Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – June 2025

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 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-August.

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

Campylobacter, Listeria and Toxoplasmosis abortion in sheep: late abortions/stillbirths can be seen from now on. Talk to your vet about having up to 5 aborted lambs (with afterbirth if possible) tested at the laboratory (package deal). Blood tests on dry ewes at marking can also detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are being seen and will probably peak in August. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended. Heavily pregnant and lactating ewes also susceptible to worms and may need monitoring.
Body lice: in sheep will show up from now on. Good time to inspect.
Chorioptic mange in cattle: is starting around the back end now and will worsen over winter.
Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear and macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches is relatively common and any other drench can also fail.
Footrot and scald: Active now on some properties.
Foot abscess: will become more likely when heavy sheep are walking around in wet pasture all day. Early treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under vet supervision can heal some cases.
Grass tetany: cows from 1 week before, to 4 weeks after calving that are on short green grass especially if fertilised with potash and/or nitrogen. Cows that are overweight and taken off feed for handling are particularly at risk. Prevent by feeding Causmag on hay.
Hypocalcaemia (milk fever) in ewes: don't hold heavily pregnant ewes off feed for more than 12 hours. Also beware of ewes on cereal crops/lush feed with no dry roughage – feed some hay and/or a 1:1:1 calcium/magnesium/salt dry lick. Have calcium injection on hand.
Phalaris toxicity, acute: when hungry sheep enter a paddock with short, frosted Phalaris. Test paddock first for a week with a small mob of low-value sheep.
Phalaris staggers: Sheep (and even cattle) on short Phalaris pastures. Cobalt is protective.
Pregnancy toxaemia: feed late pregnant ewes well, especially twin-bearing ewes.
Pneumonia: has been diagnosed in ewe lambs and rams, and weaner cattle. Slow growth rates or weight loss, some coughing when yarded, some nasal discharge but not usually that obvious, some deaths.

Liver fluke: Eggs can be present in Fluketests now, but blood tests can detect both immature and mature fluke so may be the best way to detect liver fluke in live animals.
Pleurisy: is common, slowing prime lamb growth rates and resulting in trimming at the abattoir. Check MLA's myFeedback to see if there is any data on your consigned lambs.
Ovine Johne's disease (OJD): will show up from now on in 6-tooth and older ewes and wethers under stress.
Toe abscess: can be a problem if sheep's feet are continually wet and not trimmed recently.
Weaned lamb scours: If lambs are scouring and worm egg counts are zero or very low then coccidia, Yersinia or Campylobacter gut infection could be involved; consult with your vet on best options for diagnosis and treatment.

Biosecurity story of the month – Hendra virus and Lyssavirus

Over the last few weeks, a person in Northern NSW has died of Lyssavirus and a horse in QLD has died of Hendra virus.

Lyssavirus is closely related to rabies virus but is adapted to bats and flying foxes. If an infected bat or flying fox bites or scratches another mammal (including man) that animal may become infected and, after a variable and sometimes quite long (years) incubation period, show fever and fatigue followed by paralysis, delirium and convulsions, and die despite treatment. Rabies vaccine is usually protective (most vets and flying fox carers are vaccinated in QLD and Northern NSW) and post-exposure treatment is also available but failed in the case of the recent case, the fourth person to die from Lyssavirus in Australia since 1996 when it was first identified.

Flying foxes transmit Hendra virus to horses who can then spread it to other horses, dogs and humans. Horses show depression, high temperature, difficult breathing, nervous signs and often have froth in the nostrils as they die. Humans show headaches, fever and drowsiness, coma and usually die. A few humans have recovered after showing symptoms but four have died since the virus was identified in 1994. There is a vaccine for horses but not for people.

So, if you are escaping the winter weather and soaking up some sun in Northern NSW or QLD, be sure to avoid bats, flying foxes and horses. If you are bitten or scratched by a bat or flying fox, get medical advice immediately.

Both these diseases are unlikely to be seen in Tasmania, but recently imported horses could possibly be incubating Hendra virus and we do see the odd 'vagrant' flying fox in Tasmania.

