Tasmanian Livestock Health Report – May 2026

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

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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-July.

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

Barber's pole worm (BPW): The recent warm weather has extended the BPW risk period, not just on irrigated pastures. Watch for anaemia, bottle jaw, exercise intolerance, high worm egg counts. The NRE Animal Health Laboratory offers a Rapid Lectin test that tells you what proportion of the worm eggs detected are BPW. The Rapid Lectin test result is available the day after the egg count. Do an egg count every 3 weeks if you have an established problem.
Black scour worms: some high egg counts are being seen and will probably get higher as winter progresses. Monthly worm egg counts on weaner sheep are recommended. Heavily pregnant and lactating ewes also susceptible.
Bloat: is a risk in lambs on lucerne or clover on misty overcast days.
Blue-green algae: being seen on dams and can cause photosensitisations and deaths.
Drench resistance: resistance to white, clear, macrocyclic lactone (ML) drenches and some combinations is relatively common and any other drench can also fail. Do a worm egg count before and 14 days after a drench (Drenchcheck) to check that your current drench is working.
Footrot and scald: Spreading now.
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 calcium/magnesium/salt dry lick. Have calcium injection on hand.
Pregnancy toxaemia: feed late pregnant ewes well, especially twin-bearing ewes.

Liver fluke: Eggs can be detected in Fluketests, but immature fluke can still be migrating through livers now, so blood tests may be the best way to detect liver fluke in live animals and triclabendazole the best treatment for immature fluke, unless resistance is present.
Lucerne red gut: seen as sudden death with a bloated carcase in lambs on lucerne or clover. Offering roughage such as hay, straw or alternating between pasture and the lucerne/clover, or a run-off pasture block can help prevent cases.
Nematodirus: are causing problems in lambs now. Scouring, sub-optimal growth rates, and some Nematodirus eggs in the egg count justify a drench.
Pneumonia/pleurisy: has affected several lamb mobs recently, 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.
Parvo in working dogs: Parvovirus has been detected in most parts of Tasmania recently. Make sure all working dogs, especially those under 12 months of age, have current vaccination.
Pulpy kidney (PK): Make sure lambs vaccinated more than 3 months previously get a booster if going onto rich feed such as clover, lucerne or a significant amount of grain. 3-in-1 is cheaper than 5- or 6-in-1 and may give better PK immunity.
Scabby mouth: in lambs on feet and mouth.
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 – incubation periods

The Hantavirus outbreak in May aboard the cruise ship MV Hondius has dropped off the daily news radar, but the Australians involved are still in isolation in Western Australia, where they will remain until the 42-day maximum incubation period for the Andes Hantavirus they may have been exposed to, has passed.

There are about 20 different Hantavirus species and the vast majority can only be transmitted from rodents to man, but the Andes variety can transmit from person to person once infection has established in a person. Fortunately, Hantavirus does not occur in Australia, and we certainly don't want it to establish here. Hence the long quarantine period and repeated testing for the passengers returning to Australia from the cruise.

Likewise, if you don't want a new infectious disease to enter your flock or herd, isolation and possibly testing of introduced animals is a good idea.

Treatments and vaccinations while in quarantine may also be logical if known to eliminate infection. These can work for conditions such as drench resistant worms (combination drench and faecal egg count 14 days later) and vibrio, IBR and leptospirosis vaccination in cattle.

But for how long do you isolate? That depends on which diseases you are concerned about, whether you are looking for clinical signs or will have samples taken to detect the disease agent or antibodies to it in the blood.

Ovine Brucellosis antibodies should be present after 60 days of isolation.

Footrot bacteria can take up to 14 days to express in recently exposed sheep, but footbathing off the truck is best to eliminate recent exposure. Chronic footrot infection can lie

dormant in pockets in the hoof for years, so sheep should be carefully foot pared while in isolation to detect any suspicious lesions. Isolating introduced sheep in a wet paddock can also help make the disease present itself.

Johne's disease can take years to become detectable by testing, so selecting low-risk source properties and only bringing approved vaccinates in can reduce the risk of disease introduction.

Sheep body lice can take many months to become obvious so treatment for lice and maintaining isolation until all the lice should have died (usually 4-6 weeks depending on treatment product) is best.

Mycoplasma bovis antibodies usually develop rapidly in cattle but it is safest to wait 21 days before collecting blood samples from beef cattle. Repeated milk sample PCR testing is logical for dairy cows.

Pestivirus antibodies take up to 3 weeks to develop in cattle, but a persistently infected (PI) animal is the highest risk and will have been infected inside the dam so can be tested anytime. An animal with antibodies is safe to introduce as the disease has been and gone by the time antibodies are present. A cow with antibodies may be carrying a PI calf and ideally the cow should remain in isolation until she calves and the calf should be tested to ensure it is not a PI.

