The Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – April 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-June.

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

Lucerne red gut: Lambs on irrigated lucerne and clover are still at risk.
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in wetter areas and on irrigation and soon will take off in dryland areas as grass grows if weather remains mild.
Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD): don't place cattle on paddocks that have a lot of rough dog's tail weed in them. Best to graze out with sheep first.
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).
Black scour worms: losses have already been seen and the risk will increase over winter. Monthly worm egg counts especially on irrigated pastures may be warranted as it looks like this will be a bad year for scour worm.
Nematodirus: are showing up in WORMTESTS on weaners. 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 – FMD in Indonesia

As if an outbreak of lumpy skin disease in Indonesia and an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis on the mainland was not enough, there has now been an outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Indonesia. The risk of an outbreak in Australia is much greater now that we have a close neighbour affected.

While FMD is pretty obvious in cattle and pigs, it is not very easy to pick in sheep and goats. Cattle drool saliva and are markedly lame with blisters or raw areas in the mouth and between the toes on their feet. Pigs often have blisters or raw areas just behind the rim of their snout, and around the coronary band (where the hoof and skin meet) and are very lame as well.

In contrast sheep may not be very lame, there may be blisters/raw areas around the coronary band, but these are usually shallow. Blisters on the mouth and on the tongue rupture very easily to form shallow ulcers and sheep don't usually drool saliva. Infected sheep moved undetected around England for several weeks in 2001 before FMD was diagnosed in pigs at an abattoir.

If you even faintly suspect FMD in sheep, goats, cattle or pigs you should immediately contact your vet or the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888.

The single most important biosecurity action you can take

Hotel quarantine was a hot topic during the COVID crisis in Tasmania and as much as incoming travellers hated it, it was effective in reducing the risk of infection in the Tasmanian community, and for many months we enjoyed freedom from restrictions while other states had lock-downs.

The same principle applies in the animal world - you can use quarantine to limit the risks of a number of disease and conditions entering your property, infecting your livestock and costing you money and stress.

Have a secure paddock ready close to the unloading ramp but without any of the same species over the fence, walk sheep and goats through a footbath if possible, and keep introduced livestock in isolation from your other stock for at least 2 weeks if you can, the longer the better. This gives time for disease signs to show up (you must inspect them frequently). I have seen outbreaks of sheep body lice, footrot and *Mycoplasma bovis* all prevented by detecting the problem while animals were still in isolation after entry.

Diseases and conditions seen in Tasmania in April 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Bruising	10% of one line of mutton at the abattoir	Southern Tasmania	Bruising limits market destinations for affected carcasses	Handle sheep calmly and quietly.
Cast	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Maternal ewe in good condition.	Maternal ewes can get very fat and if they get on their back, cannot regain their feet. Often attacked by crows when down. Keep ewes at condition score 3.3 – 3.6. Check them frequently if they are overweight and getting cast.
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.

Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 8.6% of lambs and 16.9% 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 WORMTEST 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.
Downer ram	One ram in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	This one a young ram in poor condition that got cast.	Effective drench, supplementary feed, good nursing.
Ear tag infection	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.
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, wool break, shedding genetics etc.
Fade and die without scouring - lamb	One lamb in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Lamb loses weight, no response to drench, dies.	Could be a chronic infection, maybe pneumonia, liver abscess, kidney disease, congenital problem.
Flank strike due to footrot	Two sheep from two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Flystrike on flank where front foot contacts body when sheep lies down.	Exudate from footrot wets wool and flystrike starts there. Treat as for body strike. Prevention – see Footrot section for footrot control and eradication.
Fleece rot	Sporadic cases in several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Green discoloration of wool at skin level.	Caused by constantly wet fleece plus some genetic pre-disposition mainly in Merinos. "Devil's grip" pre-disposes. Pre-disposes to body strike. Use preventative flystrike measures/chemicals and select against this trait.
Fly strike	Widespread	Wide-spread 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)	5% on one property, and one ram in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage. May affect all 4 feet	Fresh cases showing up 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.