Both these viruses have been discovered within the last 30 years but have probably been in Australia for a long time. There may be other diseases circulating in wildlife that have not been detected yet but could spill over into production animals, domestic pets or man. So, we need to be constantly aware of the possibility and report anything unusual in any species of animal or bird to our vet or the Emergency Disease Hotline (available 24/7) on 1800 675 888.

Subsidies may be available for disease investigations where there is some suspicion of an unusual or emergency animal disease. There may also be a Bucks for Brains incentive payment for producers who get a vet to postmortem some categories of cows and sheep that show nervous signs: (https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au//wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2024/09/Bucks-for-Brains-Brochure.pdf).

Diseases and conditions seen in June 2025

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Acidosis	Three sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Sudden access to excess grain	"Porridge" scour, depressed, may die. Early treatment with oral penicillin or virginiamycin can help. Move affected sheep from source of grain, feed roughage. Oral bicarb not recommended.
Arthritis infectious	About 1% of lambs in one large flock, one lamb in one medium flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joints. Whole leg will usually be removed at slaughter, often making carcase 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 of lame lambs may work. If Erysipelas is diagnosed in the flock then use Erysipelas vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Body condition score low	Small numbers of sheep in a number of flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, and specific deficiencies (copper, selenium, B12), broken mouth, aged, and diseases eg footrot may also be involved.
Broken mouth	A small number of aged rams in one large flock	Northern 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 drop.
Burrs in wool	A number of lambs in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	"Buzzies" in this case.	Cause vegetable fault and increased skirting at shearing. Also need to ensure seeds are not Bathurst burr, a notifiable weed exotic to Tasmania.
Calcium deficiency	Ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Seen as milk fever, increased ewe and lamb mortality.	Treat milk fever with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1), 1/5 of a pack under the skin. Prevent with 1:1:1 limestone/Causmag/salt loose lick especially older twin-bearing ewes, and if on grass dominant pasture, short rotation ryegrass, cereal crops. Don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching etc.
Cough, hacking, persistent	Several lambs and rams in one large flock, several lambs in two smaller flocks. Nasal	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lambs cough, no response to lungworm drench. *Pasteurella multocida* and *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*	If little response to lungworm drench then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as Mycoplasma, Manheimia or Pasteurella. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.

