

## Livestock Health Monitoring Report – April 2019

The Tasmanian Livestock Health Monitoring Report is a pilot project designed to confidentially gather information on diseases and conditions in livestock in Tasmania, with some emphasis on sheep and Southern Tasmania.

The project has been established to convince our overseas trading partners that we don't have livestock diseases that they are concerned about, to keep our valuable export markets open and to stop risky imports coming in.

This information is collected confidentially from livestock industry service providers.

You are welcome to distribute this report to anyone you like.

The next Livestock Health Monitoring report will be out in mid June.

If you need more information on this project please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or [rja69392@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rja69392@bigpond.net.au).

Previous reports are available on <http://www.tasanimalhealth.weebly.com/>

<b>SHEEP</b>				
<b>Disease/condition</b>	<b>Number of reports/cases</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures</b>
Barbers Pole worm (Haemonchus)	A number of deaths in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Merino and XB lambs with bottle jaw, anaemia, drop out when driven. Deaths.	Treat with an effective drench. Use of long-acting drench such as closantel before Christmas worth considering.
Bloat/sudden death in lambs on lucerne or clover	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Lambs found dead and blown up	Can be due to true frothy bloat, pulpy kidney or red gut. Diagnosis by post mortem. Frothy bloat can be prevented by adding bloat oil to troughs. Give PK booster and offer roughage (eg hay).
CLA (cheesy gland)	Numerous flocks	Widespread	Seen in abattoir. Carcase trimming of abscesses in glands reduces 'over the hooks' payment to producer.	Make sure the CLA component is included in marking and weaning vaccinations.
Copper poisoning	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep die suddenly with anaemia and jaundice	Even a small excess of copper in the diet makes copper build up in the liver. A stress event releases all the copper and the red blood cells break down. No effective treatment. Copper uptake can be reduced in surviving sheep in the mob.
Eye peck	1 sheep one property	Northern Tasmania	Crows peck eye of down sheep	Treat cause of being down. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories
Fly strike	Several cases in one flock	Southern Tasmania.	Breech strike associated with scouring	Identify and correct causes of scouring. Chemical preventative treatments or frequent inspection and early treatment of strikes.

Foot abscess	Several flocks	Widespread with up to 8% prevalence within flocks.	Some severe cases seen in heavily pregnant ewes.	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 culls fit to load if transported.
Footrot (virulent)	A number of properties	Widespread,	Footrot actively spreading on irrigation or in wetter areas, the rest chronic cases.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of serogroup specific vaccines (see your vet for serogroup testing). Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling all infected sheep could be planned for next summer. Ensure culls fit to load if transported. Ask for a Sheep Health Declaration when buying sheep and ensure section B1 confirms flock is free of virulent footrot.
Footrot (mild)	3% of ewes in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Inflammation between toes but limited under-running of heel and sole of hoof.	Regular footbathing is usually sufficient to control. Hard to eradicate.
Grain poisoning	Several flock	Northern Tasmania	Sheep on grain feeding have porridge-like scour and look depressed, may die.	Drench with tablespoon of bicarb in water, take off all concentrate feeds and offer hay or dry pasture. Prevention: Introduce grain slowly (50g/head /day, increase by 50g/head/day every 2 <sup>nd</sup> day.
Hypocalcaemia ("milk fever")	5 out of 200 heavily pregnant ewes	Southern Tasmania	Late pregnancy ewes go down after period off feed or on cereal crops.	Treat with injection containing calcium (eg 4-in-1) 1/5 of a pack under skin. Warm pack in hot water before injection if possible and massage in well. Should get up within 30 minutes. If green rumen contents coming out of nostrils give antibiotic cover. Prevent with mineral supplement if on cereal crops, don't keep off feed long if shearing or crutching.
Lice (body lice)	Many cases	Widespread	Sheep body lice causing fleece damage.	Suppressive long-wool treatments can be used, watch wool handling and harvesting restrictions. Good separation of mobs if different shearing and treatment times. Use more recent lice products and good treatment technique for offshears eradication when shorn. Complete musters, good fences. Beware goats can carry sheep lice.
Liver fluke	Several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Seen as bottle jaw and anaemia, drop out back of mob when driven. Or feedback from abattoir.	Causes bottle jaw and anaemia when severe. Fluketest egg count or post mortem to diagnose. Use drench effective against immature fluke at this time of year.
Lumpy wool	Several cases in one flock	Northern Tasmania	Hard blocks of wool along top of back and other areas	Treat with long-acting oxytetracycline and keep dry. Shear when wool has grown out. Wool still valuable. Prevent by not yarding sheep when wet to skin.

