The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – January 2022

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-March.

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: Blowflies are very active now. Report any apparent shortening of protection period of flystrike prevention chemicals to the chemical manufacturer or your vet.
Campylobacter abortion in ewes: consider pre-mating vaccination.
Ram check: Check your ram's testes, teeth, feet, condition score and consider some high protein supplement.
Lucerne red gut: Lambs on pure irrigated lucerne and clover are at risk now.
Footrot and scald: are still actively spreading in wetter areas and on irrigation.
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.
Facial eczema: can be seen in dairy cattle on irrigated ryegrass in NE and NW Tasmania. Monitor spore counts in pasture samples from now on.
Ryegrass staggers: The ryegrass staggers season has started. Keep young cattle and sheep off paddocks with history of severe staggers.
Liver fluke: Adult fluke are now in the bile ducts of the liver, so you can start monitoring for fluke eggs with a Fluketest (add to Wormtest request).
Brown Stomach Worms: are showing up now. They are poor egg producers so may need to drench at lower egg counts than in other seasons.
Barbers Pole worm: may be worse and more widespread due to a wet year. Can start to show up from now on. Look for pale conjunctiva (inside of eyelids), very high worm egg counts, bottle jaw.
Nematodirus: will start to show up in weaners now.

Biosecurity story of the month

With some larger store and weaner cattle sales on the horizon it is a good time to think about the biosecurity aspects of bringing new animals onto your property. I often get asked about how likely vehicle wheels and dirty boots are to bring diseases onto farms, but I rarely get asked about buying or agisting animals. Live animals, if they are indeed infected with some disease you

don't want, are excreting bugs and rubbing noses with your resident healthy stock 24/7 once you release them into your herd.

First decide what degree of herd safety you need. If you are only fattening steers on your land, you may not be concerned about Johne's disease (JD). It's a different story if you are running a breeding herd and selling breeding cattle to others.

Decide on the Johne's Beef Assurance Score (J-BAS) you want to maintain and make sure you only bring in cattle that are on the same level or better.

Asking for a Cattle Health Declaration is a good start. Ask extra questions about diseases you are concerned about – there is a limit to how much information the seller can fit on a one page health declaration. For instance, you may want to ask whether Mycoplasma bovis has ever been diagnosed in the herd.

And always isolate the introduced cattle in 'hotel quarantine' on arrival for at least 14 days, longer if you can. If any show signs of disease, have your vet investigate.

You can test and treat them while they are there to make sure that they are free of the diseases you are concerned about. An oral white drench is good insurance against bringing macrocyclic lactone (ML) resistant brown stomach worms or Cooperia onto your property. A fluke drench may be a good idea too if they are from a fluke-prone area.

For a comprehensive coverage of biosecurity plans see www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/

Strong tracing systems

Australia has some of the best livestock tracing systems in the world. The electronic cattle ID system is the basis for premium market access for our beef products. The National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) sheep eartags combined with the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) is also the basis for much of our elite market access for our chemical residue free sheepmeat products.

Tracing systems are also essential if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) such as foot and mouth disease. It has been calculated that there is a 42% chance that we will have an outbreak of an EAD in Australia within the next 5 years (see www.beefcentral.com/production/42pc-probability-of-exotic-disease-incursion-within-five-years-risk-assessment-suggests/)

So, take the time to attach NLIS tags well and fill out the NVD clearly and completely (don't forget to list all PICs present in the mob for sheep consignments). It is the difference between very ordinary prices and premium prices for our beef and sheep meat.

