

# Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – September 2022

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

See [www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health) for previous reports and to register for free email subscription, or join the [Tasmanian Livestock Health Facebook group](#)

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You are welcome to distribute this report to anyone you like. The next Tasmanian Livestock Health Report will be out in mid-November.

If you need more information on this project, please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or [rja69392@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rja69392@bigpond.net.au).

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

## Seasonal Disease Alerts

**Grass tetany:** Cows from the week before birth to 4 weeks after calving can be affected, especially if in good condition.

**Footrot and scald:** are actively spreading in most areas.

**Foot abscess:** both heel abscess and toe abscess are still common now though many heel abscess cases are in the healing phase.

**Chorioptic mange:** is still common in cattle at the moment but most should self-cure as spring progresses. Usually responds to a mectin pour-on or injection.

**Arthritis in lambs:** If you have more than the odd case it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.

**Body lice:** will show up now in sheep in more than 6 month's wool. Good time to inspect.

**Milk fever:** can be seen in lactating dairy cows, especially older Channel Island breeds.

**Campylobacter in cattle:** Consider vaccinating your bulls this year.

**Pestivirus in heifers:** Consider vaccinating your heifers to prevent pestivirus abortions, stillbirths, 'dummy' calves and poor doers that die before 18 months of age. You may like to talk to your vet about having some blood tests done to see what the herd pestivirus risk profile is.

## Biosecurity story of the month – Drench resistance

Worms in general, but especially the Black Scour Worm, have caused a lot of deaths and production loss in young sheep and lambing ewes this year. Most sheep producers are following a sound basic preventative program with routine first summer drenches for all sheep and weaning drenches for ewes and lambs. Many are also monitoring, using faecal worm egg counts (WormTests) every 3-4 weeks in young sheep and every 6-8 weeks in adult sheep, but still have to drench more frequently than they would like to, due to climatic conditions favouring worm larval survival on pasture over the last 2 years.

Frequent drenching can mean that the last drench was not fully effective, but can also be because there are a lot of worm larvae on the pasture. Frequent drenching is also one of the factors that results in worms developing resistance to drenches.

The simplest quick check to see if there is resistance to your current drench is to do a WormTest 14 days after you treat wormy sheep. If the worm egg count is not zero or close to it, you may have a drench resistance problem. If you get such a result you may like to do a proper DrenchCheck (see <https://wormboss.com.au/tests-tools/managing-drench-resistance-sheep/>)

If your current drench appears to be failing, it may be worth carrying out a DrenchTest. A full description of the method is available on: <https://wormboss.com.au/tests-tools/testing-drench-effectiveness-with-a-drenchtest/> It is important to follow the method exactly, any small change can result in a false result.

Quarantine drenching is an essential step if you are introducing sheep or goats and don't want to bring drench resistant worms in with them. Ideally this involves drenching on arrival with 4 different drench families, but at least use one of the more recent drench actives monepantel (eg Zolvix) or derquantel (eg Startect), and hold the sheep in a quarantine paddock for at least a day, but ideally for 14 days in a zero-graze containment area such as a drought lot, to allow all the worm eggs to pass through. See <https://wormboss.com.au/tests-tools/how-can-drench-resistant-worms-be-kept-out-of-your-property-sheep/> for full details.



## Diseases and conditions seen in September 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Abortion and stillbirths	Abortions reported in 1 large flock	Northern Tasmania	A history of Toxo last year but Campy also possible.	Best diagnosis is to submit 5 aborted lambs to lab for diagnosis through your vet who could also take bloods for Toxo testing and vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion if no foetuses are available. Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.
Arthritis, infectious, in lambs at marking	About 3% of lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Swollen joints, lame.	A variety of bacteria can be the cause, including Erysipelas. Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock, consider using Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>
Black scour worm ewe deaths	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, Trichostrongylus identified by larval ID test at lab.	Monitor young sheep closely, they can go downhill fast. Monitor with regular monthly WORMTESTs and go to 2-weekly tests if egg counts are rising rapidly. See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Body condition score low	Widespread	N, NW and Southern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke and specific deficiencies and diseases eg footrot may also be involved.
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 etc when down. Keep ewes at condition score 3.3 – 3.6. Check them frequently if they are overweight and getting cast.
Cheek lesion	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Lump on cheek	Can be due to vaccinating under skin of cheek, especially if an oily vaccine such as Gudair, Campyvax or footrot vaccine