Malnutrition	A number of flocks	Southern Tasmania	Sheep and lambs in low body condition score, some down.	Monitor condition by body condition scoring (feel for prominent ends of 'short ribs' in loin area). Supply additional feed as necessary.
Nitrate poisoning	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Sudden death, scouring, anaemia in lambs on sprayed capeweed.	Treat acute down cases with intravenous injection of methylene blue, remove from paddock. Keep stock off sprayed capeweed.
OJD (Ovine Johnes' Disease)	Several cases in three flocks (8 dead ex 400 in one)	Northern Tasmania and Southern Tasmania	Adult (2yo+) sheep lose weight, may or may not scour, don't respond to drench and die over a few months.	Sheep that lose weight and don't respond to drenching on OJD confirmed properties should be euthanased. Prevention: use Gudair vaccine, one shot at marking or weaning on all sheep to be kept on as adults. Vaccinate on side of neck under skin, taking care not to self-inject.
Pink eye	Many cases in two flocks	Northern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye.	If low percentage affected and on good feed and water leave alone to self-heal as mustering can increase spread within mob. Treat with antibiotic injections. Eye ointments/sprays less effective and should be repeated.
Pizzle rot	Several cases on one property	Northern Tasmania	Scab on end of pizzle, can block and create 'sheath rot'. Seen on high protein pastures.	Apply antiseptic if early lesion/small numbers. Use testosterone injections or modified castration as prevention for extensive problem.
Swelling in neck	One case in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Swelling full of fluid on neck (not between jaws)	May be haematoma (blood clot) or abscess or slow release drench capsule if application gun forced. Vet can disinfect skin, insert needle and check for blood/pus and drain/flush wound if appropriate. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.
Sarco	Many properties affected	Widespread	'Rice grain' like lesions seen in abattoir. Carcase trimming and condemnations reduces return to producer.	Spread by cats. Keep cats out of feed sheds and control cat numbers. Don't feed raw sheep meat to cats. Clean up carcasses promptly.
Scabby Mouth	Small number of cases in ewes in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Crusty scabs on lips or above hooves.	Best to leave sheep alone on good feed to heal themselves. Prevention by vaccination of lambs at marking. Once on a property the virus persists for many years.
Sheep measles	Mostly low % cases in many flocks.	Widespread	Small knotty lumps in carcase muscle. Trimming and condemnation at abattoir reduces return to producer.	Spread by dogs. Treat all dogs on property with wormer containing praziquantel every month. Insist hunters and contractors treat their dogs 2 days before entry. Control stray dogs.

Toe abscess	Many cases one flock	Northern Tasmania	Marked lameness, no swelling	Carefully pare the tip of the toe of the hoof, follow any blackened tracks back up hoof until small amount of foul pus drains out. Can use antibiotics and anti-inflammatories but drainage alone usually results in rapid cure.
Vaccination abscess	A number of cases in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Lumps under skin at vaccination site or abscess in muscle if vaccinated too deep.	Use short needles ( $\frac{1}{4}$ inch for shorn, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch for woolly) and vaccinate high on <b>side</b> of neck ( <b>never</b> in top of neck, armpit or into back leg) especially if using Gudair.
Worms	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring weaners, high faecal egg count	Differentiate from nutritional scour by WORMTEST. Use effective drench. Check that drench is working by repeating egg count 10-14 days later. Try to plan 'clean' paddocks for weaned lambs and pre-lamb drenched ewes.
<b>CATTLE</b>				
Cooperia	100% of weaner cattle with nearly pure Cooperia worm infections	Northern Tasmania	Scour, low growth rates.	Treat with effective drench. Try to create "clean" paddocks for weaner cattle. Monitor with WORTEST every month.
Lameness, post transport	2/8 affected on one property	Southern Tasmania	Lameness, swollen lower limbs after unloading	Treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Prevention: Best to source cattle direct from interstate properties rather than saleyards if importing. Ensure adequate rest stops if long journey.
Liver fluke	Abattoir feedback – several properties	Southern Tasmania	Bottle jaw and anaemia rare in cattle. Usually seen as poor growth rates in young cattle or low BCS in adults.	Treat all cattle in late winter with effective adult flukicide in fluke areas. May need autumn treatments for immatures as well in heavily infested areas.
<b>PIGS</b>				
Arthritis (degenerative)	One old pig on one property	Southern Tasmania	Lame, hard swollen joint, not hot to touch.	Anti-inflammatories or cull.
Greasy pig disease	One property	Southern Tasmania	Piglets/weaners with greasy smelly skin, progresses to scabs/crusts	Treat with antibiotic injections and wash skin with antiseptic early in course of disease.
Ringworm	One property	Southern Tasmania	Reddish circular skin lesions on body, can be very large and crusty.	Treat with iodine or copper sulphate solutions. May heal naturally without treatment after a couple of months. Can spread to man.
<b>GOATS</b>				

Rhododendron poisoning	1 goat on one property	Southern Tasmania	Salivation weakness laboured breathing, death	Veterinary treatment.
Spinal damage	1 goat on one property	Southern Tasmania	Weak hind legs, unable to stand	Veterinary assessment/treatment or euthanase.
Worms	1 goat one property	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, down	Treat with effective drench. Some drenches don't work well in goats as goats break some drenches down rapidly. Drench resistance is common. Assess worm burdens with faecal egg counts (WORMTEST) and assess effectiveness of drench 10-14 days after drenching. Feed well and try to create 'clean' paddocks.