Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – September 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-November.

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

Arthritis in lambs: If you have more than the odd case it may be worth asking your vet about testing for Erysipelas. There is a vaccine for Erysipelas.
Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis stillbirths in sheep: Blood tests on dry ewes at marking or weaning can detect Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis antibodies as evidence of recent infection.
Barber's pole worm: deaths have been seen in areas that are wet and did not experience heavy frosts over winter. Watch for anaemia, bottle jaw, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts.
Black scour worms: high egg counts are being seen. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended. Heavily pregnant and lactating ewes also susceptible to worms and may need monitoring.
Brown stomach worm: heavy burdens have been found in ewes with moderate worm egg counts and breakdowns after long-acting moxidectin pre-lamb injections have been seen.
Body lice: in sheep are showing up now. Good time to inspect.
Chorioptic mange in cattle: is still common but most are in the self-cure stage now.
Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear, macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches and some combinations is relatively common and any other drench can also fail.
Footrot and scald: Spreading now in wetter areas and will become more active as weather warms up.
Foot abscess: common 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 or peak lactation ewes off feed for more than 6 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.
Milk fever: can be seen in lactating dairy cows, especially older Channel Island breeds.

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. Can be seen months after grazing toxic pastures. Cobalt is protective.
Pulpy kidney (PK): Make sure lambs get a booster if going onto rich feed such as clover or lucerne. Vaccinating ewes protects their lambs up to marking, 3-in-1 is cheaper than 5- or 6-in-1 and gives same PK immunity.
Listeria: nervous signs, abortions and deaths in sheep and cattle on silage, brassica bulbs or pasture.
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): 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.
White muscle disease: If lambs get stiff and stop walking when mustered for marking, suspect white muscle disease, especially on clover dominant pasture.

Biosecurity story of the month – Hydatids

Hydatid cysts have been detected in a cow killed at a Tasmanian abattoir. The NLIS and NVD systems allowed authorities to determine that the cow had been imported and that the disease was not due to an infected dog on that property. This shows the value of our livestock identification and traceability systems.

Hydatid disease is caused when the eggs of a small tapeworm living inside a dog are ingested by a human, sheep, cow, goat or pig and develop into a fluid-filled cyst that grows and destroys surrounding tissues. Humans can get cysts in the brain, lungs, liver, bone and any other organ. People can die suddenly if a cyst ruptures inside them.

People who lived in Tasmanian during the 1960's and 70's will recall the Tasmanian Hydatids Eradication program. Over 50% of Tasmanian sheep had hydatids, 10% of dogs were infected, up to 20 people a year underwent radical surgery and up to two people a year died from hydatids. A number of children were infected and some died.

The eradication effort was successful and now many rural people in Tasmania have never experienced, or have forgotten, how much grief hydatids caused.

There are different strains of hydatids that adapt to different species – sheep, cattle, wildlife etc. We had sheep hydatids last century, mostly we see cattle hydatids now and a high proportion of cattle from some parts of NSW and QLD are infected. There is no blood test for hydatids, and we can't test and exclude infected cattle.

The main prevention method is to stop dogs eating untreated offal, especially from cattle and sheep. Dogs can also be treated every month with a wormer containing praziquantel.

Diseases and conditions seen in September 2025

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abdominal hernia	One ewe in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Extra bulge in abdominal wall usually low down just in front of the hind leg.	Usually older ewes that have had triplets. Surgery impractical. Cull.
Abortion	Ewe lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Campylobacter vaccinated so Toxo suspected	You can identify dry ewes at marking and take bloods for Toxo and Campylobacter blood testing. Campylobacter, Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes.
Abscess	One ewe in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swelling under jaw in this case.	Surgical draining and antibiotics usually effective.
Arthritis infectious	One lamb in one large and one small flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Seen as lameness and swollen joint/s. 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/
Black udder	One ewe in one large flock.	Southern Tasmania	One half of udder goes cold and grey, blood-stained fluid can be milked out of teat. Usually caused by a Staph bacteria.	Acute cases caught early – treat with antibiotic and pain relief. If teat is cold and dead, remove it so toxic fluids can drain. Isolate from flock. A lot of udder tissue will die, must be gently cleaned out and can heal up over time.
Black scour worm	Mature worms found in ewes 5 weeks after pre-lamb drench	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, worms washed from small intestine can be identified.	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies.
Brown stomach worm	Mature worms found in ewes 5 weeks after	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count. Brown stomach worm identified by	See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies. Brown stomach worm more common in summer and are poor egg producers so egg counts not always really high. May be resistant to different drenches compared to Black Scour Worm, our main winter parasite,