			in some cases, but usually one foot.	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)	Widespread	Northern Tasmania	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 (intermediate)	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Under -running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof. Can be eradicated but causes less production loss than virulent footrot.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent 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 ('scald')	Several sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Also called scald 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.
Hernias (abdominal), large	Two cases in two flocks	Northern Tasmania	Large bulge in abdomen wall	Cull. May not be fit to load depending on size. Very hard to repair surgically.
Knotty gut	1% of one day's processing was affected	Northern Tasmania	Small nodules or pimples on surface of large bowel.	Usually caused by a worm that lives in the large bowel of the sheep in summer rainfall areas. These lambs may have been imported.
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.
Leg held off ground, trembling	One ram in one medium mob	Northern Tasmania	Front leg of ram recently mixed with other rams	Probably a fighting injury. If leg fractured ram should be euthanised. If bruised, separate and rest.
Lice (body lice)	Widespread	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 fluke	Detected at abattoir in 2.7% of lambs and 7% of	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Abattoir detection, farm post mortem or Fluke eggs found in	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

	mutton carcasses.		FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	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 wool (dermo)	At least one property	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period (with vet supervision), wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae	15% of lambs trimmed at slaughter from one large property, slow growth rates in another.	Northern and 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.
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.
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 10.3% of lambs and 16.6% 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 sheep have access to good quality water and lambs have been trained to drink if source of water (e.g. troughs vs dams) changes at weaning. Remove tails at third joint and treat any infections such as pneumonia early.
Paralysis and bruising	One ram lamb in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Ram lamb down after mixing with adult rams	Nursing, anti-inflammatories under vet supervision, euthanise if can't stand after 2-3 weeks.
Photo - sensitisation	One ewe in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peeled off ears.	Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, poisonous plants and pigment plants (e.g. storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics if necessary (and with vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pleurisy	Detected at post mortem in one ewe. Also seen in association with Mycoplasma in slaughter line. Seen in 0.6% of lamb and 0.4% of	Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming in abattoir. Deaths on farm as well.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics (under vet supervision). Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.

	mutton carcasses.			
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.
Redgut	A number of flocks	Wide-spread	Redgut on lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on post mortem.	Provide access to roughage
Ryegrass staggers	Widespread and severe, some seen in mature 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 0.2% of lamb/hogget carcases and 16.6% 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/
Scour and deaths in 6 month old prime lambs	30% of lambs in one small mob	Northern 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 7.8% of lamb and 10.5% 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	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/

			muscle. Hearts condemned. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if too many to trim.	
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne or clover	Several large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and carcase blown up.	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, move lambs on and off affected paddocks.
Worms	Multiple reports. Significant weaner deaths from black scour worm on some properties	Wide-spread.	Scour, High faecal egg count. One count over 3300 in ewe lambs. Most counts moderate.	Black scour worm dominating now. Barbers Pole Worm can also still be present 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 pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Agitation	One cow	Northern Tasmania	Aggression, nose injuries, frothing at the mouth.	May be due to temperament, low blood magnesium or brain inflammation. Veterinary diagnosis and appropriate treatment best. Cattle with such signs may qualify for a subsidy payment if euthanased and a post mortem done by a vet. See Bucks for Brains: https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains_Jun16_WEB.pdf
Ataxia (wobbly) and death	One steer	Northern Tasmania	Swaying gait, died after two days. On brassica crop.	Could be due to brassica anaemia, PEM (though usually blind), other internal disease. Usually best to get a vet to diagnose and treat accordingly.
Bloat	One steer died in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	On leafy turnips and clover, found dead and blown up.	Brassica bloat from acidosis of the rumen due to high level of carbohydrate from turnips stops normal rumen movement and burping of gas. Gas builds up and pressure stops animal breathing. Prevent with hay, limestone or causmag to make rumen less acid. Or frothy bloat from clover - use bloat blocks.
Cloudy cornea	Several cattle in two herds	Northern and Southern 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.
Condition score low	A number of cows in several herds	Northern Tasmania	Ribs showing in beef cattle, quite sunken between pins and tailhead in dairy cows	Possibly due to age/teeth, under-nutrition, fluke, worms or chronic disease.
Corkscrew claw	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Genetic cause. Cull.
Crusty muzzle	Three steers in one medium mob.	Northern Tasmania	Crusting of bare area between the top lip and nostrils.	Possibly photosensitisation or IBR (Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis).

