

# Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – January 2024

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 a 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-March.

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

**Acute bovine liver disease (ABLD):** use sheep now to graze off paddocks that grow a lot of rough dog's tail weed, so that cattle can graze safely in autumn.

**Barber's pole worm:** will become a greater risk over the next few months, especially on irrigation and where rainfall has been significant.

**Black scour worms:** high egg counts are still being seen. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep would be worth doing.

**Brown stomach worm:** is a summer worm, numbers are building and they are often resistant to drenches so do a DrenchCheck or Drenchtest if egg counts are 100 epg or more soon after a drench.

**Campylobacter abortion in sheep:** vaccine course or booster should be completed before joining.

**DrenchTest:** Autumn is the best time to do a DrenchTest as all major worm species are more likely to be present. Draft off 150 lambs and do regular worm egg counts, when over 400 epg have a larval identification done to make sure enough of each major worm species are present.

**Facial eczema:** can be seen on irrigated ryegrass pastures from now on, mainly in dairy cattle but sheep can be affected too.

**Flystrike:** Flies very active now. Heavy challenge may result in strike in sheep treated through spray races.

**Liver fluke:** Eggs can be present in Fluketests from now on, but blood tests are the best test to detect migrating fluke in live animals.

**Lucerne red gut:** seen as sudden death with a very bloated carcass on irrigated lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay or straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover can help prevent cases.

**Nematodirus:** are active over the next few months in weaners. Scouring, sub-optimal growth rates, some Nematodirus eggs in the egg count justify a drench.

**Pulpy kidney:** Make sure lambs get a booster if going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne.

**Ram check:** Check your ram's testes, teeth, feet, and condition score. Consider some high protein supplement from now until mating.

**Ryegrass staggers:** Active now. Graze off paddocks with a history of staggers with older animals, run weaners on safer pastures.

**Scabby mouth:** in lambs on feet and mouth.

## **Biosecurity story of the month – Nematodirus - not your average worm**

You have probably seen wormtest results with a count for strongylid worms and another for Nematodirus, and wondered why you get separate results for these two types of worms.

The strongylid worms such as the black scour worm, stomach hair worm, brown stomach worm, barber's pole worm and large bowel worm are all closely related, and their eggs look the same under a microscope. The lab has to incubate the worm eggs and examine the larvae that hatch out to tell the difference. Nematodirus is not as closely related, and its eggs are much larger and easy to identify under the microscope.

But the size of the egg is not the only difference. Nematodirus worms induce a strong reaction in young sheep and their immune system first reduces egg output by the female worm, then eventually eliminates most of the worms. This process is faster if the lambs are well-fed and not stressed. It is rare to see Nematodirus counts in unstressed adult sheep, and egg counts even in young sheep are often low even when the adult worm population in the lamb is high.

Even though adult sheep have zero Nematodirus egg counts they may still carry some Nematodirus worms.

But the differences do not stop there. Like most strongylid worms, Nematodirus eggs are easily killed by hot dry conditions, but once larvae start to develop they stay protected within the egg and usually develop through to the tough L3 stage and may only hatch when there is some rain.

Most strongylid worm eggs hatch within 10 days. Nematodirus larvae take at least 5 weeks and up to 6 months to develop to the infective L3 larvae, then hatch and wait patiently for up to 400 days (and right through a hot, dry summer) for a new crop of weaner lambs to become available for them to infect. Generally, levels of infective larvae on pasture are high in summer/autumn after some rain. Once inside the lamb, it's the young Nematodirus, which are not yet laying eggs, that cause damage to the gut – so there may be very few eggs to find in the lambs' faeces.

So what does this mean in practical terms? The most important take-home message is that if lambs are scouring and not growing well in summer/autumn, and there are even small numbers of Nematodirus eggs in the egg count, assume that there are significant Nematodirus burdens present and drench the lambs. Or have a postmortem and total worm count done on a typical tail-end lamb if you really want to be sure what is going on.

The usual strategies of first and second summer drenches may not impact Nematodirus much. Regular wormtests will not always tell the full story. Preparing 'clean' paddocks is difficult and requires grazing with adult sheep only for over 12 months. Monitoring weight gain in your lambs and checking for dags/scours regularly is more important.

