Livestock Health Monitoring Report – July 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 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-September.

If you need more information on this project, please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or rja69392@bigpond.net.au.

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

Seasonal Disease alerts

Grass tetany: Cows from the week before birth to 4 weeks after calving can be affected, especially if in good condition.
Black scour worm: sheep on permanent pastures are picking up a lot of black scour worm larvae now. They can go down very quickly, keep a good eye on young sheep. WORMTEST to monitor for build-up.
Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in most areas.
Foot abscess: both heel abscess and toe abscess are common now and will continue with wet conditions underfoot in rams and heavy ewes, especially those with multiples.
Chorioptic mange: may be seen from now on in cattle. Usually responds to a mectin pour-on or injection.
Liver fluke: plan to treat sheep and cattle between now and October to help break the life cycle.
Twin lamb disease: Feed ewes well in the last 7 weeks of pregnancy.
Goitre: if diagnosed in the past, or ewes are grazing brassicas, drench ewes with 300 mg of potassium iodide pre-lambing
White muscle disease: Most soils in Tasmania are deficient. Treat ewes with selenium pre-lambing using only one form of supplementation.
Hypocalcaemia ("milk fever"): Don't keep heavily pregnant ewes off feed for more than a few hours. Feed calcium/salt/magnesium loose lick if on cereal crops, add 1.5% limestone if feeding grain.
Abortion in sheep: Abortions/stillbirths are being seen now. Ask your vet about having 5 aborted lambs (with afterbirth if available) tested at the lab, or blood tests of dry ewes at marking.
Body lice: in sheep will show up now in sheep in more than 6 month's wool. Good time to inspect.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): will show up now in older ewes under stress.

Biosecurity story of the month – swill feeding

There is a lot of interest in foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) at the moment due to the Bali outbreak. Foot disinfection mats have been installed at international and Tasmanian airports and people are being asked whether they have been to Bali.

While disinfectant foot mats are a good idea, FMD is more likely to become established in Australia if food containing the FMD virus is fed to pigs. African swine fever (ASF) is commonly transmitted by this method as well.

FMD and ASF can live for months in cured or chilled meat products and if such products are fed to pigs, the pigs become infected and then excrete a lot of virus. FMD virus can even spread by aerosol in the air to animals on nearby farms. Australia does not allow the importation of food products that could contain FMD or ASF virus for this reason, but sometimes products do slip through the biosecurity barrier.

In Tasmania it is illegal to feed anything to pigs that contains material of placental mammal origin other than milk and milk by-products, properly rendered meat meal, or tallow. Waste from pubs, restaurants and your own kitchen must not be fed to pigs. Feeding food waste is known as swill feeding.

If you own pigs it is in your own interests to keep them healthy and productive and to be able to sell them or their products for good prices. FMD and ASF can be devastating, causing serious illness, suffering and death in affected piggeries, and an outbreak anywhere in Australia will have a devastating effect on all animal industries due to the closure of export markets. Many animals may be destroyed as authorities attempt to stamp the disease out. You don't want to be the person that started such a chain of events.

If you know someone who is feeding swill to their pigs, talk to them about the risks to their own pigs and the livelihoods of other farmers and ask them to stop. Or dob them into Biosecurity Tasmania – the consequences are too great to allow swill feeding to continue.

animalhealth AUSTRALIA

Tasmanian Government

Diseases and conditions seen in July 2022

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abscess	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Swelling on front of knee in this case.	Surgical draining and wound irrigation and antibiotics by vet usually effective.
Abortion	Abortions reported in 5 large flocks with up to 20% losses	Northern Tasmania	Losses of up to 20% in flocks unvaccinated against Campylobacter. Toxo in 2 flocks, Listeria plus Campy in one.	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.