	pre-lamb drench		washing worms from 4th stomach at postmortem.	so drench resistance tests may give very different results in summer vs autumn in the same flock.
Body condition score low	Small numbers of sheep in a small number of flocks, a significant proportion in one medium flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2. A small number of low BCS sheep in a large mob in good condition could indicate OJD.	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, and specific deficiencies (copper, selenium, B12), broken mouth, aged, and diseases eg OJD, footrot may also be involved. Poor dentition in one mob here, worn incisors and poor-quality silage in another.
Broken mouth	10% of ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing.	Cull if condition score starting to drop. Ear tag colours do not always correspond to year of birth so always mouth a sample of any mature sheep you are considering buying.
Campylobacter coli enteritis	A high % of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs scouring despite zero worm egg count. May be an incidental finding on faecal culture.	Usually respond to oral sulphadimidine available through your vet.
Campylobacter jejuni enteritis	A high % of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scouring with zero worm egg counts. May be an incidental finding on faecal culture.	Your vet may prescribe an antibiotic. Reduce stress, provide plenty of clean water and good feed.
Club foot	Two wethers in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	One or both toes are enlarged and cube-shaped.	Usually seen after foot abscess heals but can be conformation fault as well.
Coccidiosis, nervous, in lambs.	A number of lambs in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Nervous signs with low worm egg count but high coccidia count.	Usually respond well to sulpha drugs. Prevention by good nutrition and don't allow lambs to concentrate on damp areas in paddock.
Cough	Several lambs in several medium flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench	If little response to lungworm drench, then probably an infection. May be virus, or bacteria such as Mycoplasma. Use antibiotics under veterinary supervision if production loss/deaths occur and postmortem indicates bacterial involvement.
Cud stain	Two 4T wethers on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	Possibly due to eruption of teeth.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected in one ewe at necropsy from one large flock	Southern Tasmania.	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep. Can cause liver to be trimmed or condemned.	Prevented by stopping dogs from eating sheep offal and/or by treating all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated at least 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. These measures also prevent sheep measles and hydatids. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

			Spread by a dog tapeworm.	
Dags	A relatively small number of lambs and ewes in several flocks, proportion of 4T wethers in one large flock.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring. Most due to green pick after recent rain and worms. Some ewe mobs showing signs of worms.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia, coccidia), sudden change in diet. Have a WORMTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to check for coccidia, culture for Yersinia and Campylobacter 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.
Deaths in 2T wethers	A number of deaths in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Low egg count and negative faecal culture in this case	Heavily stocked in low lying paddock. No cause identified by faecal sample. Postmortem would be next step if deaths continued.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	Several flocks	Northen and Southern Tasmania.	Usually large single lamb that gets stuck coming out. Or twins that get tangled up.	Ewe can be assisted. Prevention: Ewes bearing single lambs should be placed in paddocks with 800 to 1000 Kg of green dry matter per hectare in last 6 weeks of pregnancy. One mob in this case had medium sized single lambs and easily pulled so weak uterine muscles due to low calcium suspected.
Flystrike scar	One lamb in one large flock	Northern 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)	Over 100 ewes in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania.	Swelling of one foot, 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	Mostly chronic, but some active, lesions in a high proportion of sheep in one large flock and active lesions in half one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Mostly carryover lesions from last spring, but spread is under way now.	Vaccine and foot bathing are the logical treatments at this time of year. Try to keep the number of infected sheep to a minimum if eradication planned for summer. 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
Horn broken	Two sheep in two medium flocks	Northern Tasmania	Horn broken and hanging down while handling in yards.	Complete removal. Pian relief under vet supervision if possible. Bleeds but usually heals quickly, Spray with antiseptic. Prevent fly strike and allow time to recover.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One lamb	Northern Tasmania	Horn has grown into and damaged the skin.	May result in animal welfare penalties. Horns must be trimmed on-farm. Ask your vet for some embryotomy wire as it allows horn to be removed safely. Prevention: Dehorn lambs so that a margin of haired skin is removed with horn.
Hooves overgrown	A small number of sheep in one small flock.	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.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever")	A number of cases in heavily	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Late pregnant or lactating ewes go down	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