	discharge not obvious.		isolated from one flock.	
Cryptorchid	One flock	Northern Tasmania	Only one testicle in scrotum. Occasionally none.	Usually inherited but can also be caused by hormone-like compounds in feed ewes consumed during pregnancy. Cull affected animal and sire if in a stud situation and only progeny from one ram affected. Usually still fertile but cryptorchid lambs hard to mark properly resulting in stags.
Cud stain	Three sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	Tooth problems, especially molar eruption in young sheep or loosening in older sheep, tongue damage, problems with the pharynx (throat) can all cause this.
Dags	A relatively small number of lambs in several flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring. Most due to green pick after recent rain	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), but these mostly sudden change in diet. 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 www.wool.com/flystrikelatest.
Death of ewe lamb	One ewe lamb in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely due to worms.	Best to have postmortems done to determine cause so that appropriate treatment and preventative measures can be used.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Small number of young Merino sheep in one large flock.	Northern 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
Dog bite	A number of sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Bite wounds around face.	Muzzle dogs that bite.
Double fleece	Several sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples twice as long as normal full fleece	May predispose to flystrike and can be viewed as a welfare problem by inspectors. Shear.
Drench resistant worms	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Egg counts not reduced by at least 95% 10-14 days after drenching	See WORMBOSS for strategies to manage and prevent drench resistance. This one was to a BZ/LEV/ML triple combination drench.
Ear tag infection	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where the tag goes through the ear	Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Epididymitis	A small number of rams in a number of medium and large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	A lump is felt usually just under the testicle but can be on inner side or top.	Can be due to trauma or infection. Ovine Brucellosis should be suspected if a number of rams have epididymitis (see vet) though *Actinobacillus seminis* can also cause lumps. Ram may still be fertile if the other testicle is in good order.
Eye cancer	One aged ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania.	Discharge down cheek, ulcerated and raw section of eyelid.	Older sheep with white eyelids. Cull as soon as noticed.
Fleece derangement	Several sheep from one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Wool staples hanging out from surface of fleece.	Usually body lice but can also be itch mite, grass seeds, shedding genetics etc.
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 (heel abscess)	One ram in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania.	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage.	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-spectrum antibiotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts poultice on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Footrot, virulent	Chronic lesions in a proportion of sheep in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Mostly carryover lesions from last spring, these run on dryland pastures.	Summer paring and eradication inspections should be long finished. Long-acting oxytetracycline injections under veterinary supervision are useful while conditions are dry so unlikely to work now. Cull chronic cases or move out of replacement breeding mob. 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: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Growth rates low in feedlot lambs	One large flock	Southern Tasmania	"Tail' in pen of feedlot lambs growing slowly with low worm egg counts and good feeding regime.	Most likely cause failure to adapt to feedlot conditions. Other possible causes can be worms, fluke, liver damage/photosensitisation, recent scabby mouth, Mycoplasma ovis, chronic infections such as pneumonia, pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST. May have to take back to the paddock.
Growth rates low in ewe lambs	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewe lambs not growing out well despite good season	Possible causes may be worms, fluke, dietary deficiency (energy, protein, micronutrients), liver damage/photosensitisation, recent scabby mouth, Mycoplasma ovis, chronic infections such as pneumonia, pleurisy etc. Conduct WORMTEST and FLUKETEST, review Feed On Offer. Low sunlight intensity due to cloudy days may have reduced soluble carbohydrates in feed and slowed growth rates. Probably worms in this case.
Hoof foot-paring wounds	A number of sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually cut too hard at point of toe, with raw wound that takes time to heal.	Treat: footbath after paring. Prevention: pare level with the sole of the foot.
Hooves overgrown	A small number of ewes in two small flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Toe of hoof very long, can curl up. Soft ground, scald and footrot can be underlying cause.	Regular trimming. Control scald /footrot if present.
Horn broken	One sheep in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken and hanging down while handling in yards.	Complete removal. Pain relief under vet supervision if possible. Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover.
Incoordination in adult ram	One 4yo ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Unable to walk normally,	Could be injury to neck, possibly from fighting. Sometimes pain in both front feet can appear to be incoordination. Can also be due to PEM (B1 deficiency), FSE, brain or spinal abscess or tumour.
Jaundice, anaemia, red urine	One lamb in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Pale, yellowish gums and conjunctiva.	Copper poisoning suspected, *Mycoplasma ovis*, brassica poisoning and Leptospirosis also need to be ruled out. Sheep accumulate copper easily and then when stressed copper is released to blood stream and ruptures the red blood cells. Sheep must not be fed mixed feed formulated for other species (eg cattle,

				pigs, horses) as most other species need more copper in their feed.
Lacrimal pouch ('eye gland") infection	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	A pouch formed by the skin fold below the eye can become infected.	Discharge can be seen down the cheek. Cleaning with antiseptic usually clears it up.
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 large flock	Southern Tasmania.	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	See LICEBOSS: http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and inspect thoroughly on arrival and at the end of their 'hotel quarantine' period. Treat on arrival if wool is short enough or use the oral product and isolate for 4 weeks.
Liver damage	One sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	May result in bottle jaw, jaundice, photosensitisation, poor growth rates	May be caused by liver fluke, blue-green algae on dams, poisonous plants such as ragwort and St Johns' wort, copper poisoning, possibly fungal toxins in pasture. Avoid anti-inflammatories, remove from possible source of toxin. Provide deep shade and good feed.
Mastitis and metritis (acute)	One ewe in one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed udder with abnormal milk (from watery to mayonnaise consistency) plus discharge from vulva	Acute: strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment by intramuscular injection and anti-inflammatories 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.
Mouth breathing	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Probably due to pneumonia	Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision.
Mycoplasma pneumonia	Poor growth and cough in ewe lambs in two large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Causes respiratory disease but signs may not be noticed. Slower growth rates, take longer to finish.	Lambs infected by chronic carrier ewes and get pneumonia when stressed. Secondary bacterial infections common. Lungs may stick to inside of rib cage (pleurisy) resulting in average of 1 kg of ribs trimmed from carcase. Prevention by reducing stress if possible.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	A small number of lambs and adult sheep in a large number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections. Rarely due to nasal bots.	If sheep are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Newborn lamb deaths	One lamb in one medium flock	Northern 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 postmortems can help identify causes and solutions.