				is used. Can also be skin cancer in older ewes. Cull if it looks like skin cancer. Vaccinate high on side of neck, under skin.
Circling	Three young ewes in a medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep walks in circles. Sometimes due to blindness, can be brain damage eg from Listeria.	Check for pink eye or cataracts in both eyes. May also be seen with Listeria (usually with a head tilt as well) commonly on silage, FSE (chronic form of pulpy kidney) or other brain damage. Treat as appropriate. Take off silage, give a 5 in 1 booster if not recently vaccinated.
Contracted tendons in lambs.	Several lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania.	May be caused by the ewe eating weeds such as wild radish or from manganese deficiency.	Lambs can recover if kept in a small yard with the ewe. Administering some manganese may help in some cases. May need to strap the fetlocks to protect them if knuckling right over.
Cryptorchid	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Only one testicle in scrotum.	Inherited. Cull affected animal and sire if known. Usually still fertile but cryptorchid lambs hard to mark properly resulting in stags.
Dags	Wide-spread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg 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 and ensure fly prevention program is effective. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at <a href="http://www.wool.com/flystrikelatest">www.wool.com/flystrikelatest</a> .
Deaths in older ewes	A number of ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Older ewes are more susceptible to milk fever. Can be thin if broken mouth, bad feet.	Deaths over lambing are higher in ewes over 6 years old. Mouth, udder and condition score before joining and cull any with broken mouth, foot problems, low BCS, hard udders or bottle teats. Give access to loose lick containing limestone or dolomite over late pregnancy and lambing.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Low percentage of hoggets in two large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin. See: <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf</a>
Dystocia, primary (difficult birth)	A number of large flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania.	Usually large single lamb that gets stuck coming out. Or twins get tangled up.	Ewe can be assisted. Prevention: Ewes bearing single lambs should be placed in paddocks with no more than 1000 Kg of green dry matter per hectare in last 6 weeks of pregnancy.
Dystocia, secondary (slow birth)	A number of large flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Birth process is too slow because ewe is weak or low in blood calcium, so lamb suffers from low oxygen, may get up but dies within a few days.	Lamb ewes down in condition score 3 for single-bearing, 3.3 for twinners. Offer loose lick containing salt, causmag and limestone if on lush pasture or cereal crops.
Empty ewes at scanning	30-40% of ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Benchmark is less than 5% empty.	Campylobacter, Listeria, Toxo, ram problems, early embryo loss due to stresses such as shearing, oestrogenic clover, fungal oestrogens, ryegrass staggers, nutritional factors, BCS loss over joining could all play a role. In this case Campyvax booster on day of AI and an individual ram failure plus some Toxo may have been involved.

