The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – March 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 register for free email subscription, or join the Tasmanian Livestock Health Facebook group

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-May.

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 Alerts

Flystrike: Blowflies are still very active now. Report any apparent shortening of protection period of flystrike prevention chemicals to the chemical manufacturer or your vet.
Lucerne red gut: Lambs on pure irrigated lucerne and clover are still at risk.
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in wetter areas and on irrigation.
Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD): don't place cattle on paddocks that have a lot of rough dog's tail weed in them, especially after the autumn break.
Ryegrass staggers: Ryegrass staggers is still present in some areas. Keep young cattle and sheep off paddocks with a history of staggers.
Liver fluke: Adult fluke are now in the bile ducts of the liver, so you can monitor for fluke eggs with a Fluketest (add to Wormtest request).
Brown stomach worms: are still present but black scour worm losses have already been seen.
Barbers pole worm: Are still being detected. Look for pale conjunctiva (inside of eyelids), very high worm egg counts, bottle jaw.
Nematodirus: are showing up in WORMTESTS on weaners now. Egg counts may not be high in heavy infestations, so if weaners are scouring, not growing well and have Nematodirus eggs present, drench.
Pneumonia and pleurisy: are showing up in prime lambs, slowing growth rates and resulting in trimming at the abattoir. Look at: https://www.integritysystems.com.au/globalassets/isc/pdf-files/ldl-pdf-files/about-livestock-data-link.pdf to see if there is any data on your lambs processed this season.

Biosecurity story of the month

China has banned the import of all cloven-hoofed animals and their products (including wool) from South Africa due to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). In 2019 China banned South African wool for 8 months, heavily impacting the South African wool industry, which, like Australia, exports the majority of its wool to China.

FMD is very contagious, and can live for long periods in some animal food products, so could be introduced into Australia if some infected food scraps were fed to pigs. The result would be an expensive eradication campaign and a period of months or years where we could not export wool, lamb, mutton, beef, dairy products and live dairy cattle to China and many other countries.

That is why we have a ban on the feeding of food scraps (swill) to pigs. The other important message is to report any signs of salivation or drooling, lameness, blisters or ulcers around the mouth or feet of cattle, pigs or sheep to your vet or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888. If we get onto an outbreak early, we can limit the damage.

Would you recognize signs of Japanese Encephalitis in your pigs or horses?

Japanese Encephalitis is still being diagnosed in piggeries on the mainland. It is unlikely to occur in Tasmania as we don't think our mosquitoes can spread it, but we could be wrong about that, so it is best to be aware and report any suspicion to your vet or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline (1800 675 888).

In pigs the most common symptoms are mummified, stillborn or weak piglets, some with nervous signs. Piglets infected after birth can develop paddling, nervous signs, wasting, depression or hindlimb paralysis. Adult sows are not usually affected. Boars can have swollen testicles.

Most affected horses show only mild signs of disease. High body temperature, jaundice, lethargy, not eating and nervous signs including incoordination, difficulty swallowing, and impaired vision are the most common signs in more severely affected animals. A small percentage of horses get severe encephalitis and may die.

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Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in Tasmania in March 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Barbers pole worm	Certain flocks in certain areas, mostly on irrigated land.	Flocks affected in central coast, Flinders Island, N midlands and Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw, no scouring, pale gums. Can be seen as sudden death.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Cachexia (very low condition score)	A number of weaners and adult sheep on several properties	A number of flocks across Tasmania	Weaners: usually due to parasites and poor nutrition. Adult sheep as for weaners plus possibility of OJD	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 testing for OJD.
Campylobacter enteritis	One mob of weaners diagnosed by	Southern Tasmania	Scouring with foul smell.	Your vet may prescribe an antibiotic. Reduce stress, provide plenty of clean water and good feed.

	laboratory test on faeces.			
Coccidiosis in weaned lambs.	One flock.	Southern Tasmania	Scouring with low worm egg count but high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs. Prevention by good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Condition score, low	Many flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Body condition scores (BCS) lower than optimal for breeding and production	Most common cause is insufficient energy in the diet, but specific deficiencies (selenium etc), broken mouth, worms, fluke, pneumonia, kidney disease, liver disease, etc can also be responsible.
Cough, persistent, lambs.	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench. Pneumonia on post mortem.	If little response to lungworm drench, then probably an infection. May be virus, bacteria or Mycoplasma. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cud stain	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	May be caused by infection of tongue, 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 4.8% of lambs and 14% 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.
Dog bite	Several sheep from several properties with lip or flank wounds	Northern Tasmania	Bruising and puncture wounds have to be trimmed if sheep go to the abattoir	Muzzle dogs that bite.
Dressing % reduced	One large prime lamb finishing flock	Southern Tasmania	Dressing % has dropped 4% from last year's average	The most likely cause is trimming of the carcase at the abattoir due to sheep measles, pleurisy, bruising, dog bites, vaccination abscesses or arthritis. Log onto Livestock Data Link to see what conditions have been found in your lambs.
Ear tag infection with crusting	One aged ewe, from one medium mob	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.