Pinkeye can remain dormant in carrier animals for over a year. Tests are unreliable.

In general, isolate for as long as you can, but for at least 2 weeks. Observe daily and call your vet if you see anything that concerns you.

Call the EAD Hotline on 1800 675 888 any time day or night if you suspect an emergency disease such as foot and mouth disease.

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Diseases and conditions seen in May 2026

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	**Number of reports/ cases**	**Region**	**Details**	**Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures**
Abscess	One ram in medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Swelling on jaw in this case.	Surgical draining and antibiotics usually effective.
Barbers pole worm	High proportion of BPW eggs in faecal samples in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Lectin test detection.	See WORMBOSS website for details on diagnosis, control and prevention programs.

Body condition score low	A small number of sheep in a number of small and medium flocks	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Body condition less than BCS 2	Usually not enough feed. Worms, fluke, broken mouth, OJD, cancer and specific deficiencies and diseases eg footrot may also be involved. Fit to load: make sure low BCS sheep are strong enough for the planned journey.
Cough	A number of lambs in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Lambs cough.	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	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	May be due to erupting teeth in young sheep, grass seed injury to tongue or lips, other mouth injuries or nerve damage, lost molars in old sheep.
Dags	A relatively small number of lambs and ewes in a number of flocks, the majority of lambs in one large flock.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Due to scouring. Most due to green grass after recent rain and worms. Some ewe and lamb 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, for young sheep, 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.
Dermo (lumpy wool)	Small numbers 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 the skin for example after heavy rain or jetting. See: *DPI - Lumpy wool fact sheet.*
Ear tag infection	One lamb or sheep in three small flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where tag goes through ear	Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics under veterinary supervision. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Eye cancer	One aged sheep 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.
Flystrike scar	A small number of cases in one large mob	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. https://flyboss.com.au/learn-about-sheep-flystrike-control-in-australia/
Foot abscess (heel abscess)	One sheep in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage, this one in healing phase.	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, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported.
Footrot (virulent)	One medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Breakdown after vaccination program for several years appeared to have eradicated footrot.	Treatment at this time of year is focused on footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of vaccine – best to vaccinate ewes pre-lambing to cover spring spread period. Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep can be executed next summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival . Maintain good boundary fence. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare

				/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf
Hooves overgrown, deformed	One sheep in one large 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.
Horn broken	One sheep in one large 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.
Horn growing into head (in-grown horn)	One ram	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.
Lameness	A small number of sheep in a number of large, medium and small flocks.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Reluctant to bear full weight on one or more feet.	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.
Leg fracture	One case in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Occurred during transport.	Broken bones in sheep heal well if skin unbroken, but must be splinted properly. Must have padding between splint and leg, splint must extend one joint above and one joint below the break with antibiotic cover and pain relief under veterinary supervision.
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.
Mesothelioma	One ram in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Ram lost weight over some months and then died.	A type of cancer that grows on the surface of the internal abdominal organs and on the inside of the abdominal wall. No treatment or prevention.
Nematodirus	Weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Weaners scour with poor growth rates. Nematodirus egg counts may or may not be high.	Nematodirus egg counts often do not reflect adult worm burden inside the weaners. Autopsy and total worm count or treat and look for response. See WORMBOSS web site for details on control.
Nitrate poisoning	Two prime lambs in one large mob	Northern Tasmania	Sudden death, downers, in transported lambs placed on capeweed paddock on arrival.	Treat live affected animals with electrolyte solution, remove mob from paddock. Keep stock, especially if hungry, off capeweed, especially after it has been sprayed. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/111003/nitrate-and-nitrite-poisoning-in-livestock.pdf