Enlarged knees in ewes	Small number of ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Fibrous pad on front of knees	These ewes had footrot as well and were probably grazing on their knees. Such animals often have a bare patch on brisket as well from lying down a lot.
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 other testicle in good order.
Ewe deaths, froth from nostrils	One case in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to pneumonia, excess fluid in lungs, heart failure or Clostridial disease	Give mob a 5-in-1 booster if not vaccinated recently. If there are many cases veterinary investigation recommended.
Ewe bloating and deaths.	Several cases in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to hypocalcaemia (milk fever) or Clostridial disease, frothy bloat on legumes or gassy bloat due to very high soluble carbohydrates in grain or rich pasture.	Treat with calcium injection under skin, drench with 20 ml vegetable oil if on legumes, tablespoon of bicarb in 1 L of water if on concentrates or very rich pasture. Boost mob with 5-in 1 if not vaccinated recently.
Exposure losses of newborn lambs	Several lambs in several large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Lambs born normally but die soon after birth during wet cold weather	At post mortem these lambs usually have oedema fluid under the skin at the back of the pasterns on both hind legs. Shelter to reduce chill index, more feed on offer (FOO) and higher ewe body condition score (BCS) at lambing will all reduce lamb losses. Keep most sheltered paddocks with most FOO for multiple-bearing ewes and aim for a BCS of 3.3 for these ewes.
Fleece rot	One ram in one medium flocks	Southern Tasmania	Green or bluish discoloration of wool at skin level.	Caused by constantly wet fleece plus some genetic pre-disposition mainly in Merinos. Pre-disposes to body strike. Use preventative measures/chemicals and select against this trait.
Foot abscess	Three large flocks and also reported as widespread	Southern and Northern 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.	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. Pare away hoof to allow drainage of pus. Treat with long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported. Pregnancy toxemia is a common sequel in heavily pregnant ewes.
Footrot (virulent)	Seen in three large and one medium flock and also reported as widespread	NW, Southern, Northern Tasmania	Spread is well under way on a number of properties	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine. Prepare for eradication next summer by keeping number of infected sheep low. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival. Footbath sheep returning from shows. Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: <a href="https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf">https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf</a>
Fractured legs	Several weaners in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Transport accident.	Broken bones in sheep heal well if skin unbroken, but must be splinted properly, polypipe cut in half and trimmed can work. Must have padding between splint and leg, splint must extend one joint above and one joint below the break. Antibiotic cover and pain relief. Feed well balanced diet.

Goitre	One lamb in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swelling (from just detectable to orange size) of upper front of neck	If thyroid (grams) to body weight (Kg) ratio is greater than 0.4, iodine deficiency maybe significant even if goitre is not really large. May be caused by iodine deficient soil or some plants such as brassicas. Give ewes 300 mg potassium iodide per ewe dissolved in water as a drench in last month of pregnancy to prevent.
Grass tetany	Several lactating ewes in two flocks	Southern Tasmania	Twitching muscles and go down.	Hypocalcaemia can look similar. Treatment is the same – inject 1/5 pack of calcium/magnesium injection under the skin and rub in well.
Hairy shaker lambs	Suspected in several lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Nervous signs and hairy birth coat. Infection by pestivirus.	Post mortem does not show other causes for newborn lamb death. Laboratory testing can confirm diagnosis.
Hernias (abdominal)	Two sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Bulge in abdomen wall	Related to transport accident. Best just left alone, very hard to repair surgically.
Hooves overgrown	One small flock	N-W, Northern and Southern 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.
Knuckling in one hind leg.	Several sheep in two flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Sheep stands on front of fetlock.	Usually due to damage to spine or hind leg nerves. Can respond to splinting (with padding) to keep foot in normal position.
Lambled and lost	Significant numbers of ewes on a number of properties	Southern Tasmania	At marking time, ewes have dried blood below vulva and some udder development and dirty teats.	Can be due to late abortion, difficult or slow birth, lamb death due to exposure or infections (eg Toxo, Campy), mis-mothering, crow attack, goitre, selenium or copper deficiency. Vet can bleed ewes for deficiencies, Toxo, Campy. Can send 5 newborn lambs to lab next year for lab diagnosis.
Lamb marking % low	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Normal benchmark depends on strain and breed of sheep husbandry conditions and other factors. Previous history on that property not always a good guide.	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 sample and test wet & dry ewes at lamb marking and test for Campylobacter and Toxo, micronutrients, review feeding levels and calcium supplementation of ewes in late pregnancy.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	Widespread	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot.	Could be footrot, scald, foot abscess, scabby mouth of feet, strawberry footrot, injuries, toe abscess, laminitis, standing on concrete surfaces too long. Identify cause and treat accordingly.
Liver abscess in newborn lamb	One lamb from one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Multiple white areas in liver.	Can be due to Campylobacter, or generalised infection. Laboratory testing justified if a number of these are seen.
Mismothering	Several lambs in several large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Post mortem shows lamb has walked but not drunk milk, has burnt up all fat reserves and no sign of difficult birth.	Behaviour of ewe, especially ewe lamb/maiden/Merino, disturbance in lambing paddock, low Feed On Offer (ewe has to move too far from lambs in first 6 hours to graze) can all be factors.

