

Livestock Health Monitoring Report – September 2021

The Livestock Health Monitoring program collects confidential/anonymous information on livestock diseases and conditions observed by rural service providers and abattoir data from the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project in Tasmania and produces a monthly report that is circulated as widely as possible amongst Tasmanian livestock producers and service providers. It is based on a successful pilot project conducted in 2018-19.

See www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/tas-health for previous reports and to subscribe.

The program is designed to keep Tasmanian livestock producers and rural service providers up to date on what livestock diseases and conditions are currently occurring in Tasmania. This should mean earlier diagnosis, more effective treatment and better prevention of future outbreaks.

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.

This program should also help detect an outbreak of emergency animal disease earlier, allowing effective action to stamp it out or reduce its impact.

The program has a sheep industry emphasis, but all common livestock species are covered. The National Sheep Industry Biosecurity Strategy lies at the core of the program (see www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/nsibs)

Funding is provided by Animal Health Australia (with support from Sheep Producers Australia and WoolProducers Australia) and by DPI/PWE. Private veterinarians coordinate the project.

You are welcome to distribute this report to anyone you like. The next Livestock Health Monitoring 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.

For farm biosecurity plans, animal health declarations and information on biosecurity practices see: www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/

Livestock Data Link (LDL) allows you to access information on carcass data, diseases and conditions detected in your sheep at slaughter through the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project. See: <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/globalassets/isc/pdf-files/ldl-pdf-files/about-livestock-data-link.pdf> for more details.

Remember:

- Report any suspicion of an Emergency Animal Disease to your vet or the Hotline on 1800 675 888
- Never feed animal protein such as meat meal to any ruminant including sheep.
- Use NVDs and NLIS tags properly so that animals can be 'contact traced' quickly if there is an outbreak of an Emergency Animal Disease.
- If you have pigs, don't feed them swill.
- Never feed raw untreated offal or sheepmeat to dogs or cats.
- If you have a sheep or cow showing neurological (nervous) signs you may be able to claim a subsidy for a post mortem investigation (https://animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Bucks-for-Brains_Jun16_WEB.pdf)

Seasonal Disease Alerts

Footrot and scald: are actively spreading in areas where rainfall has been high.

Liver fluke: Treat sheep and cattle with a drench that can kill adult fluke before the end of October to help break the life cycle.

Campylobacter and Toxoplasmosis (Toxo) in sheep: Consider blood tests of ten dry ewes at marking if your ewes had abortions or more stillbirths than usual.

Tail length: in lambs is an important factor in preventing tail cancer, vulval cancer, vaginal prolapse, rectal prolapse, arthritis and flystrike. Take tail off/apply ring at third joint (level with tip of vulva).

Arthritis in lambs: If you are seeing a significant number of arthritic lambs, consider talking to your vet about testing for Erysipelas, as you may be able to use a vaccine to prevent it.

6 in 1 vaccine: Using a vaccine that contains a pulpy kidney component may be even more important this year if we have a good spring and especially if lambs are to be grown out on irrigated legumes.

Campylobacter in cattle: Consider vaccinating your bulls this year.

Pestivirus in heifers: Consider vaccinating your heifers to prevent pestivirus abortions, stillbirths, 'dummy' calves and poor doers that die before 18 months of age. You may like to talk to your vet about having some blood tests done to see what the herd pestivirus risk profile is.

Biosecurity story of the month

With Covid-19 still hogging the headlines, it is a good opportunity to compare the national response to what would happen if a highly transmissible animal virus such as foot and mouth disease (FMD) or African Swine Fever was detected in Australia.

One of the most important lessons from Covid-19 has been "Go hard, go early". If an outbreak is detected while only a few individuals are infected, lockdowns (we use the term "stock standstill" in the animal world) can be very effective. It is just so important that anyone who sees some suggestive clinical signs in animals (eg salivation, lameness, blisters in the case of FMD) reports this immediately to their vet or the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Hotline 1800 675 888. If it is a false alarm, no harm done.