Nasal discharge, bloody, one side only	One lamb in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Blood seen running from one nostril.	Could be injury or foreign body (eg a stick or grass stalk) caught in the nostril. Examine closely. Check that dogs are not biting noses. Rest and re-examine.
Nose cancer in aged ewe	One case in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Crusty growth or erosion on nose	Surgery not usually possible. Euthanase.
Nasal discharge, purulent (snotty)	Widespread in mainly lambs but also some adult sheep	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 both eyes	A number of lambs from a few flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Could be first stage of pinkeye	Best to leave alone and keep checking if possible, only yard if you have to.
Photosensitisation (mild, ears only)	A number of lambs in 2 large flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off the back of the ears.	Mild lesions not worth treating unless growth rates are depressed. Give access to shade.
Pizzle rot in wethers	Several cases in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Scab on end of pizzle or whole sheath swollen	Bacterial infection usually associated with grazing wethers on legume-rich pastures. Prevented by testosterone injections (see your vet) or changing to grass-dominant pastures.
Pleurisy	Ten of fifty lambs detected at abattoir.	Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	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, rams	A small number of rams in three small flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Fighting injuries	Normal behaviours. Use flystrike prevention.
Poll strike, rams	Two rams in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Struck poll fighting injuries.	Late season for fly so preventative chemicals had run out.
Poverty line in hooves	One ram in one large flock.	Northern Tasmania	Horizontal lines halfway down all 4 hooves.	Usually caused by a severe illness that the animal survives. Usually nothing can be done by the time you see the lines in the hooves, but foot problems such as toe abscess can result.
Runts	One lamb from one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Stunted lambs that are unlikely to grow out. May have been orphaned or suffered from illness.	Best euthanased but can try high protein/high energy feed (introduce slowly).
Ryegrass staggers	A number of weaners in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep - tremors, abnormal gait, may become downers, may convulse when disturbed. Often seek water and drown in dams.	See https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity-tasmania/animal-biosecurity/animal-health/sheep/perennial-ryegrass-staggers for details on diagnosis treatment and prevention.

			Can have high mortality.	
Sebaceous gland blockage (sebaceous cyst)	Walnut sized swelling on top of shoulder of one aged ewe in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Gland which produces the oily layer on skin gets blocked and swells up. Usually on shedding sheep.	Usually harmless but can get infected if get too large. Can be surgically drained or cut out by vet.
Shearing cuts	A number of sheep on one large property	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. Serious cuts should be sutured, pressure stop haemorrhage. If "hamstrung" rarely regain full function in that leg, valuable sheep can be operated on, otherwise best to euthanase.
Small testicles	One ram in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Both testicles smaller than normal	Ram likely to be sub-fertile. Could be due to temporary infertility or immaturity.
Stags	One stag in one small mob of wethers.	Northern Tasmania	One testicle retained in body.	Make sure both testicles are beneath the ring when marking.
Sudden deaths	A number of ewe lambs in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Lambs found dead	Acute pneumonia suspected in this case but no fresh cases available for postmortem.
Toe abscess	One ram in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Very lame but no swelling, heat or under-running. Small amount of grey pus in toe area.	Carefully pare back the toe, following any black track up front of toe until pus released. Usually no further treatment needed apart from antiseptic spray.
Wool break	Two sheep in one medium flock	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	Some high counts but generally counts are low to medium. High Nematodirus counts in some weaners. Black scour worm still dominant in larval cultures, brown stomach worm present. Barbers pole detected in some larval ID and Rapid Lectin tests.	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia by WORMTEST or total worm count (at postmortem 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-lambing drenched ewes. See the *WORMBOSS sheep worm control program*.
CATTLE				

Abortion	One cow in one medium herd.	Northern Tasmania	Possible causes neospora, leptospirosis, trichomoniasis, vibrio (Campylobacter), pestivirus, congenital/hereditary factors, toxins, mouldy hay, Salmonella Dublin. The cause of many abortions not determined despite lab investigation.	Send aborted calf, placenta and blood sample from cow to lab for diagnosis. Vaccines against Vibrio, lepto 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
Actino abscess	One cow in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Swelling usually around head/upper neck, usually after damage to mouth due to coarse feed etc.	Actino abscesses can be treated by a vet.
Bloat, chronic, gassy	A small number of weaned calves in one small herd.	Southern Tasmania	Left flank bulging out a lot.	Chronic bloat can be due to internal damage ("vagal bloat"), or chronic acidosis damage to rumen – more likely in this case - a vet may insert a corkscrew canula or create a permanent hole (fistula) connecting the rumen to the outside skin to allow gas to escape.
Body condition score low	One cow in one small herd.	Northern Tasmania	BCS less than 5 (1 to 5 scale)	Veterinary investigation, check feed quantity and quality, micronutrient levels, worms, liver fluke status.
Calf not standing after birth	One calf in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	This birth was assisted. Calf may have been starved of oxygen or injured during delivery.	Good nursing may allow recovery in time.
Chorioptic mange	A number of cattle in a number of small medium and large herds.	Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. 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
Conception low	Only one cow conceived to an AI program.	Southern Tasmania	Details on the AI program not available. May have involved synchronisation and fixed time insemination.	Could reflect plane of nutrition, deficiencies such as copper, selenium, infections, problems with the semen, hormonal status of the cows, timing of treatments and AI etc.
Cough in young cattle	One yearling in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to lungworms, viral or bacterial diseases that infect the respiratory tract.	Treat with drench that covers lungworm. Antibiotic cover if show signs of pneumonia. There are vaccines that can prevent some bacterial diseases.