Ear shortened	One aged sheep from one flock	Northern Tasmania	Top half of one ear appeared to have been removed.	Ear probably removed due to ear cancer. Should be carried out by a veterinarian under anaesthesia.
Epididymitis in ram	One case in one flock	Southern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on side or top.	Can be due to trauma or infection. Ovine Brucellosis should be suspected if a number of rams have epididymitis (see vet). Ram may still be fertile if the other testicle is in good order.
Eye cancer	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania.	Discharge down cheek, ulcerated and raw section of eyelid.	Older sheep with white eyelids. Cull as soon as noticed.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep from several properties	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc.
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, bare 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)	A few carryover cases on one property. Healing slowly.	Southern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage. May affect all 4 feet in some cases, but usually one foot.	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. Too late to attempt eradication this autumn. 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, benign ('scald')	A number of reports. Confirmed by laboratory testing in some.	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.
Footrot vaccination lesions	High proportion of Persian sheep in one 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 i.e. 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.
Growth rate, low in prime lambs	Confirmed on one large property,	Southern Tasmania	Lambs growing at less than 200g per day on lucerne	Worms, fluke, micronutrient (e.g. selenium) deficiencies, bacterial gut infections (e.g. Yersinia, Campylobacter), kidney damage, pneumonia and combinations can lower growth rates.

	reported from others			
Hernias (abdominal), large	One case in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Large bulge in abdomen wall	Cull. May not be fit to load depending on size. Very hard to repair surgically.
Hooves overgrown	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming, Control scald /footrot if present.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	Several wethers in one large mob	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.
Kidney damage	Several prime lambs from one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Associated with slow growth rates on-farm.	Could be associated with pneumonia also seen at post mortem, or maybe other feed or toxicity factors.
Laceration to lip	Two sheep in two mobs	Northern Tasmania	Suggests dog bite	Muzzle dogs that bite when handling sheep.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one leg.	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)	A number of flocks	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. Ask for Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep. Isolate and treat or check introduced sheep.
Liver damage	Two sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	These mainly lay down and die, photosensitisation seen earlier.	Liver fluke, blue-green algae on dams, poisonous plants such as ragwort and St Johns' wort, copper poisoning all ruled out so possibly fungal toxins in pasture.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 2.2% of lambs and 3.8% of mutton carcasses. Also found in Fluketests.	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/
Lumpy jaw	One sheep on one property	Northern Tasmania	Bony swelling in jaw bone, usually front of lower jaw. Possibly due to chronic infection.	Cull affected sheep.

Lungworm (large)	One lamb on one large property	Southern Tasmania	Long (5 cm) thin worms in airways at back of lung	Lungworm take along time to mature in the lamb's lung and most drenches kill them so rarely seen these days. Can be a cause of coughing.
Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae	Three prime lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Causes respiratory disease but signs may not be noticed. Slower growth rates, take longer to finish.	Lambs infected by chronic carrier ewes and get pneumonia when stressed. Lungs may stick to inside of rib cage (pleurisy) resulting in average of 1 kg of ribs trimmed from carcase. Prevention by reducing stress if possible.
Nematodirus	Weaners in a number of flocks	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Weaners scour with poor growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts may or may not be high.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. 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 5.5% of lambs and 11.6% of mutton carcases	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Kidneys are swollen, white spotted or scarred.	Infection via urinary tract, via the blood stream or due to other factors. 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. Remove tails at third joint and treat any infections such as pneumonia early.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	The odd case in two vaccinated flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	The vaccine does not claim to eliminate OJD but will reduce deaths to a very low level. Quickest diagnosis is by post mortem. Prevent by vaccinating lambs at marking with Gudair vaccine. If confirmed present in the flock, cull any sheep over 18 months of age that waste away and don't respond to drenching. See factsheet on: http://www.ojd.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/OJD_factsheet.pdf
Phalaris staggers (acute)	Several sheep in one medium sized mob	Southern Tasmania	Staggering, down, bright alert. Recently introduced to phalaris pasture	Get the mob off the phalaris paddock. Affected sheep can recover with good nursing but may take several months.
Pink eye	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (e.g. yarding)	If low prevalence and on good feed and water leave alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pink eye	Several flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (e.g. yarding)	If low prevalence and on good feed and water leave alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections under vet supervision. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Ryegrass staggers	Widespread and severe, some seen in 2 yo sheep	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.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 9.6% of mutton carcasses.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Small 'rice grain' whitish raised lesions on outside of food pipe (oesophagus),	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/