The importance of 'contact tracing' has been emphasised during the Covid-19 outbreak, and most of us are used to scanning in as we enter buildings and venues. Our National Livestock Identification System (NLIS), Property Identification Codes (PICs) and National Vendor Declaration (NVD) system and transferring animal IDs on databases are all part of an equivalent animal tracing system that has to be operating constantly in case there is an outbreak of an EAD. The better we all comply with this system, the faster we can get on top of any outbreak.

Vaccination is an important tool in combating outbreaks of certain Emergency Animal Diseases and was a critical plank in the effort to eradicate Equine Influenza from Australia in 2007.

Another important lesson has been the importance of 'hotel quarantine'. People coming to Australia can be quarantined for 14 days, tested and released with little risk of spreading Covid-19. Live animals (eg dogs and cats) or animal products cannot enter Australia without valid authorisation, which will may include testing and quarantine, for the same reasons. It is really important that everyone bringing live animals, animal or plant products into Australia makes themselves aware of the requirements and complies with those rules.

As far as viruses are concerned, humans are just another animal, so the same basic rules apply whether you are trying to control a virus in an animal or human population.

Diseases and conditions seen in September 2021

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Abortion	Multiple reports	Wide-spread	May be caused by <i>Campylobacter</i> , Toxo, <i>Listeria</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Chlamydia</i>	Lab has diagnosed <i>Campylobacter fetus subsp. fetus</i> , <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Listeria ivanovii</i> and <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i> . Best diagnosis is to submit 5 aborted lambs to lab for diagnosis. Can take bloods for Toxo and <i>Campylobacter</i> antibody testing 2 weeks after abortion. Take vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion if no foetuses available, or ten bloods from dry ewes at marking for Campy and Toxo tests.
Arthritis - degenerative	One aged sheep in one small flock.	Northern Tasmania	Aged sheep slightly lame with hard enlarged roughened elbow joint	Anti-inflammatory drugs can help, talk to your vet.
Arthritis - infectious	One weaner in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Lameness, poor condition with multiple swollen joints.	This one euthanased. Prevention: Removing tails at the third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs) at marking prevents many cases. Early antibiotic treatment of lame lambs may work. If <i>Erysipelas</i> is diagnosed in the flock then use <i>Erysipelas</i> vaccine. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Bent leg in ram hoggets	One medium mob, about 15% affected	Southern Tasmania	Young unshorn growing sheep in winter on cereal crop. Vitamin D deficiency	Give Vitamin D prior to placing young sheep on cereal crop.
Black scour worm	Wide-spread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring, high worm egg count, <i>Trichostrongylus</i> identified by larval ID test at lab.	Most significant winter worm in Tasmania. Some ewes had to be treated during lambing. Monitor young sheep closely, they can go downhill fast. Do regular monthly WORMTESTs and go to 2-weekly tests if egg counts rising rapidly. See WORMBOSS web site for good treatment and prevention strategies. Risk will ease up from now on.
Bloat in 2-6 week old bottle-fed lambs	One case in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs bloat after feeding and may die. Ulceration and rupture of 4 th stomach seen on post mortem. Caused by <i>Sarcina</i> bacterial infection of 4 th stomach causing excess fermentation and ulceration.	Can relieve gas distension of 4 th stomach with needle but needs careful placement. Antibiotics can control the <i>Sarcina</i> infection. Feed milk at less than 15 degrees C, don't make milk up too rich, feed small quantities more often rather than 2 large feeds.