Black scour worm	Widespread	NW, Northern and 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 Tasamania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke and specific deficiencies and diseases eg footrot may also be involved.
Bottle jaw	Several ewes in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw usually caused by Barber's Pole Worm (Haemonchus) or liver fluke,	Diagnosis by post mortem (Barber's Pole worms easily seen in 4th stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver) or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench. Toxicity suspected in this case as worm/fluketest negative.
Cataract	One lamb in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	The lens inside the eye is a shade of white	Cataracts in both eyes seen in very old sheep but in lambs can be congenital.
Cobalt/B12 deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Poor growth rates, crusts around eyes	Mostly on sandy soils in Tamar, NE, Bass Strait islands. B12 injections or cobalt rumen blouses are common treatments
Conception low	Two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	More than 5% empty ewes at scanning	Ryegrass staggers during joining, low or falling ewe condition, ram problems, stress during or up to day 30 of pregnancy eg shearing) oestrogenic fungal toxins in ryegrass pastures could all be causes. Toxo diagnosed in one of these.
Copper deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Diagnose with liver or blood tests. Ill thrift and white bands in black wool, "steely" wool, 'double crimp'	Deficiencies may reduce immunity to worms and other disease. Copper can be very toxic in sheep, so supplement carefully – injections, rumen boluses or adding copper to fertiliser can all be used. Blocks don't ensure consistent intake, oral drenching time-consuming.
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 www.wool.com/flystrikelatest.
Deaths in 2T wethers	A number of deaths in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Worms proved as the cause in this case	Normally mature wethers are quite resistant to worms but black stomach worm can kill 2T wethers if feed is restricted.
Dead foetuses at scanning	One small flock	Northern Tasmania	Scanner reports abnormalities in foetuses	Abortions can occur mid-pregnancy and not be noticed. Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxo most common causes in Tasmania.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Three flocks reported	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline under veterinary supervision during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/314320/9819-Lumpy-wool---Primefact-986.pdf
Downers	Three properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Ewes and wethers	Hypocalcaemia in ewes, worms in wethers, suspected toxicity in another small flock

Ears crusty	One medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Crusts on backs of ears	Could be a form of dermo (lumpy wool) or photosensitisation. Treat as appropriate on diagnosis.
Empty ewes at scanning	15-20% of ewes in two large flock	Northern 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.
Flystrike scars	Several cases in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Bare skin usually above tail or on body	Flystrike has damaged skin and wool has not grown back. Prevention: see the FLYBOSS website.
Foot abscess	Five large flocks plus reported as widespread in two other reports	Southern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage. May affect all 4 feet in some cases, but usually one foot.	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 toxaemia is a common sequel in heavily pregnant ewes.
Fleecerot	Several sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Discoloration of the wool – blueish, greenish- due to constant wet skin resulting in bacterial growth.	Associated with wet weather, poor conformation eg "devils grip" and makes sheep more vulnerable to body strike. Pre-disposition heritable. Cull affected sheep from breeding flock.
Footrot (virulent)	Seen in one large and one small flock but also reported as common in one other report.	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. 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 (mild, "scald")	One medium and one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever")	A number of heavily pregnant ewes in a number of flocks	widespread	Late pregnancy ewes go down after period off feed or on cereal crops.	Treat with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1) 1/5 of a pack under skin. Warm pack in hot water before injection if possible and massage in well. Should get up within 30 minutes. If green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision. Prevent with mineral supplement if on cereal crops, don't keep off feed long if shearing, crutching or for pre-lamb treatments
Infected shearing cuts	One sheep in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen wound, pus may be present, sometimes only seen when scabs removed.	Treat: Clean, drain pus, irrigate with antiseptic solution. May need antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Prevention: Clean and disinfect shearing board before shearing starts. Combs and cutters soaked in disinfectant solution.
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.

Large blue eye (glaucoma)	One eye of one sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Eye bulges out, pupil dilated, surface bluish colour	Glaucoma is caused by damage to structures that drain fluid from inside the eye, so pressure builds up and eye becomes blind. Most likely caused by an injury in this case.
Large red' balloon' hanging from back end of pregnant ewe.	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Most likely ewe was aborting and the 'balloon' was foetal membranes full of fluid.	Examine ewe and make sure the mass is not a vaginal prolapse, vaginal rupture, uterine prolapse or rectal prolapse. Treat accordingly.
Lice (body lice)	Bought-in rams only in one large flock but reported as widespread in other reports	NW, Northern and 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 with deranged fleece.	See LICEBOSS: http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep. Maintain good boundary fences. "Hotel quarantine" and consider treatment of introduced sheep.
Listeria	A trickle of cases in adult sheep in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Sheep may have head tilt, walk in circles, die. Often associated with silage or brassica bulb feeding.	Remove from offending feed if possible. Treat early with antibiotics under veterinary supervision but usually unsuccessful.
Low conception rate	Several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Poor scanning rates	Could be ewe nutrition, ram problems, early abortion/resorption. A thorough vet investigation required to determine cause.
Mastitis (acute or chronic)	Several cases in one large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed (acute) or hard (chronic) with abnormal milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency)	Acute: strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment by injection under veterinary supervision. If only one half of udder is affected ewe can produce nearly as much milk from the other half if she recovers. Chronic cases with hard udder should be culled.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	Several sheep in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and 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.
Nervous signs off-shears	A number of ewes in one medium flock, a number of crutched weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	A bacteria known as Pseudomonas fluorescens cultured from brain in one case.	Can be due to infections, hypocalcaemia, Phalaris toxicity etc. Scrub and disinfect shearing board before shearing/crutching, soak combs and cutters in disinfectant. Feed sheep hay before placing in paddocks with new Phalaris shoot.
Newborn lamb deaths	Excess deaths in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Newborn lambs found dead in lambing paddock	Can be due to diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, or can be due to slow birth, mis-mothering, exposure etc. Lamb post mortems helped identify mis-mothering in this case.