Nose cancer in aged ewe	One case in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Crusty growth or erosion on nose	Surgery not usually possible. Euthanasia.
Ocular (eye) discharge both eyes	A number of lambs and adult sheep from a number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Could be first stage of Pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking if possible, only yard if you have to.
Phalaris toxicity (acute)	Fifty sheep in one large mob	Northern Tasmania	Sudden deaths overnight after move to paddock with short Phalaris.	Get the mob off the Phalaris paddock. Prevent by avoiding grazing Phalaris pastures when very short and in overcast weather. Can use low value test group for a week to test for toxicity.
Photosensitisation	A number of sheep in a number of large and small flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off face, ears, around eyes, on back. These were old lesions.	If acute, 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-histamines and antibiotics if necessary, under veterinary supervision, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pinkeye	A large number of sheep and lambs in a number of flocks	NW, Northen and 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.
Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in 40% of lambs in consignment from one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in trimming but whole carcase can be condemned.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.
Poll injuries on rams	A number of rams in two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Fighting injuries	Normal behaviour, especially in lead-up to joining. Use flystrike prevention. Keep smaller/younger rams separate if possible.
Redgut	A small number of deaths in a number of medium and large flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Redgut on lucerne/clover. Seen as sudden death and rapid bloating. Dark red twisted intestines on postmortem.	Provide access to roughage, sow down part of the paddock to chicory or plantain.
Ryegrass staggers	A number of lambs in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams. Can have high mortality.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.

Scarring on topline	One sheep in one small flock	Southern 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 applied in hot weather.
Scrotal hernia in ram	Southern Tas	One large flock	Intestines come through into scrotum which becomes very large.	Could be repaired surgically but is heritable so ram should be culled.
Scrotal mange	A small number of rams in several medium and large flocks	Northern and Southern 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.	The Chorioptes bovis mite lives on cattle and other species and survives for a number of days off the host so is hard to eradicate. Individually effected rams can be treated – see your vet.
Shearing cuts	A number of sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Wrinkly merinos more susceptible	Good board hygiene to prevent infection. Prior vaccination with 5 in 1 vaccine. Can use pain relief products with veterinary advice note and observing ESI. Serious cuts should be sutured, apply pressure to stop haemorrhage. If "hamstrung" rarely regain full function in that leg, valuable sheep can be operated on, otherwise best to euthanase.
Shelly toe	A number of sheep in one large flock	Northern 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.
Smothering	One young ram in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Woolly sheep pile on top of one another and some suffocate.	Careful sheep handling, investigate and loosen them up if sheep appear tightly packed in a yard or vehicle. In this case a forceful working dog pup got into the ram paddock unsupervised.
Stunted weaners	Several weaners in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs very small and undergrown for age.	Triplets, lambs deprived of milk (eg due to mastitis in ewe, orphaned but survive), some congenital conditions, chronic worms, fluke, pneumonia, arthritis, pleurisy, pink eye, malnutrition etc can all or in combination prevent lamb from growing out.
Sunburnt mulesed tails	A number of sheep in two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Reddened skin of tail and vulva, seeks shade during day.	Could also be photosensitisation from eating plants such as medics or storksbill or due to liver damage. Check gums for jaundice. Good nursing and provide good shade or protective skin cream.
Testicles both soft	Several rams in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	May be due to recent illness or may be hereditary.	Treat any disease conditions but if not recovered in several months may be hereditary, best to cull.
Testicles both small	Two rams in two large flocks	Northern Tasmania	May be hereditary or recovering from illness	Treat any disease conditions but if not recovered in several months may be hereditary, best to cull.
Vaginal prolapse	10% of ewes on two adjacent properties.	Northern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more	Treat: 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