			Can be seen in calves as well.	
Bottle jaw and anaemia	Several sheep in several flocks.	Northern Tasmania	Bottle jaw usually caused by Barber's Pole Worm (<i>Haemonchus</i>) or liver fluke.	Diagnosis by post mortem (Barber's Pole worms easily seen in 4 th stomach, liver fluke can be squeezed out of cut section of liver) or WORMTEST/FLUKETEST (manure sample test). Treat with effective drench.
Brisket ulceration	Several aged sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Shows that sheep have spent a lot of time lying down, usually due to foot condition.	May be seen with chronic footrot, foot abscess and other foot conditions. This one probably arthritis. Treat the underlying condition. Treat brisket ulcers with antiseptic spray.
Broken mouth	Two aged sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Incisor teeth worn down to gums, or some incisors missing. Molar teeth can also be missing, loose, food impaction.	Cull before body condition score is less than 2.
Campylobacter abortion	44% lamb marking in maidens and 80% in mixed age ewes	Northern Tasmania	There are two types of Campylobacter that cause abortion, most of these outbreaks caused by the "fetus" strain.	Antibiotic treatment of ewes may slow the outbreak down. Prevention: A vaccine is available and covers both strains, but the course should be completed before joining. Two of these outbreaks in mixed age ewes, so consider vaccinating all age groups. Aborting ewes can be run with unmated ewe weaners to give them immunity. Humans can also be affected so women of child-bearing age should not be exposed to aborting ewes or afterbirth.
Cast	Several ewes in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Maternal ewes in good condition.	Maternal ewes can get very fat and if they get on their back cannot regain their feet. Often attacked by crows etc when down. Keep ewes at condition score 3.3 – 3.6. Check them frequently if they are overweight and getting cast. Autumn or pre-lamb shear.
Cataract	Two aged sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	The lens inside the eye is a shade of white	Cataracts in both eyes seen in very old sheep. Treatment possible but not economic. Usually euthanase when advanced.
Cysticercosis ("bladder worm")	Detected at abattoir in 3.8% of lamb and 3.6% of mutton carcasses.	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Seen as small clear bags of fluid attached to liver or elsewhere in abdominal cavity of sheep at abattoir. Causes liver to be trimmed or condemned and runners to be condemned. Spread by a dog tapeworm.	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/
Dags	Wide-spread	NW, Southern and Northern Tasmania	Due to scouring.	May be due to worms, gut infection (eg Salmonella, Yersinia), nutritional factors. Have a WORTEST egg count done and ask the laboratory to culture for Yersinia and Salmonella if egg counts are low. Check paddock for plants such as capeweed. Crutch. The Dealing with Dag Advisor Manual is available at www.wool.com/flystrikelatest .

Dermo (lumpy wool)	A number of properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Wool in hard blocks along topline.	Can treat with long-acting tetracycline during dry period, wait for 6 weeks and shear. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.
Deaths in 3 yo ewes	10% over time in one medium flock	Southern Tasmania	Possibly OJD, worms, fluke	Vet investigation.
Dry ewes at lambing	More than 5% dry in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Could be due to abortion or a number of nutritional, management or disease factors.	Start with bleeding 10 at marking and test for Toxo and Camylobacter.
Dystocia (difficult birth)	A number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Difficulty delivering. Can be due to large lamb/s, tangled twins, or weak uterine contractions	Ewe can be assisted but try to avoid disturbing the rest of the mob. Interruption of the normal birth process is a cause of dystocia.
Ear cancer	One sheep in one medium sized flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty swelling or ulceration starting anywhere on bare parts of the ear.	Vet can remove the cancer if caught early enough. Check no swelling of the gland (lymph node) that drains that area as cancer can spread to the gland. Make sure it is 'fit to load' if transported.
Ear tag infection	A number of sheep on several properties	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Swelling, crusts, discharge around area where tag goes through ear	Clean and apply antiseptic spray. If ear is swollen may need antibiotics. Prevent by soaking tags in antiseptic before applying.
Exposure losses of newborn lambs	Wide-spread - over 1000 lambs, some even a few days old, lost over a few days	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Lambs born normally but die soon after birth during wet cold weather	Shelter to reduce chill index, more feed on offer (FOO) and higher ewe body condition score (BCS) at lambing will all reduce lamb losses. Keep most sheltered paddocks with most FOO for multiple-bearing ewes and aim for a BCS of 3.3 for these ewes.
Foot abscess	Multiple reports, widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Swelling of one toe, hot, painful and discharge pus in acute stage. May affect all 4 feet in some cases, but usually one foot.	Treat: Pare away hoof to allow drainage of pus, inject long-acting broad-spectrum antibiotics, keep feet dry eg on slatted floor of shearing shed, place epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Ensure fit to load if transported. Prevent: Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, autumn or pre-lamb shear, reduce interdigital skin injury, walk through 5-10% formalin or 10% zinc footbath weekly.
Footrot (virulent)	A number of flocks.	Southern, Northern Tasmania	Spread is well under way on a number of properties	Control by footbathing, use of vaccine. Prepare for eradication next summer by keeping number of infected sheep low. Prevention: Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot but still footbath and check feet on arrival. Maintain good boundary fences. See Ute Guide for Tasmania: https://www.wool.com/globalassets/wool/sheep/welfare/other-husbandry/footrot--a-guide-to-identification-and-control-in-the-field---tas-2019.pdf