	pregnant or lactating ewes in at least three flocks		after period off feed or on cereal crops or lush pasture.	minutes. If green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover under veterinary supervision. Prevent with mineral supplement if on cereal crops or lush pasture, don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching.
Lamb deaths - newborn	A number of lambs on a number of properties	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs born during rough weather (rain, wind) found dead.	Widespread due to persistent strong westerly winds, especially in multiples. Wind chill factor when wet is main killer. Providing shelter, plenty of feed for ewes and keepi ng ewes in good body condition reduces losses.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of small and large flocks	NW, Northern and Southern 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 affected, but only in bush wethers.	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. Maintain sheep-proof boundary fences.
Liver abscess in 5 day old lamb	One lamb from one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Multiple white areas in liver.	Can be due to Campylobacter, or generalised infection. Laboratory testing justified if a number of these are seen.
Liver fluke	Detected in faecal samples from ewes in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Abattoir detection, farm postmortem or Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from heavy infestation.	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year but pickup of immatures will be starting from about November. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to June as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Low lamb marking % compared to scanning	One large flock	Northern Tasmania	Normally expect 11% less lambs marked in singles and 20% less in multiples compared to scanning in Merinos ewes	Abortion (early to mid-term abortion often not observed by managers), neonatal losses (slow birth or large lamb, exposure, mis-mothering etc) are usual causes. Blood test 10 dry ewes at lamb marking and test for Campylobacter and Toxo, review feeding levels and calcium supplementation of ewes in third trimester. High Toxo and Campy antibodies in this flock (No Campy vaccination).
Lungworm (large)	Two mature ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Lungworm rare in general and more so in older sheep	Large lungworm in sheep take a long time to develop (5 weeks) and larvae rather than eggs are found in the sheep's faeces so a special test must be requested for detection in faecal samples. Most broad-spectrum drenches kill lungworm – check label.

Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils (snotty)	A small number of lambs and adult sheep in a number of small flocks.	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 death - hypothermia	Many lamb deaths in many flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Newborn lambs found dead in lambing paddock in exposed position after a very cold wet windy night	Diseases such as Toxo or Campylobacter, slow birth, mismothering, can contribute to such losses. Lamb postmortems can help identify causes and solutions. Lambing ewes down in body condition score 3, providing adequate feed on offer and providing shelter all help reduce exposure losses.
Nervous symptoms in 6 wo lambs	1 lamb in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Lying on side, head thrown back stiff legs, small amount of froth at mouth.	Can be due to pulpy kidney, B1 deficiency, poisonous plants, E coli 078 brain inflammation. Postmortem and laboratory tests can assist diagnosis. Give 5 in 1 booster, treat early cases with large doses of vitamin B1. Identify and exclude from poisonous plants.
Ocular (eye) discharge, purulent, one eye	One sheep in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely grass seed.	Control grass seeds with intensive rotational grazing, herbicide or topping. Grass seeds should be removed from eye as soon as possible and antibiotic cream applied.
Photosensitisation	A small number of sheep in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face, ears, around eyes. These were mostly old lesions, some within the last month.	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 antihistamines and antibiotics if necessary, under veterinary supervision, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pizzle rot	One wether in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scab on end of pizzle in this case but whole sheath can be swollen in advanced cases.	Bacterial infection usually associated with grazing wethers on legume-rich pastures. Prevented by testosterone injections (see your vet).
Preputial prolapse in poddy lamb	One lamb in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Swollen sheath tissue bulging out end of prepuce	May have been a congenital condition as a very young lamb. See vet for treatment.
Rickets and/or osteoporosis	A number of lambs in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Seen as broken bones, lameness, paralysis especially after handling.	Cereal crops and short rotation ryegrass produce a toxic factor that interferes with absorption of vitamin D. Can also be due to calcium: phosphorus imbalance if feeding grain. Prevented by giving ADE injection before placing growing sheep on such crops. Usually respond to Vitamin ADE injections but must be handled carefully to prevent more fractures. Osteoporosis can be found in conjunction with rickets so additional calcium should also be provided preferably mixed with grain ration to ensure they all eat it or as loose mix or blocks.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at postmortem in one aged ewe.	Southern Tasmania	Small 'rice grain' whitish raised lesions on outside of food pipe (oesophagus), diaphragm and in skeletal muscles.	Spread by cats. Takes a long time to grow so not seen in lambs. Deny cats access to sheep meat, burn or bury carcasses promptly, eradicate feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

Scour in poddy lamb	One lamb in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Faeces normal colour but loose. Common in lambs that don't get colostrum.	This one responded to antibiotics. Provide fresh water and electrolytes, reduce stress (provide shelter etc)
Schistosoma reflexus foetus	One ewe in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Abdominal contents of lamb found in vagina of a dystocia case	Schistosoma reflexus is a congenital deformity mostly seen in cattle but can be seen in sheep as well. Lambs usually cannot be delivered so either a caesarean or euthanase ewe.
Shelly toe	A small number of sheep in one medium, one small and one large flock	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Curved separation of hoof wall from sole up hoof wall near front of hoof.	Conformational defect rather than a disease condition but an abscess can form at top when dirt and faceces pack into defect under wet conditions. Is heritable and can be selected against but nutritional and other factors influence expression. Best to pare off under-run hoof wall.
Skull, exposed	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Flap of skin over skull had been torn downwards leaving bone exposed. Had healed and bone was weathered.	Must be sutured while fresh, too late when bone surface dried out.
Toxoplasmosis	Two ewe lambs in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Aborted lambs tested by PCR test	Both lambs were positive to PCR test. Toxo causes foetal and neonatal lamb losses if ewes are infected during pregnancy. Ewes may become barren if infected in first 60 days of pregnancy. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Vaccination lesions	A number of lambs in one small flock after 6 in 1 vaccination	Southern Tasmania	Oily vaccines such as Footrot vaccines, Campyvax and Gudair often produce a large reaction under the skin, less so with 6 in 1.	Vaccinate under the skin high on the **side** of the neck. Never vaccinate into the muscle. For details see: https://www.zoetis.com.au/livestock-solutions/pdfs/zoetis_gudair-product-information-2018.pdf Keep needles sharp and clean, rest needle end of vaccinator in 70% alcohol in between sheep.
Vaginal prolapse	A number of ewes in two large flocks.	Southern Tasmania	Pink mass protrudes from vulva in late pregnant ewe. Ewes bearing multiples more commonly affected.	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. Offer calcium supplements in late pregnancy. Don't feed 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.
Waterbelly (urinary calculi, 'bladder stones')	One ram in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Urinary tract blockage by small mineral 'stones'.	Blockage results in either ruptured bladder or urine leaking under skin of lower abdomen. Treatment difficult. Prevention – increase salt and lime in diet, may need ammonium chloride in ration to acidify and dissolve stones. Vitamin A, D and E if off green feed for more than 3 months.
Wool break	Small numbers of sheep in a several small	Northern and Sothern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole	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