Drench resistance is hard to assess for Nematodirus as the worm egg counts are erratic and you are never sure whether the drop in egg count in a treated group is due to the drench or natural immunity kicking in. BZ and ML drench resistance are common but there does not seem to be much information in the scientific literature on resistance to other drench families.

Quarantine drenching of introduced sheep on arrival with drenches containing 3 to 4 actives including derquantel (Startect®) or monepantel (Zolvix®) is best practise. You can use a multi-active (combination) product or several single-actives though do not physically mix the drenches unless the label says you can. Empty out in yards for 12 hours if possible then place in isolation and carry out a 10-14 day egg count to be sure you have eliminated all resistant worms.

## Diseases and conditions seen in January 2024

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Abscess	Several ewes in one medium flock, one ewe in a large flock and one ram on another medium flock	NW & Southern Tasmania	Swelling under skin of rump in ewes, discharge from neck in ram, discharge from below eye in another ewe.	Surgical draining and curette by vet, anti-inflammatory and antibiotic treatment under vet supervision usually effective.
Acidosis (grain poisoning)	A small number of sheep illness and deaths in a number of containment feeding facilities.	Southern Tasmania	Shy feeders can gorge when they come onto grain after levels have increased for main part of mob.	Found dead or sick with “porridge” scour. Take off grain source and feed roughage. Oral penicillin under veterinary supervision may help. Make sure all sheep are eating or draft off shy feeders before increasing grain ration.
Arthritis, infectious	Seen in the hock of one lamb in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joints. Whole leg will usually be removed at slaughter, often making carcass worthless or dropping it into a lower price grade on the grid.	Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Make sure orphan lambs receive sufficient colostrum within 24 hours of birth. Early antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock, then consider use of Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: <a href="https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/">https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/</a>
Barbers pole worm	Heavy burdens seen in one sheep at post mortem and some high counts seen in Wormtests.	NW, Northern & Southern Tasmania	Sudden death, no scouring, pale gums.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.
Black scour worm	A number of flocks	NW, Northern & Southern Tasmania	High worm egg count, high % Trichostrongylus identified by larval culture at lab.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Biting fleece along flanks and rump	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Sheep seen biting wool on flanks and rump. Fleece derangement, locks matted with saliva,	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc. If no body lice or grass seeds seen and no response to drenches effective against itch mite (eg ML drenches), talk to your vet as diseases such as scrapie are a possibility.

			short bitten-off staples.	
Bloody nasal discharge, one side only	One sheep in one large mob	Northern Tasmania	Blood seen running from one nostril.	Could be injury or foreign body (eg a stick or grass stalk) caught in the nostril. Examine closely. Check that dogs are not biting noses. Rest and re-examine.
Blood from mouth	One sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Blood seen running from mouth	Check for injuries and biting dogs.
Body condition score low	Widespread	N, NW and Southern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, broken mouth, OJD, cancer and specific deficiencies and diseases eg footrot may also be involved.
Bottle jaw	Several ewes in one flock.	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw usually caused by barber's pole worm ( <i>Haemonchus</i> ) or liver fluke.	Diagnosis by post mortem (barber's pole worms easily seen in 4 <sup>th</sup> stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver) or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench. Can also be due to OJD, worms other than barbers pole worm.
Broken mouth	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing, loose, food impaction.	Cull if condition score starting to decrease.
Cancer of nose	One aged ewe one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty growth or erosion on nose	Surgery not usually possible. Euthanasia.
Cancer of tail	One aged ewe, one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Any lump that grows over time and especially if it develops an ulcerated surface could be cancer.	Tail cancer in mulesed sheep are caused by sun exposure. Other cancers are possible but rare. Mulesing with a "V" over the tail to provide some shading from wool, helps prevent tail and vulval cancer, providing shade in paddocks also helps. Some can be removed surgically if caught early but not usually economic.
Cheek lump	One weaned lamb in one medium mob	Northern Tasmania	Lump under skin of cheek	Most likely a vaccination lesion. Vaccines should be injected under the skin on the side of the neck a hand's width below the ear.
Cough	One ram in one medium flock.	Southern Tasmania	Repeated coughing	If little response to lungworm drench then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as <i>Mycoplasma</i> . Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if signs of illness seen, production loss/deaths occur and/or postmortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Crusty nostrils	One lamb in one medium mob	Northern Tasmania	Crusts around both nostrils	Most likely after respiratory infection but could be photosensitisation. Observe for signs of pneumonia or shade seeking (photosensitisation) and treat accordingly.
Cud stain	Small numbers of sheep on four properties	Northern & Southern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth. One had weight loss and chronic bloat	Check mouth and tongue for grass seed damage, infections etc.