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in Tasmania in January 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abscess	One orphan lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Swelling on nose in this case.	Surgical draining and antibiotics usually effective. See your vet.
Arthritis, degenerative	Several aged ewes in several flocks	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.
Black udder scars in ewes	One ewe in one medium flock.	Northern 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 – treat 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.
Blind weaned lambs and ewes	10 lambs and ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Eyes look normal but sheep cannot see and often 'star-gaze'.	Possibly PEM (a vitamin B1 deficiency if on rich feed). Large frequent injections of vitamin B1 can help recovery if detected early. Can also be a chronic form of pulpy kidney if not fully vaccinated.
"Bottle" teats	Several ewes from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Teats too large for lamb to get into mouth resulting in lamb loss soon after birth.	Check ewes at marking or weaning and cull.
Brisket ulceration	Several sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Shows that sheep has spent a lot of time lying down, usually due to foot condition.	May be seen with chronic footrot, foot abscess and other foot conditions. Treat the foot condition. Treat brisket ulcers with antiseptic spray. This one caused by, or aggravated by, grass seeds – remove grass seeds and place on paddocks with little barley grass.
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.	
Campylobacter enteritis	One mob of weaners diagnosed by laboratory test on faeces.	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with foul smell.	Your vet may prescribe an antibiotic. Reduce stress, provide plenty of clean water and good feed.
Copper poisoning	5 of 9 orphan lambs in one medium flock	NW Tasmania	Sheep die suddenly with anaemia and jaundice	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. Make sure copper levels in diet do not exceed 10 ppm.
Cud stain	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	May be caused by paralysed cheek (sometimes due to vaccination injuring facial nerve) causing grass to impact between cheek and molars, loss of molar teeth, parasites of tongue/food pipe (oesophagus).
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 9.9% of lambs and 10.7% 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 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.
Ears deformed in ram	One case in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania.	Both ears wrinkled and irregular.	Usually starts as a blood clot (haematoma) that forms between the layers of the ear due to fighting with other rams. Usually OK if just left to heal (ear will end up looking deformed), or surgical drainage (see vet)
Ear tag infection	3 lambs, from one medium mob	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 under veterinary supervision. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Fly strike	Widespread	Widespread in NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Mostly breech strike but body strike too.	Prevent: Identify and correct causes of scouring. Chemical preventative treatments. Report if protection period appears shorter than label claim. 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. Most healing now.	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 and anti-inflammatories (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 continued on some wetter properties and on irrigation. Chronic cases only in drier areas.	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine, cull chronic cases. Could attempt eradication this summer if number of infected sheep is low, and paddocks have dried off. 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)	Suspected in one large and two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Under - running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof (score 3) in most affected sheep. 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 vaccination lesions	High proportion of Persian sheep in small flock	Northern Tasmania	Swelling, wool loss, some discharge from vaccination site. Usually heal up and flatten out over 6 weeks.	Footrot vaccine often causes lumps under skin so place vaccine where this will not affect sheep ie side of neck. Lesions don't usually become infected or flyblown so usually best left alone to heal. Be aware that self-injection must be treated promptly – go straight to your doctor if you accidentally vaccinate yourself.
Footrot vaccination reaction (generalised)	High proportion of sheep on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Sheep appeared tucked up for 2 weeks post vaccination	Any possible adverse reaction to any Vet chemical should be reported back to the manufacturer who will normally have the incident investigated. Reaction could be due to other reasons associated with yarding.
Grass seeds in eyes, mouth and under skin.	Several properties	Southern Tasmania	Grass seeds (usually barley grass) get under third eyelid and cause irritation of cornea	Grass seeds must be removed manually from eye, then use a spay or ointment to control infection. Can also lodge in mouth and can be manually removed. Shear or wig sheep to reduce seed pickup. Barley grass can be controlled with strategic grazing, herbicides or slashing.

			(surface of eye) causing discharge down cheeks	
Gudair staggers	One weaner in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	If vaccinated too close to topline, vaccine migrates down into spinal cord.	Cases can be seen for many months after vaccination. Prevention: vaccinate on side of neck just under the skin. – see www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/sheep/best-practice-videos/gudair.aspx
Ill-thrift in lambs	Two large flocks	Northern and Southern 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.
Insecticide resistant blowflies	Suspected in two flocks	Northern Tasmania	Fly strike is seen before the period of protection claimed on the product label has expired.	Report to the chemical manufacturer or your veterinarian.
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.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 6% of lambs and 9.6% 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 is continuing, and mature fluke will be in bile ducts now so Fluketest monitoring from now on is logical. 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 (10 day WHP/ESI). 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/
Low lamb marking % compared to scanning and also excess dry ewes at scanning	One large mob of maidens	Southern Tasmania	Normally expect less than 5% dry, 15% less lambs marked in singles and 30% less in multiples compared to scanning in Merinos ewes	Abortion (early to mid-term abortion often not observed by managers), neonatal losses (slow birth or large lamb, exposure, mis-mothering etc) are usual causes. Blood test 10 dry ewes at lamb marking and test for Campylobacter and Toxo, review feeding levels and calcium supplementation of ewes in third trimester. These were confinement fed during pregnancy and Campylobacter abortions could be a possible cause.
Mastitis (chronic)	A number of cases in a number of flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Hard udders sometimes with abscesses.	Chronic cases should be culled.

Nematodirus	Weaners in a number of flocks	Southern Tasmania	Weaners scour with poor growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts may or may not be high.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. Post mortem a typical case and have a total worm count done or treat and look for response.
Nephritis (kidney damage)	Detected at abattoir in 6.2% of lamb and 6.8% of sheep carcases	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Kidneys are swollen, white spotted or scarred.	Infection via urinary tract or blood stream. 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. Correct tail length and good hygiene at marking.
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	20 deaths. Confirmed in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	'Star gazing', blindness, other neurological signs, deaths	Usually associated with rich diet. Treat early with Vitamin B1 injections. Animal Health Australia subsidies available for post mortems on neurological cases.
Photosensitisation	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair eg back of ears, face.	May be caused by liver damage, blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antibiotic cover under vet supervision if necessary.
Rectal prolapse	Two lambs in one small flock	NW Tasmania	May be due to tail butted off very short at marking, coughing.	Remove tails at third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs). Treat any causes of coughing.
Ryegrass staggers	Several properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have high mortality.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.
Salmonella	Two flocks affected	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death. Scour. Inflamed gut seen at post mortem	Stress, overcrowding or antacids in formulated pellet feeds may predispose to infection. Your veterinarian may prescribe antibiotic treatment. Prevent by reducing stress.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 0.3% of lamb/hogget carcasses and 9.3% 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/