	and one large flock.		fleece may fall out.	restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	A number of flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Some very high counts and some deaths seen. Brown stomach worm cased some deaths. Barbers pole worms seen in some larval ID tests.	One breakdown due to under-dosing due to a kink in the tubing between the drench pack and the gun. Massive larval pickup by lambing ewes on some heavily contaminated paddocks. Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST or total worm count (at post mortem by vet or lab). 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
Yersinia enteritis	Weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Scouring and dags with zero worm egg counts.	Differentiate from worms or coccidia etc by WORMTEST and ask lab to culture for Yersinia as well. Lab can advise which antibiotics should work. Treat scouring animals. Some stress factor is usually present (eg poor access to water, worms etc) and should be corrected.
CATTLE				
Abscess	Two cows in one large and one cow in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Swellings under jaw and on top of head	Abscesses can be surgically drained and curetted by a vet.
Anal prolapse	One calf in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Red tube hangs out or bulges from anus. This one probably due to straining due to coccidiosis.	A veterinarian can replace or amputate. Treat underlying cause such as coccidiosis.
Ascites (swollen abdomen)	Several heifers in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	On native country mainly kerosene bush. Possibly low protein feed, and/or liver fluke and worms.	Ascites is fluid that accumulates in the abdominal cavity due to low blood protein. treat with effective worm and fluke drenches and improve nutrition.
Balanoposthitis (inflamed penis and sheath)	One bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Bull reluctant to serve. May drop sheath in and out a lot. Penis and sheath inflamed and ulcerated.	Usually due to Bovine Herpes Virus (also known as IBR_-IPV) as it can also cause pustular vulvo-vaginitis in female cattle. Bulls usually recover in 4 weeks with sexual rest and can also be given antibiotic cover with veterinary supervision.
Body condition score low	A small number of cows and young cattle in two small herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	BCS less then 5 (1 to 5 scale)	Veterinary investigation, check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status.
Broken penis	One bull in each of two herds	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Large lump forming around penis in front of scrotum.	A vet may be able to help salvage such bulls. Make sure bull is 'fit to load' if sent to abattoir.

Brown stomach worm (Ostertagia) resistant to mectin drenches	One large herd	Northern Tasmania	Brown stomach worms found in 4th stomach within 30 days of long acting moxidectin drench.	Brown stomach worm egg counts are often low even though significant worm burdens are present. A blood test that detects a stomach wall enzyme (pepsinogen) can assist diagnosis. Worm larvae picked up over winter/spring can lay dormant in stomach wall and emerge next autumn. A long-acting ML anthelmintic to cover the winter/early spring period may be required. See; http://www.wormboss.com.au/cattle/worms/roundworms/brown-stomach-worm.php
Cardiac white muscle disease	A number of 3–4-week-old calves	Northern Tasmania	Caused by selenium deficiency	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass Strait islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (rare but does occur in calves), slow growth rates in young cattle, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility, faded coat colour. Young cattle don't always grow faster under treatment even when blood selenium levels are low, so only treat if there is a production reason. See https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/feeding-nutrition/selenium-deficiency-cattle
Chorioptic mange	A high proportion of cattle in many small, medium and large herds.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and pins at the early stage, then thighs, flanks and top of neck later. Rough scaley skin. Diagnosis by skin scraping.	More common as winter progresses then self-heals over spring. 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
Coccidiosis	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Diarrhoea, often with blood and mucous in calves over 2 weeks old.	Can treat with Sulfa drugs or Baycox. Prevention in beef calves involves moving to fresh paddocks. This outbreak associated with wet conditions and high stocking rate in beef herd.
Contracted tendons in calves	One calf in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania.	Flexor tendons are too tight and calf stands on tips of toes or knuckles over. Can be caused by the pregnant cow eating certain weeds, deficiencies of selenium, copper, manganese, Vitamin D or E.	Keep cow and calf in small yard, many of these self-correct. Bandage to protect front of fetlock if knuckling right over. Vet may administer treatments
Corkscrew claw	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Outside claw on hind leg grows up off ground in corkscrew form	Conformational fault, genetic cause. Cull.
Corkscrew penis	One bull in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Penis in corkscrew form when trying to serve	Can be genetic cause. Usually unable to mate. Cull.
Dags	A small number of cattle in a number of	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worms, diet, bacterial and viral diseases can all be involved.