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.
Nervous symptoms in very young lambs	1 lamb in one flock	Northern Tasmania	“Star-gazing”, wobbly gait.	Can be due to, pestivirus, Toxo, difficult birth, bacterial infections, congenital developmental abnormalities. Post mortem/laboratory tests can assist diagnosis.
Peritonitis in young lambs	Two cases in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Inflamed organs in abdomen plus murky fluid	Usually due to navel ill in turn relating to not enough colostrum in first 12-24 hours of life.
Photosensitisation	One lamb in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears and even legs in severe cases.	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 (eg storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics if necessary (under vet supervision), offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Premature lambs	A number of lambs in two large and one medium flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small with poor wool coat.	Can be caused by iodine deficiency, Toxo, Campylobacter, Listeria etc as for abortion.
Scabby Mouth	Small % of lambs at marking widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on lips, sometimes on feet as well.	Caused by a tough virus that persists on a property once introduced, but skin injury is needed to allow virus to establish. Best left to heal on their own. Can prevent with vaccine at marking. See: <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/179835/sheep-health-scabby-mouth.pdf</a>
Scald	A number of reports, especially in lambs, including poddy lambs	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.
Scour in ewes and prime lambs	50% of lambs in one large mob, and also widespread	NW, Northern and 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 there are deaths, low growth rates.
Scrotal mange	A number of rams 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.	Caused by the Chorioptes bovis mite which lives on cattle and other species and survives for a number of days off the host so is hard to eradicate. Affected rams can be treated – see your vet.
Small testicle on one side	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	One testicle smaller than normal	Ram likely to be fertile but ram lambs by that ram may be hard to castrate as condition may be heritable and the small testicle may be carried high.

Soft testes in ram	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Testicles both soft. Rams should have full, springy testicles.	If because the ram is old, broken mouth, poor feet etc then cull the ram. Ram may have been ill and could recover full fertility. Offer rams high protein and energy feed for 8 weeks prior to joining aiming for BCS 3 to 3.5 at joining.
Swollen knees and lameness in unmarked lambs	About 3% of lambs in one medium and less than 1% in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Most likely arthritis.	A variety of bacteria can be the cause, including Erysipelas. Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock, then use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>
Toe abscess	Widespread	Southern Tasmania	Very lame but no swelling, heat or under-running. Small amount of grey puss 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.
Toxoplasma abortions	20-30% of dry ewes bled at marking in 2 large flocks showed evidence of recent abortion	Southern Tasmania	Late abortions or lamb deaths soon after birth.	Toxo is spread by cats. For control strategies see: <a href="https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf">https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf</a>
Transport accident	A number of sheep died and a number injured.	Southern Tasmania	Livestock transport vehicle accidents are rare	Prompt triage, euthanasia of severely compromised animals and appropriate treatment of survivors.
Uterine prolapse	Widespread	Southern Tasmania	Long pink organ hanging from vulva after lambing. May be damaged.	Acute fresh cases can be cleaned, gently pushed back in (elevate ewe's hindquarters) give pessaries/antibiotics/pain relief. Chronic cases can be tied off and surgically removed by vet. Otherwise euthanase. Not fit to load.
Vaginal prolapse	Three ewes in one large flock and also reported as widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewes and also sometimes after lambing. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.	Treat: Give 1/5 pack of 4-in-1 calcium under skin. There are plastic devices that can be inserted and also straps or harness that can be used once the prolapse has been replaced. If post lambing vet can insert a stitch to keep it in. Prevention: 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. See <a href="https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep">https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep</a> for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes.
Wool break	One large flock	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 eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	One medium and two large flock.	Northern, Southern Tasmania	Worms can be diagnosed by scouring, anaemia, poor weight gain which respond	Trichostrongylus (black scour worm) numbers still high now and do a lot of damage. One individual count on a lamb was 18,000 eggs per gram. See WORMBOSS at: <a href="http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php">http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php</a>