Dags	Wide-spread but mainly in a small proportion of sheep. Majority were affected in one mob.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), nutritional factors. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to check for coccidia, 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 <a href="http://www.wool.com/flystrikelatest">www.wool.com/flystrikelatest</a> .
Deaths in dry sheep	50 in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Possible plant poisoning	Vet investigation would be ideal if freshly dead carcase available.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Widespread	NW, Northern & 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>
Downer ewes post yarding	A number of ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Just after crutching. May have been due to weed ingestion, low blood calcium.	Give 1/5 pack of calcium injection under skin, place on soft bedding, feed and water, good nursing.
Ear tag infection	Several lambs in one medium flock	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 vet supervision. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Eye cancer	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania.	Discharge down cheek, ulcerated and raw section of eyelid.	Older sheep with white eyelids. Cull as soon as noticed.
Flystrike	Widespread	NW, N and Southern Tasmania	Breech, body, shoulder, poll strike in rams, pizzle strike in wethers. Foot strike (secondary to footrot or foot abscess). Sheep with footrot struck over ribs from lying on infected foot.	Observe for damp, grey areas of wool, tail flicking, separation from mob, lying down. The AWI web site has a large number of resources and runs workshops on flystrike. See: <a href="https://www.wool.com/simplify">https://www.wool.com/simplify</a>
Flystrike prevention chemical failure	Suspected in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep were struck within the label claim protection period but testing had shown all flystrike treatment chemicals should work.	Jetted using a hand wand. Possible reasons for failure may be poor application technique, wrong mixing rate etc
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	Healed or healing lesions in a	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge	Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin footbath weekly. Treat with long-acting broad-

	small % of ewes in several flocks		pus in acute stage. 'Club foot' in healing phase.	spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Footrot, virulent	Several large properties	Southern, Northern Tasmania	Low % on dryland Some 'dormant' lesions seen at foot paring.	Eradication inspections continuing now in most areas. Footbathing and vaccination, paring, culling "chronics" that don't respond to treatment are on-going strategies. Long acting oxytetracycline antibiotics under veterinary supervision is useful now and if conditions stay dry. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath, quarantine 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>
Footrot (intermediate)	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Under -running of hoof horn only extends part way up the sole of the hoof. Can be eradicated but causes less production loss than virulent footrot.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed this summer. 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: <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>
Gudair vaccination reaction	A number of sheep on a number of properties, mainly British breed rams	Southern Tasmania	Large lump develops at vaccination site.	Use good hygiene and change needles regularly. Avoid vaccinating in wet or dusty conditions. Reactions will still be seen and are a good sign that the sheep's immune system is responding.
Gudair staggers	Several young sheep in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	If vaccinated too close to topline, vaccine migrates down into spinal cord.	Cases can be seen for many months after vaccination. Prevention: vaccinate on side of neck just under the skin. - see <a href="https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/sheep/best-practice-videos/gudair.aspx">https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/sheep/best-practice-videos/gudair.aspx</a>
Hair worn off both knees	One ewe in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually due to grazing on knees	Check feet and neck for painful conditions and treat accordingly.
Hernia (abdominal)	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Bulge in abdomen wall	Abdominal muscles can give way when carrying multiple foetuses. Best just left alone and cull the ewe, very hard to repair surgically.
Hollow sheep in containment	25% of one mob	Southern Tasmania	First few days in drought lot. Sunken flanks and inactive.	Had all been on the grain trail in the paddock. Probably had not taken to using water troughs. A lot of care needs to be taken with water supply in containment, troughs must be kept clean and no dust on surface especially in early stages.
Hooves overgrown	A number of ewes in several small and large flocks	NW, Northern & 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.
Horn deformed	One wether	Northern Tasmania	Horn has grown in an abnormal manner	Make sure the horn will not grow into the head as this may result in animal welfare problems. Prevention: Dehorn lambs so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.