	small and medium herds.			
Dystocia (difficult birth)	A number of heifers and cows in a number of herds	Southern and Northern 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. Don't overfeed cows in last third of pregnancy as calf can grow very large.
Endometritis (inflammation of inside lining of uterus)	10% of cows in one large dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Detected by vaginal examination	Veterinarian may administer treatments.
Eye cancer of 3rd eyelid.	One bull in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Ulcerated growth of 3rd eyelid.	Third eyelid cancers can be removed completely if caught early, but this bull culled due to genetic pre-disposition to third eyelid cancer
Fetlock deformity	One bull in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Deformed fetlock, maybe injury of congenital	Cull.
Haematoma	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Swelling below the eye.	Vet may drain and/or treat with antibiotic and anti-inflammatories.
Hair loss over both hips	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	May have been lifted with a hip hoist.	Use padding when lifting thin cows with hip hoist. Treat by applying local antiseptic skin treatments.
Hocks swollen	One young Angus calf in one small mob	Southern Tasmania	Probably congenital as was not lame but could be joint ill	Joint ill treatment recommended.
Hoof crack	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Crack runs from coronary band to bottom of hoof wall. This one on inside of claw and bull was lame	Could be due to damage to coronary band as the hoof grows down from the coronary band. Dietary deficiency and genetic factors possible. Vet can reshape hoof, drain any hoof abscess, to try and correct.
Johne's Disease (JD)	Several cows in one large dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Cattle over 18 months of age that scour and waste away and don't respond to any treatments.	Notifiable disease, must test if suspected, euthanase if confirmed. Prevent with vaccine or calf rearing programs in dairy herds. Comprehensive info at: https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/johnes-disease-in-cattle/
Lameness	Several bulls in several herds	Northern Tasmania	Foot abscess, sub-solar abscess, injuries etc	Vet examination or remove bull from mob, rest in small paddock or yard, give anti-biotics and anti-inflammatories under veterinary supervision, check for foot injuries and infections.
Left displacement of abomasum (LDA)	One cow in one large dairy herd	Northern Tasmania	Relatively common in high-producing dairy cows	Surgery required to get the abomasum back into the correct position. Vet job.
Liver fluke in cattle	Multiple cases in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Live fluke detected by blood test	Strategic treatments in autumn and late winter with effective flukicides depending on challenge. Keep stock off areas where fluke snail survives (dam edges, lagoons, areas that flood in spring) if possible. Sheep run on same areas will also need treatment. See; https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/114691/liver-fluke-disease-in-sheep-and-cattle.pdf

Low pregnancy rate in adult cows	Lower than average pregnancy rates in one medium mob of autumn calving cows.	Southern Tasmania	Can be due to sub-fertile bull, Vibrio, Trichs, pestivirus, nutrition, mating management	Thought to be due to accumulation of infertile spring calving cows sent to autumn herd for second chance. Vibrio diagnosed last year but cows and bulls should have been vaccinated.
Lumpy jaw	Two cattle in two large herds	Northern Tasmania	Infection of bone of face	Antibiotics often work, contact your veterinarian.
Metritis	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Illness after calving	Antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatment under veterinary supervision.
Nasal discharge, purulent (snotty)	One steer 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.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	A number of cattle in a number of herds	NW, 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.
Patella dislocation	One calf in one medium beef herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf unable to stand long, from birth.	Knee-cap (patella) had slipped to the side of the stifle on one back leg. Surgery not economic so was euthanased.
Pestivirus	A number of PI calves and antibody positive cows in several large and small herds.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Pestivirus can cause permanently infected (PI) runt calves that die at birth or scour, 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/2022/11/National-Cattle-Health-Declaration_Fillable_2022.pdf
Photosensitisation	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Skin peels off areas with little hair or white hair.	May be caused by Acute Bovine Liver Disease (ABLD), blue-green algae on dams, Facial Eczema, poisonous plants. Remove from paddock, provide deep shade to protect from sunlight. Multivitamin injections, antibiotic cover if necessary.
Pinkeye scars	Several bulls in several herds.	Northern Tasmania	Whitish areas on front of eye (cornea) where ulcers have healed.	No action required at this stage. 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
Preputial prolapse	One bull in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Soft tissue of sheath hangs out. If injured while out,	A veterinarian may be able to operate even if damaged.

