

Livestock Health Monitoring Report – December 2018

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 February.

If you need more information on this project please contact Bruce Jackson on 0407 872 520 or rja69392@bigpond.net.au.

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Barber's Pole worm stomach hair worm and black scour worm	A number of Merino weaners from one flock died.	Southern Tasmania	Diagnosed at post mortem	Barber's Pole worms suck blood and cause anaemia so sheep can die without scouring. Check inside of eyelids to see if they are pale. Bottle jaw can also be seen. Worm egg counts on manure samples should be conducted every 3 weeks from now till first frosts if property has history of Barber's Pole. Do a Drenchtest (worm egg count 10-14 days after drenching) to ensure drench family is effective.
Bottle jaw	Several ewes in one flock.	Southern 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.
Dermo (Lumpy wool)	One flock.	Southern Tasmania	Usually young sheep in wet years.	Long-acting oxytetracycline injection after it stops raining, wait 6-8 weeks and shear. Wool still saleable. Prevention- avoid yarding sheep when wet to the skin.
Dog attack	One flock.	Southern Tasmania	Often a lot more deep tissue damage than apparent from outside.	Good nursing, surgical drainage of wounds, suturing wounds, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and pain relief.
Swollen ear in rams	One case in one flock	Southern Tasmania.	One ear becomes swollen and pillow-shaped.	Usually a blood clot (haematoma) that forms between the layers of the ear due to fighting with other rams. Usually OK if just left to heal (ear will end up looking deformed), or surgical drainage (see vet)
Fly strike	Many cases	Widespread in Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Mostly breech strike but body strike too.	Identify and correct causes of scouring. Chemical preventative treatments or frequent inspection and early treatment of strikes.

Foot abscess	Several flocks	Widespread but low prevalence within flocks.	Most cases in healing phase now.	Keep mob average BCS to 3 - 3.3, 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	A number of properties	Widespread, even in composite, Coopworth, and Dorset cross sheep.	Footrot actively spreading in lambs and ewes.	Paring, footbathing, culling chronic cases, use of serogroup specific vaccines (see your vet for serogroup testing). Eradication by repeated foot inspections and culling between now and autumn break if re-infection from outside sources unlikely. Ensure culls fit to load if transported.
Hind legs paralysed	One case, one flock	Northern Tasmania	Most likely fractured spine, but broken pelvis can look similar.	Euthanase. Post mortem can localise fracture. Fractures can be due to accident/trauma, copper or Vitamin D deficiency. Test and correct.
Lice (body lice)	Many cases	Widespread	Sheep body lice causing wool damage in many flocks.	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.
Mastitis in ewes	One ewe, one small flock.	Southern Tasmania	One half or all of udder hard and lumpy. May or may not be able to milk any clotted milk or pus out of teat.	Treat with antibiotic and pain relief. Usually best to cull the ewe after weaning and expiry of Export Slaughter Interval for antibiotic.
Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD) vaccination abscess	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Large lumps at site of vaccination	Gudair vaccine must be injected under the skin high on the side of the neck. Lumps there are unsightly but do no harm. Do not vaccinate on top of the neck, under skin of armpit or into muscle, especially of hind leg.
Pink eye in sheep	Several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye.	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. Eye ointments/sprays less effective.
Pizzle rot in wethers	Many cases, one flock	Southern 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).
Redgut	Widespread on irrigated Lucerne and clover.	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Lambs on Lucerne or clover for 3+ weeks. Sudden death, rapid bloating of carcase	Post mortem shows intestines twisted and dark red. Provide access to roughage.

Sebaceous cysts	Several cases in two small flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Large round lumps slowly grow from skin of neck or back, top may become horn-like.	Surgical drainage or excision.
Scrotal hernia in ram	One case, one flock	Southern Tasmania	One side of scrotum enlarged and soft, not usually painful.	Ram unlikely to be fertile. Cull.
Sudden deaths in lambs on Lucerne or clover	Many cases, many flocks	Southern and Northern Tasmania	Found dead, carcass blown up. Can be due to red gut, pulpy kidney or bloat.	Red gut see above. Post mortem to determine cause. Bloat oil in troughs for bloat, additional PK vaccination or use 8-in-one vaccine for pulpy kidney.
Urea poisoning	Several cases, one flock	Southern Tasmania	Shaking, quivering, fits and sudden death after access to fertiliser, feed or blocks containing urea.	Treat with oral weak acid such as vinegar if found alive. Ensure blocks containing urea are not left out in rain. Ensure levels in feed are safe.
White muscle disease in lambs	A number of lambs in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Lamb stiff with hard muscles. Whitish areas in main muscle groups would be seen if post mortem conducted.	Treat ewes with selenium in pre-lambing drench or vaccination, with intra-ruminal pellets every 3 years or add selenium to fertiliser every 2 years. Affected lambs can be given oral selenium and can recover with good nursing.
Wool break	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep shed fleece or staple can be easily pulled apart.	Caused by any stress but usually nutritional or disease event eg black udder at lambing, sudden restriction of feed, so prevention is reducing risks of such stress events.
CATTLE				
Abscess under jaw	One case in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Lump under jaw, may or may not discharge pus.	Vet can drain, and administer antibiotics
Mastitis	One case in one herd	Southern Tasmania	This case suppurative (a lot of pus in udder)	May require surgical drainage and antibiotics.
Pink Eye in cattle	Several herds	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks, white areas on cornea of eye.	Can treat with eye ointment or injections, glue patch over eye, suture eyelids. Prevention – vaccine against the three most common strains in Tasmania is available.

Pneumonia/travel sickness in cattle imported from mainland.	Several mobs of imported cattle on several properties	Northern Tasmania	Difficulty breathing 2-3 weeks after long journey.	Treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Prevention – reduce stresses and contacts with other cattle, unload for a spell during long journeys.
ALPACAS				
Vaccination site abscess	A number of cases in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Lumps under skin at vaccination site.	Ensure vaccination equipment clean and sterilised.
PIGS				
No reports of illness				
GOATS				
Injuries	One goat in two herds	Southern Tasmania	Wire and stake wounds	Wound drainage, suturing antibiotics, spray. Prevention – remove hazards.