Overgrown hooves	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hooves long and toes may curl up ("slipper feet") or wall of hoof can roll under (differentiate from footrot)	Pare hooves back into shape. Hooves neglected for a long time may grow a lot of excess toe horn and require careful paring back to avoid bleeding.
Ovine Interdigital dermatitis (OID)	About 15% of ewes in one large mob in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Reddening and exudate between toes. This one looked identical to intermediate footrot.	Take smears on glass slides so lab can stain and examine for footrot bacteria. If no footrot bacteria, OID is diagnosed. Treated by footbathing or by anti-bacterial sprays.
Ovine Johnes' disease (OJD)	One ewe in one large mob in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Adult sheep over 2 yrs old waste away over several months and die despite drenching.	Quickest diagnosis is by post mortem. Prevent by vaccinating lambs at marking with Gudair vaccine. If confirmed present in the flock, cull any sheep over 18 months of age that waste away and don't respond to drenching. See factsheet on: http://www.ojd.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/OJD_factsheet.pdf
Pregnancy toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	Three outbreaks in both large and small flocks plus other reports as widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Caused by insufficient energy in diet in last 6 weeks of pregnancy or illness that stops ewe grazing. Usually in multiple-bearing ewes.	If heavily pregnant ewes go down in last 6 weeks, inject 1/5 milk fever pack under skin and massage in well (to differentiate from milk fever). If ewe does not get up within an hour, twin lamb disease is most likely cause. Oral treatments rarely work unless you catch them while still able to walk but dropping out of back of mob.
Salmonella and worms	Three deaths in one small mob of imported ewes	Southern Tasmania	Sudden death. Inflamed gut seen at post mortem	Antibiotic treatment under veterinary supervision of affected live animals. Prevent by reducing stress.
Scarring on topline	Several sheep in several flocks	Northern Tasmania	Bare area of skin along top of spine	Can be due to sunburn in close shorn British breeds or due to photosensitisation or occasionally reaction to topline pour-on chemicals.
Scour in young sheep with and without deaths	Several flocks affected and also reported as 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 growth rates are low or deaths occur.
Selenium deficiency	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Shelly toe	Several specific flock reports, but is very common	Southern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of hoof.	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition but can lead to shelly toe abscess in wet conditions. 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.

Shelly toe abscess	A number of ewes in one large mob	Southern Tasmania	Wet dirt and faeces pack up into the shelly toe cavity and an abscess forms next to the top of the defect.	Pare off under-run hoof wall and allow abscess to drain. Spray with antiseptic spray. Vet may prescribe antibiotics.
Strawberry footrot	Several weaners in one large merino flock	Northern Tasmania	Thickened skin and crusts of lower leg	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 in young sheep	Three deaths in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Associated with low BCS and worms in this case	Deaths may appear sudden to owner and sheep may die quickly if body reserves are low and worm burden high. Prevention: keep sheep in reasonable body condition and maintain worm control program.
Toe abscess	About 5% of weaners in one large flock and 0.5% of ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Very lame but no swelling, heat or under-running. Small amount of grey puss in toe area when pared.	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.
Udder abscess	One ewe in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Firm lumps of varying sizes can be felt in udder. Some may drain to the outside.	Cull. Unlikely to respond to antibiotics. Maybe worth asking vet to drain if only one or two abscesses close to surface in a valuable ewe.
Vaginal prolapse	Three ewes in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected. These ewes responded to calcium injection.	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. 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 https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/husbandry/livestock-lambing/step-step-guide-dealing-vaginal-prolapse-sheep for a guide on replacing vaginal prolapse in ewes.
Wasting	Small numbers of adult ewes in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	May be due to OJD, liver fluke, worms, cancer, kidney damage, broken mouth etc	See OJD section for OJD diagnosis. Check for worn teeth (including cheek teeth – feel through cheeks), Do wormtest/fluketest. Post mortem may show internal cancers (especially if bracken in paddocks), internal abscesses, partial gut blockage, chronic kidney or liver damage.
Wool break	Several sheep in several flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	Many flocks having problems with young sheep and heavily pregnant ewes.	Northern, Southern and NW Tasmania	Worms can be diagnosed by scouring, anaemia, poor weight gain which respond to drenching, or by WORMTEST with or	Trichostrongylus (black scour worm) numbers still high now and do a lot of damage. Carryover barbers pole worm burdens still possible. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php Drench resistance suspected in some cases. See WORMBOSS to see how to conduct a DRENCHTEST.