			to drenching, or by WORMTEST with or without larval identification, or total worm count at post mortem.	Drench resistance suspected in some cases. See WORMBOSS to see how to conduct a DrenchCheck or DrenchTest.
<b>CATTLE</b>				
Abortion associated with goitre	Dairy heifers in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Goitre diagnosed in aborted fetuses	Iodine supplementation for heifers in late pregnancy.
Body condition score low	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	BCS 2 (out of 5) or less for beef cattle or 3 (out of 8) or less for dairy cows.	Usually lack of feed but parasitism, specific nutrient deficiencies and disease can also cause low BCS.
Choriopic mange	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks, shoulders. Rough scaly skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	More common as winter progresses. Can become severe if cattle are stressed and short on feed. A number of registered treatments are available including ML drenches and pour-ons. Should self-heal from now on.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	1 heifer in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf not delivered within 3 hours of start of birth process.	Heifers should generally be 300kg+ at mating and grow at up to 1 kg per day in last third of pregnancy. Need to be observed frequently over calving period. Assist if no progress after 3 hours.
Erection failure	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Bull mounts but penis does not come out of sheath.	Cull.
Grass tetany (hypomagnesaemia)	Two cows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitable.	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevention: Feed Caumag on hay in the last week before calving starts and during calving especially if potash and nitrogen fertilisers have been used on grass dominant pastures. Don't let cows get overfat - calve cows down in condition score 3.  Link: <a href="https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/grass-tetany-beef-cattle-prevention-and-treatment#:~:text=Grass%20tetany%20is%20a%20highly,Angus%20cattle%20and%20their%20crosses.">https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/grass-tetany-beef-cattle-prevention-and-treatment#:~:text=Grass%20tetany%20is%20a%20highly,Angus%20cattle%20and%20their%20crosses.</a>
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One steer in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Horn has 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 calves so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.
Interdigital fibroma	One bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Raw mass between the toes.	Caused by constant wet conditions. Vet can excise.
Jaundice	A number of calves from a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Breakdown of foetal haemoglobin and other possible causes.	May cause condemnation of carcass at abattoir.



Lame, swollen leg	One cow in one large herd.	NW Tasmania	Leg injured or infected.	Appeared to be in healing phase. Rest and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision.
Muzzle deformity	Two weaner cattle in one large herd	NW Tasmania	Muzzle enlarged and deformed	Congenital, possibly hereditary. Don't breed from affected females.
Nasal discharge	Four steers in one medium herd	NW Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections 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.
Red nose	Two weaners in one large herd	NW Tasmania	Reddened muzzle	Can be due to Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis or photosensitisation.
Ringworm	One weaner in one large herd	NW Tasmania	Scaly circular areas of hair loss with thick whitish crust usually around head and neck.	Usually heal up eventually if left alone. Antifungal ointments or iodine can be rubbed into lesions. Can spread to people so precautions must be taken.
Scour in young cattle	A number of cattle in several herds	NW Northern and Southern Tasmania	Most likely worms or dietary but could be viral or bacterial infection.	Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay. May require antibiotics and/or rehydration if severe.
Scour and low condition in single adult cow	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Worms, copper deficiency, excess molybdenum, BJD or dietary.	Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay. Vet can test for BJD.
Stillbirths	Nine calves in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to Neospora, slow births, Lepto	Could be due to slow births, Neospora. Blood tests on cows may reveal cause. Limit dog contacts with cows.
Sudden deaths on turnips.	Two cows in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Cows die with watery blood from nostrils. Bracken present in paddock as well.	Possibly brassica anaemia or bracken fern poisoning. Drift cows off paddock and eat out with sheep.
<b>ALPACAS and CAMELS</b>				
NIL this month				
<b>GOATS</b>				
Nil this month				
<b>PIGS</b>				
Nil this month				

POULTRY				
Nil this month				

## 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 sheep meat 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 hydatids, sheep measles and bladder worm in sheep if fed to dogs, or Toxoplasma and Sarco if fed to cats. See: <https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/>

### Bucks for Brains

If you have a sheep or cow showing neurological (nervous) signs you may be able to claim a subsidy for a post mortem investigation ([https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains\\_Jun16\\_WEB.pdf](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 sheep meats 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](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs)

**Phone A Vet**

A telemedicine app that caters for production animals. Download the app from your usual provider. Can use video, photos, texting, you can select your vet. Experienced sheep, cattle, goat, camelid and pig vets are available. See: <https://www.phoneavet.com.au/>