Dags	A number of cattle in a number of herds.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Dried faeces stuck on tail hair.	Previous scour. Worm control, dietary control, viral diseases can all be involved.
Death	One steer in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Suspected plastic ingestion.	Cattle may have a large quantity of plastics such as baler twine in the rumen, but unless it is obstructing part of the alimentary tract, is not necessarily cause of death.
Eye cancer, pre-cancerous lesion in cow.	One case in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid, but not typical of eye cancer. More common in breeds with pale pigmentation around eye.	These very early lesions can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off before they turn into a cancer.
Hair loss over one hip	Three cows in three small herds.	Northern Tasmania	May have been due to riding by other cows when on heat or collision with projection, probably in yards when loading.	Local antiseptic skin treatments. Prevent by removing any projections in yards.
Lead contamination	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Survivor of lead poisoning incident.	Blood lead levels in this steer have taken over a year to approach levels where consignment for processing is allowed. Beef from this animal cannot be exported so price is lower. Prevention: dispose of old batteries properly and deny access to items that could have been painted with lead paint.
Liver abscess	Several cull beef cows from one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Recorded at abattoir. May reflect low grade acidosis, rumen wall damage and bacteria leaking into blood stream.	These cows in good condition. Cattle can wall off abscesses, recover and continue to thrive. Prevention: care with feeding rich diets such as grain.
Nasal discharge	One steer each in two small herds	Northern Tasmania	Could be caused by a number of respiratory viruses and bacterial infections or allergy.	If animal is otherwise bright and alert, just keep under observation. If any other signs of ill-health use antibiotics under veterinary supervision.
Nasal discharge, purulent, both nostrils	One steer in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Can be due to viral or bacterial infections	If cattle are bright and alert no action required. If depressed, laboured breathing, deaths, veterinary advice should be sought.
Ocular (eye) discharge (clear, watery)	Small numbers of cattle from a number of small	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be caused by an irritant such as flies, pollen, dust etc but can be first	May not be possible to remove from irritants. Observe again later to make sure Pinkeye is not developing.

	medium and large herds		stage of Pinkeye.	
Pestivirus	A high proportion of heifers in a large beef cattle herd had strong reactions to be antibody test.	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, winter	Severely affecting a number of cattle in one medium and one large herd.	Northern and Southern 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, but customised vaccines can be made up. See: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/103904/pinkeye-in-cattle.pdf
Scrotal swelling after ring castration	One bull calf in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Scrotum swells and skin becomes hard after ring castration	Lamb rings can be used up to 2 weeks of age on bull calves but in older calves may not cut blood supply off to all the scrotal contents. Use calf banders or other methods of castration in calves over 2 weeks old.
Stag	One stag in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Steer with one retained testicle	Vet may be able to remove retained testicle but some are still up inside the body and cannot be easily removed.
Sudden death immediately after ring castration	One steer in one medium herd	Northern Tasmania	Bull calf died soon after ring application.	Unlikely to be directly caused by ring application, more likely that handling caused death in an animal that was already compromised.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
Autumn deaths	A number of alpacas in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Possibly a fungal toxin in the pasture.	Postmortem to try to detect a cause. Paddock change.
Lice	A number of alpacas in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Alpacas have their own species of body lice.	An oral sheep lousicide used under veterinary supervision may be effective
Selenium deficiency	A number of alpacas in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Ill-thrift and deaths.	Normal range for laboratory measures of deficiency in sheep and cattle may not apply to alpacas.
Worms	A number of alpacas in several herds	Southern Tasmania	Alpacas mainly have their own worm species.	See your vet for drenches and dose rates for alpacas.
GOATS				
Scour and dags in kids	Several kids in one small herd	Northern Tasmania	Kids bright and alert but daggy.	Diagnose/treat/prevent common causes of scouring in kids - worms, coccidia possibly Yersinia, dietary upset.

PIGS				
No cases reported	One weaner in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	Found dead	May have been acute pneumonia. A postmortem is worthwhile if losses continue.
POULTRY				
No cases reported				
DEER				
No cases reported				
WORKING DOGS				
Ear canal infection, chronic	One adult dog on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Discharge, foul smell.	Veterinarian may take swab and smear. This one had a fungal infection plus Staph and Pasteurella infections that were resistant to some antibiotics, and responded to oral antibiotics and ear ointment.
Haematoma (blood clot) in ear flap	One adult dog on one large property	Northern Tasmania	Swollen ear flap	Can be drained by veterinarian but if left alone will eventually contract leaving a crinkled ear flap.

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 Toxo 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/