Footrot (mild, "scald")	A number of flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control during spread period and usually disappears with dry weather. Hard to eradicate.
Goitre	A number of lambs in a number of flocks	Southern Tasmania Derwent Valley	Swelling (from just detectable to orange size) of upper front of neck	May be caused by iodine deficient soil or some plants such as brassicas. Give ewes 300 mg potassium iodide per ewe dissolved in water as a drench in last month of pregnancy to prevent.
Grazing on knees	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually due to foot problem but can be due to neck pain as well.	Check feet and neck and treat accordingly.
Hydrops (excess fluid in afterbirth)	Several ewes in one large flock	Southern Tasmania	Excess watery fluid seen in afterbirth	May be caused by viral diseases that also cause deformed lambs - not reported in this case.
Hypocalcaemia ('milk fever')	Widespread in heavily pregnant and post-lambing ewes	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Late pregnancy ewes go down, usually after period off feed or on cereal crops. Also seen with vaginal prolapse, slow births and in lactating ewes.	Treat with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1) 1/5 of a pack under skin. Warm pack in hot water before injection if possible and massage in well. Should get up within 30 minutes. If green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover. Prevent with mineral supplement, don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching pre-lambing.
Lamb deaths - newborn	A number of lambs on a number of properties	Southern Tasmania	Lambs born during rough weather (rain, wind) found dead.	Wind chill factor when wet is main killer. Providing shelter, plenty of feed for ewes and keeping ewes in good body condition reduces losses.
Lameness	A number of sheep in a number of mobs	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)	Many flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Sheep body lice cause fleece damage. Check for 2mm long insects with broad reddish head moving slowly away from light by parting wool 10 times down each side of 10 sheep.	See LICEBOSS: http://www.liceboss.com.au/sheep-goats/ for a full practical guide to managing and preventing sheep body lice. Use Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep. Maintain good boundary fences. "Hotel quarantine" and consider treatment of introduced sheep.
Liver fluke	Detected at abattoir in 7.1% of mutton and 8.4% of lambs and reports from vets.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Abattoir detection, farm post mortem or Fluke eggs found in FLUKETEST on manure samples sent to laboratory. Bottle jaw, anaemia, weight loss and deaths from	Most fluke are adult stage in bile ducts in liver at this time of year as pickup of immatures only continues till end of July. Triclabendazole best treatment from November to July as it kills immature fluke as well as mature fluke but has 63 days ESI. Treat slaughter stock then keep them on paddocks with trough water until slaughter if possible. Consider treatment with a different flukicide family in late winter to kill adult fluke. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

