes can be felt in udder. Some may drain to the outside.	Incomplete response to antibiotics in this one (Yersinia tuberculosis bacteria isolated). 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.
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. Some counts over 1000 despite grazing lucerne	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
CATTLE				
Dermatitis of lower legs	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Hair loss from hock down	Could be reaction to irritant, photosensitisation.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	Two of 3 heifers	Northern 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. Choose low birth weight bulls to mate with heifers.
Eye cancer	One case in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in breeds with white	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe cases require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over the growth. Select cattle with good eye pigmentation and deep-set eyes.

			pigmentation around eye. This lesion was near eye.	
Hoof cracks	One cow in one medium herd	Northern 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.
Horn fracture	One heifer in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Caused by collision with hard object.	De- horn – appropriate pain relief must be used. Reduce hazards around yards that could cause horned cattle to fracture horns. Use polled breeds or de-horn as calves.
Late calving heifers	Two well grown heifers in medium sized mob calved late.	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to diseases such as Campylobacter.	Ask veterinarian to test for Campylobacter.
Navel ill (infected belly button)	One calf on one small beef farm	Northern Tasmania	Inflammation around the belly button (umbilicus)	Try to calve in clean paddocks without too much mud. Encourage good colostrum intake in first 12 hrs of life. Can treat affected calves with broad-spectrum antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	Several cows from a number of herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of Pink Eye.	May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.
Penile diversion	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Penis curves to one side as bull mounts. May be caused by injury while serving.	Difficult to correct surgically. Cull.
Pregnancy tested in calf cows failed to calve	Six cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Abortion could be caused by Campylobacter, Lepto, Neospora and a number of other pathogens, genetic defects etc	Have a veterinarian investigate.
Prepucial prolapse	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Soft tissue of sheath hangs out. If injured while out, becomes swollen and can't go back in.	A veterinarian may be able to operate even if damaged.

Separation of hoof wall	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Injury to coronary band caused defect under hoof wall in toe area.	Remove all separated hoof wall and spray with disinfectant. Hoof grows from coronary band so some deformity may remain.
Sudden death	One bull in one small herd.	Northern Tasmania	May be caused by pulpy kidney, ABLD, blackleg, plant poisoning, bloat, snake bite, Anthrax etc.	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.
Wart (vaginal)	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Cauliflower-like growth on vulva.	Normally only seen in young cattle. Usually associated with use of young bull that has a wart on penis. Will normally self-cure if left alone. Surgical removal can be successful. A vaccine can be made up if warts persist or are very extensive.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No reports				
GOATS				
Dermo	One 4 week old kid in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Crusting of skin on muzzle	Responded to antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision and iodine washes.
Footrot (virulent)	One small herd.	Northern Tasmania	Harder to clinically diagnose virulence in goats as under-running is variable.	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine, cull chronic cases. Could attempt eradication this summer if number of infected goats is low, but rain due to La Nina year may disrupt. Prevention: Ask for a Goat Health Declaration when buying goats and ensure section 3 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
Pneumonia	One adult doe in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Respiratory distress	Antibiotics under veterinary supervision and good nursing. Drench for lungworm or faecal test for lungworm larvae.
Worms	One adult goat in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Not scouring or losing weight. Pale mucous membranes. Was dehydrated so worm egg count artificially increased.	Worm egg count over 3,000 eggs per gram (epg). Barbers Pole worm suspected. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per a vet's instructions.
PIGS				
No reports				

POULTRY				
No reports				

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. Early detection is critical if eradication is to be successful.

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

Maintain market access through strong tracing systems
Use NVDs and NLIS tags properly so that animals can be 'contact traced' quickly if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease or a chemical residue problem. Especially important to list all PICs on NLIS tags in sale mobs of sheep on the NVD. See: https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/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 sheep, goats, cattle and pigs may spread hydatids if fed to dogs. Sheep offal or sheep meat may spread diseases such as 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

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