			commonly affected.	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.
Wool break	Two sheep in two large flocks	Northern 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	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Mainly moderate egg counts.	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes. See WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
Wound infection under lower jaw.	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Small amount of pus in wound under lower jaw.	Opening wound and cleaning with disinfectant probably sufficient to cure.
CATTLE				
Body condition score low	Two cows in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	BCS less than 2 (1 to 5 scale)	Veterinary investigation, check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status.
Chorioptic mange	Small numbers of cattle in several herds	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and pins at this early stage. 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. See: http://www.liceboss.com.au/cattle/lice-mites/species-of-mites.php
Diarrhoea and low body condition in adult cattle	One cow in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Johne's disease likely. Could also be worms, dietary, viral or bacterial infection.	Treat with broad spectrum drench and offer hay. Veterinary diagnosis appropriate if persists.
Dags	A number of young cattle in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worm control, dietary control, viral diseases can all be involved.
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.
Hair loss, circular around one eye	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	May be B12 deficiency, the start of chorioptic mange or injury. Ringworm unlikely in adult cattle.	Try B12 first. Skin scrapings may be worth taking if seen as a problem worth investigating. Ringworm should not occur in this age group but a test may be worthwhile.
Hair loss over one hip	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	May have been due to riding by other cows when on heat or collision	Local antiseptic skin treatments. Prevent by removing any projections in yards.

			with projection, probably in yards when loading.	
Hair loss on top of tail head	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	May have been due to riding by other cows when on heat or injury passing under an object.	Local skin treatments.
Hair loss behind pins	Small numbers of cows in three small herds	Northern Tasmania	Could be early stages of chorioptic mange	Treatment with some ML drenches can be effective, check label.
Horn core infected after horn trimming	One bullock in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Pus bubbling out of centre of trimmed horn as animal breathes	May require antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Prevention: trim no more than 1/3 of the horn off to avoid opening horn core.
Jaundice	One steer weaner in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Liver damage due to acute infection	Secondary to infection, treat the infection under veterinary supervision.
Nasal discharge, purulent (snotty)	A number of mostly young cattle in a number of herds	NW, Northern and Southern 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.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	Two cows from two medium herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Usually caused by an irritant such as pollen, dust etc but can be first stage of pinkeye.	May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure pinkeye is not developing.
Pestivirus	One 18 mo steer in one small beef herd.	Southern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause permanently infected (PI) runt calves that grow poorly and usually die by 18 months of age. This one was always poor and became a downer at 18 months.	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/2022/11/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration_Fillable_2022.pdf
Phytobezoar blocking 4th stomach	One weaner steer in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Indigestible fibres from coarse feed form a ball and block the bottom end of the 4th stomach.	Gut discomfit and no manure passed. Detailed clinical examination necessary to diagnose. Surgical treatment – a vet job.

Pinkeye, winter	Severely affecting a number of cattle in one large herd.	Northern Tasmania	Discharge from both eyes usually, rapid development. Highly contagious within group. Front of eye may get cloudy, ulcerated, middle of eye can go yellow, eye can rupture.	Winter pinkeye often caused by *Moraxella bovoculi*, different from summer pinkeye caused by *Moraxella bovis*. May require whole herd treatment, talk to your vet. 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, but does not cover *Moraxella bovoculi*. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/103904/pinkeye-in-cattle.pdf
Pneumonia, acute, in weaner cattle	Seven died and three affected in one large mob strip grazing brassica.	Northern Tasmania	Sudden deaths or depressed with respiratory distress and some nasal discharge.	Mixing mobs, sudden colder conditions, daily strip grazing, muddy conditions and stress may have been part of problem. Treat cases with antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Try to reduce stress, provide some run-off or shelter, split mob and graze two faces of crop if possible. Could use vaccine next year as *Manheimer haemolyticum* cultured from some cases.
Retained afterbirth	One cow in one medium herd.	Southern Tasmania	Afterbirth still hanging out more than three days after giving birth	If afterbirth cannot be easily removed manually, antibiotic treatment should be started under veterinary supervision and a weight such as a plastic bottle of water tied to the afterbirth to help it come out over the next few days. Prevention: Correct selenium deficiency if present.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
No cases reported				
GOATS				
No cases reported				
PIGS				
No cases reported				
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
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: MLA's myFeedback 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, 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 feed 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 postmortem investigation (https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au//wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2024/09/Bucks-for-Brains-Brochure.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 $272 million worth of sheep meats and wool in 2021-22. See:
https://nre.tas.gov.au/agriculture/multifaceted-agriculture/facts-figures/tasmanian-agri-food-scorecards?_kx=dugXLaA5GP87nVpXBiMvfbcx1KKhlEXkNp9EA0v_Z_M.TidPmQ

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. 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/