Kangaroo gait	Suspected in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen in ewes up to 6 weeks after lambing, due to damage to nerves in front legs	Ewes move by hind leg action alone so look like a kangaroo hopping. Cause not known, will often recover if nursed.
Kidney damage	A number of sheep on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Detected using blood tests	Unknown cause at this stage. Oxalates in plants such as docks and sorrel, fungal toxins, anti-inflammatory drugs etc can also damage kidneys. Investigation proceeding.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	Northern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on at least one foot.	Could be footrot, scald, foot abscess, scabby mouth of feet, injuries, toe abscess, laminitis, standing on concrete surfaces too long. Identify cause and treat accordingly.
Lice (body lice)	One medium sized flock	Northern 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: <a href="http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/">http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/</a> for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep.
Mis-mating	One mob of ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Terminal rams gained access to merino nucleus ewes.	Talk to your vet about using a prostaglandins product to terminate pregnancy.
Nasal discharge, snotty, both nostrils, some with cough	A number of lambs in a number of flocks	NW, Northern & Southern 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	Widespread in weaners	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Weaners scour and have lowered growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts may or may not be high.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. Autopsy and total worm count or treat and look for response. See WORMBOSS web site for details on control.
Ocular (eye) discharge, purulent, one eye	A number of weaners from two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	Most likely barley grass seed.	Control barley grass with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping. Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible and an ointment or spay applied.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	A number of lambs from one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Could be first stage of Pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking if possible, only yard if you have to.
Pink eye	Widespread	NW, Northern & Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye. Usually spread by flies, long grass and close contact (eg 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 veterinary supervision. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.

Photosensitisation	A number of lambs in a number of flocks	NW, Northern & Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and 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 (eg storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories only if liver not damaged, antibiotics if necessary under veterinary supervision, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pizzle swollen, blood-stained discharge	One ram in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Could be a form of pizzle rot or other infection or injury or grass seeds.	Examine for injury, ulceration, foreign bodies such as grass seeds. Examine penis for ulceration as well. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision.
Scabby Mouth	A small number of lambs in one medium mob	Northern 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 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>
Shelly toe	A number of sheep in one large and one medium mob	Northern & 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.
Strawberry footrot	One hogget in one large merino flock	Northern Tasmania	Thickened skin and crusts of lower leg. This one was self-healing.	Caused by same bacteria as Dermo (lumpy wool) and occurs when sheep are walking in long wet grass and lower legs are constantly wet. Can be treated as for dermo.
Sudden deaths on irrigated lucerne	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up.	May be caused by 'lucerne red gut', Pulpy Kidney (PK), acute pneumonia, acute Salmonella or frothy bloat. Give third PK vaccination or use 8-in-one, don't place hungry lambs on irrigated legumes, offer good quality hay ad lib.
Summer pneumonia	A number of deaths in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Sudden deaths, often associated with dusty conditions.	Move to less dusty area. Treat any sick lambs with antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
'Tail' in weaned lambs	A number of flocks	Southern Tasmania	Some lambs doing well but a number not growing well at all.	Can be due to less than optimal nutrition while on the ewe, low weaning weight, chronic pneumonia, worms, coccidia, gut infection, less than optimal nutrition, micronutrient deficiency, foot problems. Diagnose cause if possible. Draft off lighter lambs for preferential treatment.
Vaccine failure	Ewe lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Antibody testing showed that some ewes had not been effectively vaccinated.	Batch testing by manufacturer showed no abnormality so vaccination technique or cold chain management may be the problem. Ensure that vaccine guns (even new ones) are delivering a full dose by squirting a shot into a 2 mL syringe barrel. Use a fridge thermometer to ensure the farm fridge is keeping vaccine between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius and vaccine has never been frozen. Make sure fridge door seals well and is always closed properly. Transport vaccine from rural reseller to farm in esky with ice bricks. Keep vaccine in esky with ice bricks except when actually injecting sheep on vaccination day.
Warts	Several young ewes in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Crusty growth on haired skin of face or legs	Best to leave alone, usually self-heal. Vet can remove surgically under local anaesthetic.
Wool break	Several sheep in several large flocks	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	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Moderate to high faecal egg count. Some high enough to be barbers pole worm.	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: <a href="http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php">http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php</a>
<b>CATTLE</b>				
Bracken poisoning	Significant number of cases and deaths in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Blood in manure, from nose, anaemic, can get secondary pneumonia	Usually calves or cattle new to bracken. Cases can occur up to 6 weeks after exposure. Early fronds mostly eaten. Low white cell count. No really effective treatment. Vet may prescribe antibiotics to stop secondary infections. Usually die.
Downer bull	One bull in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be arthritis, deficiency, injury, disease.	Treat as appropriate for diagnosis.
Empty heifers at pregnancy testing	A higher than expected % of heifers in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	These were on strawberry clover (which can produce oestrogenic compounds) during mating, and this may have interfered with implantation of the fertilised embryo.	Testing of the clover for oestrogenic compounds before mating next year advised.
Eye cancer (more advanced)	One Hereford cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Advanced lesion. Discharge right down the cheek visible from a distance	Eye cancer should be dealt with in the early stages when a vet can operate and salvage the cow. Advanced cancers may have already spread to adjacent tissues and it may be hard for a vet to remove all cancerous tissue surgically. Animal welfare penalties may be applied if authorities observe advanced cancers in cattle on-farm. Such animals are not fit to load and must be dealt with on-farm – many will be suitable for pet food.
Hair loss over knees in cow	One cow in one small herd.	Northern Tasmania	May be due to grazing on knees due to foot or neck pain, or due to skin trauma eg falling onto, and skidding on knees.	Observe for grazing on knees.
Nasal and ocular (eye) discharge, clear	One cow in one small herd	Northern 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.
Nasal discharge, clear	Two cows in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections.	If animal is otherwise bright and alert, just keep under observation. If any other signs of ill-health use antibiotics under veterinary supervision.

Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery) both eyes	One cow in one small herd	Northern 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.
Scour and low condition in single adult bull	One bull in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Worms, copper deficiency, excess molybdenum, BJD or dietary factors could be the cause.	Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay. Vet can test for BJD.
Scour, grey	One calf in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Grey scours can be due to rancid fats in diet (if on compounded feed)	This one responded to antibiotic treatment.
<b>ALPACAS and CAMELS</b>				
No cases reported				
<b>GOATS</b>				
Mange	All 4 goats in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Skin bare and crusty	Probably chorioptic or sarcoptic mange. See your vet for a treatment program.
<b>PIGS</b>				
No cases				
<b>POULTRY</b>				
No cases reported				
<b>DEER</b>				
No cases reported				

## Resources

### Farm biosecurity plans

Everything you need to know about farm biosecurity, for example how 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/>

**myFeedback** 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.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/WhatismyFeedback/for more details](https://www.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/WhatismyFeedback/for%20more%20details).

### **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, abortion or nervous signs 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**

Any material containing material of placental mammal origin (other than milk and milk by-products, properly rendered meat meal, or tallow) is swill. 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. Untreated sheep offal or sheep meat may spread other diseases such as sheep measles and bladder worm in sheep if fed to dogs, or Toxoplasma and Sarco if fed to cats. See: <https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2023/07/sct-disease-factsheets-all.pdf>

### **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 \$264 million worth of sheep meats and wool in 2020-21. 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/>

### **Farm Biosecurity Apps**

If you want to know who is coming and going, warn visitors of risks and areas to avoid without spending your whole day on your mobile, you may like to consider an app that combines with a QR code on your farm entrances. See: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/biosecurity-at-your-fingertips/>

### **Paraboss**

The previous WormBoss, LiceBoss, and FlyBoss websites are now all in one place and have a wealth of information on, and tools to manage sheep, goat and cattle parasites.

<https://paraboss.com.au/>

Includes an online learning resource: <https://wormboss.com.au/learn-about-sheep-worm-control-in-australia/online-learning-tasmania-introduction/>