			becomes swollen and can't go back in.	
Retained afterbirth	Several cows 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. Can be associated with selenium deficiency. Long-acting selenium injection was given in this case but may have run out as only late calving cows affected.
Seminal vesiculitis	One bull in one medium herd	Northen Tasmania	Internal sperm storage organ in bull's pelvis is inflamed. White blood cells and sometimes pus in semen sample.	Veterinary treatment can sometimes retrieve these cases.
Skin injury lower legs	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Skin of lower legs injured	May have been due to poor yard design or misadventure. Antiseptic skin spray if no deeper structures affected. Check yards for protrusions.
Sperm motility low	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Semen sample examined under microscope shows that sperm are very inactive.	Can be due to temporary factors and some bulls can provide a strongly motile sample at retest sometime later. But if the bull is old, infirm etc better culled.
Swollen joints	One bull in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Swelling of joints in legs.	Can be due to infection, injury, phosphorus deficiency, excess fluoride. Cull or treat appropriately.
Swollen leg with no visible injury or scars, alternates between front and hind legs	One feedlot heifer in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Whole leg swollen up to shoulder or hip.	Unknown cause.
Uterine prolapse	One cow in one large herd	Northern Tasmania	Seen just after calving and is usually due to milk fever.	Inject calcium to correct milk fever, replace uterus and suture to keep in. Vet job.
Uterine rupture	One cow in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Cow hunched and depressed 3 days after assisted calving	Often fatal. Vet can sometimes repair rupture and salvage cow.
Vaccination lesions	One cow in one small herd and a number of cows in one large herd.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Caused by vaccination.	Some individuals react more to vaccines, especially oily vaccine such as the pinkeye vaccine or to vibrio vaccine. Make sure equipment has been sterilised and that needles are clean and sharp. Don't vaccinate if skin is wet or in very dusty conditions.
Warts	Widespread	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Cauliflower-like growth anywhere on body but often around head.	Normally only seen in young cattle. Will normally self-cure if left alone. A vaccine can be made up if warts persist or are very extensive.
Warts on penis	A number of young bulls in one large herd	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Cauliflower-like growth on penis.	Seen in young bulls at bull fertility testing. Will normally self-cure if left alone. Apply rubber ring and pain relief if it has a narrow base. A vaccine can be made up if warts persist or are very extensive.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				

No cases reported				
GOATS				
Campylobacter jejuni abortion	One doe in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Two rotten foetuses delivered.	Campylobacter sheep vaccine may be worth a try to prevent but must be used under veterinary supervision.
Coccidiosis	A large number of kids in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Seen as sudden deaths with no scour and little to see on postmortem.	Kids in contaminated pens were fed milk replacer with monensin (an additive that should control coccidia) but still died from acute coccidiosis. When changed to milk replacer without monensin, they died in even greater numbers.
Lice	Several goats in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Goats can be infested with both sucking lice (large and dark), and body lice (smaller, lighter colour) Only survive a few days off goat.	Sprays, pour-on, injectable (under veterinary advice note) and powder treatments available. Re-treat (sprays, powder) after 15 days to break life cycle.
Worms	Two goats in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vet's instructions.
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/