Scrotal mange	1 ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually seen in Merino rams but can affect other breeds. Unlikely to affect fertility unless 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.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 9.5% of lamb and 9.5% 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 abscess	Several sheep in two medium flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Infection results when dirt gets into soft tissue at the top of a shelly toe.	Pare off separated hoof wall and expose and drain abscess. May need antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision.
Shelly toe	Many sheep on many properties	Widespread	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 separated hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.
Smothering	Ten sheep in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Woolly sheep pile on top of one another and some suffocate.	Careful sheep handling, investigate and loosen them up if sheep appear tightly packed in a yard or vehicle.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne or clover	A number of deaths in several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up.	May be caused by 'lucerne red gut', Pulpy Kidney (PK) or frothy bloat. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, don't place hungry lambs on irrigated legumes, offer good quality hay ad lib, run them off the lucerne or clover for a couple of days each week.
Teats cut off by shearers	A number of ewes from one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Teats cut off during shearing	Ewes can produce enough milk from one half of udder to rear a single but rarely rear twins. If both teats cut off, cull or run as wethers.

Toe abscess	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Very lame but no swelling, heat or under-running. Small amount of grey pus in toe area.	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 but antibiotic.
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	Small number of ewes in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Udder is very hard.	Chronic mastitis, best to cull.
Vaginal prolapse	Several ewes in one medium flock, 2 ewe lambs in one small flock	NW and Northern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected. Ewe lamb problem rare.	Remove tails at third joint (tip of vulva) when marking ewe lambs, keep pregnant ewes (especially twin-bearing ewes) on flatter ground in last few weeks 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. Ewe lamb problem may relate to excess oestrogens in legumes or fungal product in some ryegrass pastures.
Walking and grazing on knees	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually due to foot problem but can be due to neck pain as well.	This one had been pared and treated for footrot. Tendons can contract and scar tissue form around knees making it hard to get them back walking on their feet even after painful foot condition has been treated if they walk around on their knees for too long. Physio – extending knee joint can help
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.	Brown stomach worm is predominant summer worm. 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
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and sometimes deaths.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST and ask lab to culture for Yersinia as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals. Some stress factor is usually present (eg poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected.
CATTLE				
Actino abscess	A number of cattle in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Swelling usually around head/upper neck, usually	This bacterium usually causes sporadic cases of wooden tongue but has caused outbreaks of multiple abscesses in some herds when feed was lush and they ate coarse vegetation for roughage. Actino abscesses can be treated by a vet. Prevention: feed hay or straw in really lush springs

			after damage to mouth due to coarse feed etc.	when Lomandra, rushes and reeds are available in the paddock as well.
Corkscrew claw	Two cows on one property	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Cryptorchid	One bull calf in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Usually, one testicle is not in scrotum.	In this case the testicle was under the skin in front of the scrotum and a vet easily removed it surgically. The other testicle was also removed as cryptorchidism is hereditary.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	Several cows from a number of herds	NW, 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.
Pink Eye	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	One eye inflamed, discharge.	Start treatment early. Separate affected cattle, use eye creams, antibiotic injection into eyelids, eye patches or vet can stitch eyelids. If cattle are not treated early, both eyes can rupture, and animal has to be euthanased. There is a vaccine available that covers most of the strains of pink eye bacteria that occur in Tasmania.
Ryegrass staggers	Wide-spread in North, some in Southern Tasmania	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually more severe in young cattle - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and can drown in dams. Can have mortalities.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention. Feed with additives to absorb the ryegrass toxin in the rumen may be worth a try.
Skin abrasions	One young bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Hair was scraped off on the front of both shoulders	Probably a traumatic injury. Antiseptic spray.
Wasting in adult beef cows	Two cows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Loss of condition	Treat for worms, liver fluke. Test for Johne's disease and other chronic conditions if no response to drenches.
Wire injury to leg	One cow on one property	Northern Tasmania	Wire can be buried in leg or cut off circulation causing an amputation wound if twitched around leg	Treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision. May require surgery/stitching. Prevention – clean up old fences, loose wire.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				

No reports				
GOATS				
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
Footrot vaccination lesions	High proportion of goats in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Swelling, hair loss, some discharge from vaccination site. Usually heal up and flatten out over 6 weeks.	NOTE: this is an 'off-label' use of the footrot vaccine. Consult with a veterinarian before using on goats. Footrot vaccine often causes lumps under skin so place vaccine where this will not affect goat ie side of neck. Lesions don't usually become infected or flyblown so usually best left alone to heal. Be aware that self-injection must be treated promptly – go straight to your doctor if you accidentally vaccinate yourself.
Skin rash	One doe in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Raw red skin at back of pastern	Could be mites, bacterial dermatitis, physical injury. If antiseptic spray doesn't work consult with vet.
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