Downer cow	One cow in one beef herd	Southern Tasmania	Possibly milk fever, acute mastitis, calving injury.	Veterinary diagnosis and treat accordingly.
Empty cows at pregnancy testing	20% of one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Cows in good BCS. Could be vibrio, bull failure possibly trichs.	Veterinary investigation required.
Eye cancer in Hereford cows.	One case each in two herds	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in cattle with white pigmentation around the eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if the cow can't close eyelid over the growth.
Freemartin	One heifer in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Infertility in twin heifer born with a bull calf brother.	Vet can diagnose by rectal palpation. Cull.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One cow in one large herd.	Southern Tasmania	Horn has damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed or removed by a vet on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows horn to be trimmed safely. Prevention: Dehorn calves so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.
Liver damage	A number of cattle affected over spring, summer and autumn in one large dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Possible causes include fungal toxins such as seen with Facial Eczema.	Test Pithomyces spore levels in pasture (Facial Eczema). Add toxin absorbents to feed. Further fungal toxin testing if necessary.
Mastitis in dairy cows.	A number of cases in a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Udder or milk abnormal.	See https://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/en/animal-management-and-milk-quality/mastitis-and-milk-quality#.YFq2Z68zY2w
Nasal discharge, blood-stained	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses, by trauma or allergy.	If animal is otherwise bright and alert, just keep under observation. If any other signs of ill-health use antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
Nerve damage to hind leg	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Leg partly paralysed	Sometimes good nursing and rest for some months will allow improvement.
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.
Patella lock	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	One or both hind legs remain extended behind the cow	A vet can cut a ligament to free the stifle joint.

			as she tries to walk.	
Pink Eye	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge down the cheeks, inflamed conjunctiva and cornea, sometimes with ulceration of cornea.	Start treatment early. Separate affected cattle, use eye creams, antibiotic injection into eyelids, eye patches or vet can stitch eyelids. There is a vaccine available that covers most of the strains of pink eye bacteria that occur in Tasmania.
Prepucial prolapse	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Soft pink internal 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.
Respiratory disease	Weaners and finished cattle in several herds.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Cough, nasal discharge.	Many respond to antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision.
Runty weaner	1 heifer in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	May be due to pestivirus.	Calves that are infected as a foetus at 30-90 days of pregnancy may be persistently infected and usually do not grow well and die before 18 months of age. Blood or skin tests can detect such PI calves. See: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/
Ryegrass staggers	Three young cattle from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Usually more severe in young cattle - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and 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.
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
Solar abscess	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Discharge of pus from coronary band. Pus under sole of front hoof.	Remove from mob, pare hooves to expose and drain all under-run areas. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision.
Toe crack	Two cows and one bull	Southern Tasmania	Vertical splits in the toe of the hoof from	May be conformation (and possibly hereditary) vitamin/mineral deficiency or dry cold conditions. Pare the feet. If lame may need to pare, cut out all damaged hoof horn and check for hoof

	in one large herd		coronary band to tip of toe.	abscess. Feed dietary supplement with copper, zinc, vitamins A, D and biotin.
Wasted hip	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Muscles of hindquarter waste away due to less use because of lameness in that leg	A variety of injuries and degenerative changes of hip and stifle joints can cause wasting. Generally best to cull if fit to load or destroy on-farm if not fit to load. Suitable for pet food.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No reports				
GOATS				
No reports				
PIGS				
No reports				
POULTRY				
No reports				
DEER				
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