			without larval identification, or total worm count at post mortem.	
CATTLE				
Abdominal adhesions	Four cows from one large dairy	Northern Tasmania	Abattoir finding	Cows may show some signs of abdominal discomfit in acute stages.
Abortion	Three cows in one large herd, plus other sporadic cases	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Possible causes neospora, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, vibrio (Campylobacter), pestivirus, congenital/hereditary factors, toxins, mouldy hay, Listeria, Salmonella Dublin. The cause of many abortions not determined despite lab investigation.	Listeria diagnosed in one case. Send aborted calf, placents if possible and blood sample from cow to lab for diagnosis. Vaccines against Vibrio and pestivirus can be used. Pestivirus: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/animal-health-welfare-and-biosecurity/diseases/reproductive/pestivirus/ Vibrio: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/110043/vibriosis-of-cattle.pdf
Chorioptic mange	Several steers in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks, shoulders. Rough scaley 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.
Coumarin (anticoagulant) toxicity	A number of deaths in a medium beef herd	NW Tasmania	Cattle fed sweet vernal grass (Anthoxanthu modoratum) hay.	Cattle with swollen legs etc and die within 24 hours. Massive bleeding under skin and elsewhere. A mould that grows in this hay produces an anticoagulant, any bump results in bleeding to death.
Eye cancer in Hereford cow.	One case in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Growth on surface of eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over growth. Abattoir may condemn the carcase if evidence of spread to the gland below the eye.
Grass tetany (hypomagnesaemia)	Widespread	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 Causmag 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: 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.
Ill-thrift in weaners	A number of bought-in weaners	Southern Tasmania	Poor growth rates, rough pale coats.	Brown stomach worm resistant to ML drenches seen previously. Oral white drench usually effective. Can also be due to nutritional deficiencies etc.
Liver abscess in dairy cows	Common in one abattoir line from one large dairy	Northern Tasmania	Cows can look normal	Can be associated with high levels of grain feeding
Mastitis in dairy cows.	A number of cases in one large herds	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	Two steer weaners in one medium 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.
Paralysis and death	A number of steers in a large finishing herd	North-West Tasmania	Steers get ataxic, aggressive, go down, paralysed, tongues paralysed.	Most likely botulism but has not been confirmed yet. Steers could be vaccinated against botulism but may continue to die for 30 days. Botulism is prevented by ensuring carcases are cleaned up especially in silage paddocks. Preventative vaccination is available, but botulism is rare in Tasmania.
Pericarditis (inflammation of the sac around the heart)	One cow from one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Can result in ill-thrift and death if severe.	A veterinarian may be able to treat suspected clinical cases.
Pestivirus naïve mob in infected herd	Testing to ensure weaners have immunity before mating	Northern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause early resorption of foetus, abortions, stillbirths and permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age	Herd status can be assessed by blood tests or milk tests. PI animals can be detected by blood or skin sample tests. Control programs based on vaccination or exposure to PI before mating. For more information see: https://www.mla.com.au/research-and- https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0015/226041/Bovine-pestivirus-infection.pdf Use a Cattle Health Declaration to ensure you know status of cattle (including bulls) that you buy: https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration.pdf
Pink Eye	A number of cattle in one small herd and up to 30% in two large herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, cloudy eyes, avoid bright sunlight.	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. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/103904/pinkeye-in-cattle.pdf
Scour in young cattle	Several steers in one small herd	Northern 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 under veterinary supervision if severe.
Sudden death, liver damage	5 cattle in one large herd.	NW Tasmania	May be caused by ABLD, Facial Eczema, black disease, plant poisoning, acute	Have post mortem carried out by vet.

			Salmonella, Yersinia.	
Wasting in adult beef cow	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Loss of condition	Treat for worms, liver fluke. Test for Johne's disease and other chronic conditions if no response to drenches.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
NIL this month				
GOATS				
Lame	About 25% of a medium mob of meat goats	NW	Not able to bear full weight on all 4 feet.	Signs of footrot not seen, could be toe abscess or another condition. Close examination and foot-paring required.
Laminitis	One late pregnant doe in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Lame on all 4 feet but no sign of abscess or footrot. Heavy grain feeding.	Treat: substitute grain with high quality forage or hay. Anti-inflammatories after kidding.
PIGS				
Barren sows	Several sows in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Sows have not produced a litter for some time. Overweight.	Could be due to parvovirus foetal resorption and mummification or just aged and need culling.
Paralysed hind legs	Sporadic cases in growers in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be due to spinal abscess or possibly fracture.	Reduce risk of injury/tail biting. Check mineral balance in ration.

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)

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

Phone A Vet

A telemedicine app that caters for production animals. Download the app from your usual provider. Experienced sheep, cattle, goat, camelid and pig vets are available. See:
https://www.phoneavet.com.au/