			heavy infestation.	
Low lamb marking % compared to scanning	Several large flocks	Southern Tasmania	Normally expect 15% less lambs marked in singles and 30% 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.
Lungworm (small - Muellerius or Protostrongylus)	Several lines of lambs in abattoir.	N, NW and Southern Tasmania	Small 2-3 mm diameter grey spots on the external surface of the lungs. Life cycle involves a land snail.	Recent research shows that these species of lungworm are not associated with reduced growth rates in lambs, but can be harmful to goats. Specialized anthelmintic needed to kill them in goats.
Mastitis (acute gangrenous)	Several cases in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Hot swollen and inflamed or cold and dead with abnormal milk (watery and blood-stained)	Acute: strip out as much milk as you can and administer antibiotic treatment and anti-inflammatories by injection. If only one half of udder is affected ewe can produce nearly as much milk from the other half if she recovers.
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. Rest and re-examine.
Nephritis (kidney damage)	Detected at abattoir in 2.8% of lambs and 1% of mutton.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Kidneys are swollen, white spotted or scarred.	Infection or toxin damage. Prevention: make sure lambs have access to good quality water and have been trained to drink if source of water (eg troughs vs dams) changes at weaning. Keep them off paddocks with a lot of sorell or docks.
Nose cancer in aged ewe	One case in one medium flock. One ewe in another small flock.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Crusty growth or erosion on nose	Surgery not usually practical. Euthanasia.
Photo -sensitisation	Several sheep in two mobs. One lamb in one small mob	Northern Tasmania	Skin peels off face and ears. Can be due to plant pigments, fungi or liver damage	Blood sample for liver damage check, spore count pasture for Pithomyces (Facial Eczema) spores, check water for blue-green algae, check for poisonous plants and pigment plants (eg storksbill, medics). Treat with anti-inflammatories, antibiotics if necessary, offer deep shade, move to new paddock.
Pink eye	Several flocks	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 if have to be yarded or % affected gets too high. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pleurisy	Detected at abattoir in lamb and sheep carcasses.	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Lungs stuck to chest wall. Usually results in major trimming.	Treat sick sheep with cough or respiratory distress with correct antibiotic supplied by your vet. Try to avoid stress events, drench sheep carefully, avoid dusty feedstuffs.

Pneumonia	A number of cases in slaughter lambs	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Deaths, difficulty breathing	Early cases in front part of lungs. Antibiotic treatment of cases (best caught early). Reduce any stress factors.
Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)	One flock	Northern Tasmania	Caused by insufficient energy in diet in last 6 weeks of pregnancy. Usually in multiple-bearing ewes	If heavily pregnant ewes go down in last 6 weeks, inject 1/5 milk fever pack under skin and massage in well (to differentiate from milk fever). If ewe does not get up within an hour, twin lamb disease is most likely cause. Oral treatments rarely work unless you catch them while still able to walk but dropping out of back of mob and 'star-gazing'. Prevention is by scanning to detect twin-bearing ewes and feeding them well in late pregnancy.
Rib fracture	One sheep from one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Usually seen in abattoir – lumps on ribs where they have healed.	Usually occurs as lambs, due to low protein diet, heavy worm burden, calcium/phosphorus imbalance, low vitamin D, low copper. Prevention: ensure balanced nutrition and good worm control.
Sarcosporidia ("Sarco")	Detected at abattoir in 14.2% of mutton carcasses	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Small 'rice grain' whitish raised lesions on outside of food pipe (oesophagus), diaphragm and in skeletal muscles. Carcase trimmed or condemned.	Spread by cats. Takes a long time to grow so not usually seen in lambs. Deny cats access to sheep meat - burn or bury carcasses promptly, persistently control feral cats over large area. See fact sheet on: https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/
Scabby Mouth of feet	10% of one mob	Northern Tasmania	Crusts and raw areas on pasterns. More commonly seen on mouth.	Caused by a tough virus that persists on a property once introduced, but skin injury needed to allow virus to establish. Best left to heal on their own. Can prevent with vaccine at marking.
Scour in lambs at marking	Widespread - scouring seen at lamb marking	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Can be due to worms, coccidia, Cryptosporidia, Giardia, E coli bacterial gut infection, nutritional factors.	Lambs can start grazing early if ewes don't have much milk due to shortage of feed. Lambs can also get coccidia, Cryptosporidia and Giardia. Try WORMTEST or a drench first and see if they respond.
Selenium deficiency	One small flock	Northern Tasmania	Detected by blood or liver testing.	Deficiency is widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania and the Bass strait Islands. Deficiency can cause white muscle disease (usually in lambs), slow growth rates in young sheep, reduced immunity to footrot and other diseases, reduced fertility. See factsheet: https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/111355/Selenium-deficiency-in-sheep.pdf
Sheep measles	Detected at abattoir in 7.3% of lamb and 7.1% of mutton carcasses.	NW, Northern and Southern Tasmania	Small whitish mass about half the size of a 5 cent piece protruding from the muscle of the heart, diaphragm or skeletal muscle. Carcase is trimmed or condemned if	This is the intermediate stage of a dog tapeworm. Prevented by stopping dogs from eating raw sheep meat. Freeze sheep carcase meat for 2 weeks before feeding to dogs, burn/bury sheep carcasses promptly and/or treat all dogs including pets with a wormer containing praziquantel every 30 days. Visiting dogs (contractors, shooters) must be treated 2 days before arrival on property. Keep stray dogs off the property. See fact sheet on https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/