			diaphragm and in skeletal muscles. Carcase trimmed or condemned.	
Scour in 6 month old prime lambs	20% of lambs in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to worms, coccidia, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Worms most common cause. WORMTEST or drench and see if they respond. Check for sudden diet change to lush feed, plants such as capeweed. May need veterinary involvement if growth rates are low.
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 5.8% of lamb and 11.6% 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	10% of one 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.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne or clover	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead.	May be caused by 'lucerne red gut', Pulpy Kidney (PK) or frothy bloat, pneumonia, exposure. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, don't place hungry lambs on irrigated legumes, offer good quality hay ad lib before introduction.
Tape worm	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Tape worm segments (large white rice grain size) seen in dung	Most scientific studies show that sheep tapeworms do not affect growth rates so drenching for tapeworms may not be justified. Are thought to slow passage of food through intestines and pre-dispose to pulpy kidney, so ensure that vaccination is up to date.
Transport death	One sheep from one flocks	Northern Tasmania	Found dead on unloading.	Many possible causes. Ensure correct loading density per pen to make sure sheep don't smother during transport.
Wool break	A few sheep in several flocks	NW, 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. Significant weaner deaths from black scour worm on two large properties	Widespread.	Scour, High faecal egg count. Some counts over 1000 despite grazing lucerne. Most counts moderate.	Brown stomach worm is predominant summer worm but Barbers Pole Worm can show up anywhere at this time of year. 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				
Actino abscess	A number of weaner cattle in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Swelling usually around head/upper neck, usually after damage to mouth due to coarse feed etc.	Usually seen as a single animal affected, although a large outbreak on several farms has been seen before. Actino abscesses can be treated by a vet.

Blood and mucous in faeces	One steer in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be due to coccidia or salmonella in young animals, arsenic poisoning, coarse or irritant feed.	May not require urgent attention unless other signs of illness are seen as well.
Cloudy cornea	Several cattle in two herds	Northern Tasmania	Cornea is cloudy and sometimes small blood vessels can be seen growing across it from edges.	Usually healing injury or healing Pink Eye. No need to do anything if there is no discharge.
Deaths, staggering, abortions, blood from anus	Several cows from one herd	Northern Tasmania	Trough had been blocked for a couple of days in hot weather.	Anthrax test negative. Possibly due to 'salt poisoning' seen when dehydrated cattle drink a lot of water.
Downer cow	One cow in one dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Suspected injury in this case. Need to rule out milk fever, acute mastitis.	Euthanasia if injury is unlikely to respond to rest.
Hair loss over pins, hips, tail head	Several cows in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Patches of hair loss over bony protuberance suggest mounting activity by other cows.	Could also be first stages of chorioptic mange. Best to just monitor to see if areas of hair loss extend further.
Interdigital fibroma	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Mass protruded from between the toes, usually of the hind feet.	Treatment: if large, a vet can cut it out. Small lesions monitor to see if they enlarge. Prevention: keep hooves trimmed, keep cattle with early lesions on dry ground, cull any breeding animals that are affected as may be 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.
Ocular (eye) discharge, clear, watery, with squinting of that eye.	One steer from one herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be caused by an injury to that eye or a foreign body under the eyelid, but can be first stage of Pink Eye.	Check for injury or foreign body. Observe again later to make sure Pink Eye is not developing.
Scouring	Several steers in several herds	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to worms, selenium or copper deficiency, nutritional factors, gut infection, toxicities.	Do cattle Wormtest or try a drench, feed some roughage. Call the vet if no response and if growth rates are reduced
Ulcers of the nostrils	One steer in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Raw area on edge of nostril.	May be due to injury or a viral disease. If animal is also lame, is salivating, has ulcers or blisters in mouth or on feet, call your vet or ring 1800 675 888 immediately.
Vulval swelling	One cow in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Bottom end of vulva was swollen.	Possible hormonal imbalance or injury.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No reports				
GOATS				

PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	One goat in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	PEM caused by bacteria in paunch that destroy vitamin B1 or by excess sulphur in diet.	Goats show nervous signs early in the 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 e.g. brassica crop. Prevent by offering good quality hay. Can add thiamine to diet. Best to get a vet involved.
Worms	High proportion of goats in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, poor growth rates, high faecal egg counts	Use an effective drench. Consult with your vet as sheep drenches used at normal dose rates often don't work in goats. NOTE: Capsules containing copper needles only work against barbers pole worm.
PIGS				
Ecchymosis (blood 'splash")	A number of pigs from one property processed at an abattoir	Southern Tasmania	Ecchymosis more common with electrical stunning compared to other methods of stunning.	The meat is still fit to eat. Can be reduced by using adjusting settings and lead placement.
POULTRY				
No reports				
DEER				
No Reports				

Resources

Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.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