			too many to trim.	
Shelley toe	100% of one small 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 separated hoof wall as dirt and manure can pack into the cleft and cause a form of toe abscess.
Sudden deaths of weaners	Three weaners in one large flock	Northern Tasmania	Three found dead after shedding, crutching, drenching	May have been plant poisoning or levamisole toxicity.
Toxoplasma abortions	25% of newborn lamb deaths in one medium flock.	Northern Tasmania	Late abortions/neo natal deaths in this case.	The farm is near a rural town and a number of cats had been seen around farm buildings. For control strategies see: https://sheepconnecttasmania.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/sc-factsheet-no10-toxoplasmosis_lr.pdf
Ulcer of face	One sheep in one small flock	Northern Tasmania	Shedding breed	May have been an injury that took a long time to heal.
Uterine atony (weak uterus muscles)	Several ewes in one medium flock	Northern Tasmania	Normal sized lambs dying during slow birth.	Blood calcium levels were low in this one. Offer loose lick containing limestone during late pregnancy.
Vaccination lesions	One sheep in one medium flock. !% of sheep and 0.2 % of lamb carcasses.	Northern Tasmania	This one vaccinated correctly behind the ear but swollen with red skin and wool loss	Extra care must be taken with Gudair as large lumps often result. 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
Wool break	Several flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Wool staples easily pulled apart. Whole fleece may fall out.	Any stress can weaken the wool fibre as it grows. Individual sheep may lose fleece after acute infection eg mastitis, whole mobs can have 'tender wool' after nutritional restriction or disease outbreak (eg heavy worm infestation) events.
Worms	Many flocks having problems with ewes and young sheep.	Northern, Southern and NW Tasmania	Worms can be diagnosed by scouring, anaemia, poor weight gain which respond to drenching, or by WORMTEST with or without larval identification, or total worm count at post mortem.	Trichostrongylus (black scour worm) numbers easing up now but all common species detected recently. Worm problems have been much more common than usual this winter. For details on all aspects of worm management see WORMBOSS at: http://www.wormboss.com.au/sheep-goats/programs/sheep.php
CATTLE				
Abscess	One calf from one large dairy herd	NW Tasmania	May have been secondary to injury or navel ill.	Pus under skin of rump. Carcase heavily trimmed.
Brassica bloat	One heifer in one large herd	Southern Tasmania	On leafy regrowth turnips for one week then	Acidosis of the rumen due to high level of carbohydrate from turnips stops normal rumen movement and burping of gas. Gas builds up and pressure stops animal breathing.

			found dead and blown up.	Prevent with hay, limestone or causmag to make rumen less acid.
Calf diptheria	One calf in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Difficult breathing, cough when throat pressed	Vet can give antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.
Chorioptic mange	Several cows in several herds	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Hair loss around tail head and flanks. Rough scaly 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. Cases should self-cure from now on.
Coccidiosis	Calves in one large herd	Northern 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 very wet conditions, but hard to find dry paddocks.
Downer cows	Several cows on several properties	NW and Northern Tasmania	Grass tetany, milk fever, calving paralysis or pregnancy toxaemia.	Treat: Inject warmed 4-in-1 under skin, massage in well. Prevention: Feed Causmag in hay or use magnesium boluses and feed well in late pregnancy if grass tetany/pregnancy toxaemia. Check calving cows frequently so calf is not stuck too long.
Eye cancer	Three cows in three herds	Southern and Northern Tasmania	A small white 'pimple' on eyeball, through to raw pink growth on eyeball.	Small lesions can usually be removed easily by a vet, if not removed may become fully cancerous and if allowed to then become more advanced may require removal of eye. Do not load if eyelid cannot protect the lesion. Abattoirs may condemn whole carcase if cancer has reached glands. Advanced cases should be destroyed on farm, still OK for pet food.
Grass tetany (hypomagnesaemia)	A number of cows in a number of herds, mainly in later country.	Southern Tasmania	Week before to 4 weeks after calving. Found dead or down, hyper-excitable.	Treat with 4-in-1 packs under skin. Prevent with Causmag on hay or magnesium boluses. Magnesium blocks may not ensure all cows get protective dose every day.
Jaw swollen	One newborn calf in one small herd	Southern Tasmania	Calf's jaw collided with steel post as delivered	Probably a blood clot (haematoma). This one resolved without drainage
Liver fluke	One medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw and response to fluke treatment	Strategic treatments in autumn with flukicides effective against immatures 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. Late winter/early spring (August to October) treatment to kill adult fluke can help break fluke life cycle.
Preg tested in calf cow failed to calve	One cow ex 60	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Cows may abort after pregnancy testing. Not always observed by manager.	Another abortion was observed in this herd prior to sale. Keep introduced pregnant cows isolated from rest of herd until they have all calved. Test any that fail to calve for Campylobacter, Pestivirus, Neospora etc.
Rapid condition loss and death on brassica crop	One heifer in one medium mob	Southern Tasmania	Could be brassica anaemia, or a number of other conditions	Veterinary visit may be required.

Salmonella	Widespread	NW and Northern Tasmania	Calves and cows. Deaths, illness/fever, depression, diarrhoea (sometimes with blood/mucous) , abortions	Treat: Vet samples to diagnose, treat with correct antibiotics (resistance common), fluid therapy etc. Prevent: there is vaccine against some types of salmonella. Reduce stress. Hygiene. May need to reduce levels of buffers in concentrate ration. Keep wild animals, rodents and birds from contaminating feedstuffs.
Sheath abscess	One bull in one medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Secondary to penile haematoma ('broken penis')	Vet can diagnose, drain abscess, administer antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.
ALPACAS and CAMELS				
Nil cases reported				
GOATS				
Nil cases reported				
PIGS				
Lice	One herd	Southern Tasmania	Sucking lice, large (4-6 mm long) and dark, seen in neck folds, ears and all over body in heavy infestations. Only survive a few days off pig.	A number of sprays, injections and in-feed medications can be used. Follow label instructions to break life cycle.
Rectal prolapse	One sow in one outdoor medium herd	Southern Tasmania	Can be caused by excess heavy coughing, but in this case suspected whipworms.	Whipworms infest large bowel and can cause irritation and straining. Many worm treatments only kill a % of adult whipworms and eggs survive up to 6 years in soil.
POULTRY				
Paralysis	One rooster in one small flock	Southern Tasmania	Down, unable to stand. Suspected Mareks disease. Trauma, botulism also possible.	Mareks Disease caused by a very common virus that usually infects chicks soon after birth. Can cause paralysis of wings, neck, legs etc. No treatment available. Can be prevented by vaccination but vaccine only available in large packs. Euthanasia.