

## Livestock Health Monitoring Report – June 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 August.

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/>

SHEEP				
Disease/condition	Number of reports/cases	Region	Details	Prevention, treatment, and other biosecurity advice or measures
Abortion detected at scanning.	Outbreaks on two properties	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Both diagnosed at scanning. 10% of mixed age ewes in one, 20% in the other.	Take bloods for Toxo testing and vaginal swabs from ewes with evidence of recent abortion to lab for diagnosis. Campylobacter Toxo, Listeria, Salmonella all possible causes. Watch for aborted lambs as these provide best diagnosis.
Arthritis in weaned lambs	A number of weaners in one flock.	Southern Tas.	Crippled or lame lambs,	Post-marking arthritis reduced by good marking hygiene, drop lambs from cradle so they land on their feet, removing tails at third joint (level with tip of vulva in ewe lambs). Submit recently affected lambs or joints to laboratory to culture for Erysipelas and use vaccine if detected. Antibiotics can help if used early in course of disease.
Arthritis in ram	One young adult ram in one flock.	Northern Tas.	Adult ram grazing on his knees.	Antibiotics can help if used early in course of disease. Also use anti-inflammatory treatments if necessary.
Black Scours	A number of flocks	Southern Tas.	Diarrhoea.	Usually caused by black scour worm ( <i>Trichostrongylus vitrinus</i> ). Treat with effective drench. May need to use a long-acting drench product if no "clean" paddocks are available as high levels of worm larvae will have built up on pastures sheep are on when scour develops. See WORMBOSS web site.

Copper poisoning	A number of sheep in one flock being fed pellets	Northern 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 once anaemic. Oral molybdenum and sulphur can reduce copper uptake in surviving sheep in the mob.
Cud stain	Two sheep on one property	Northern Tasmania	Green stain around mouth.	One had molar teeth missing and grass impacting in mouth, the other had a paralysed cheek (probably due to vaccination injuring facial nerve) and grass impacting between cheek and molars.
Foot abscess	Several flocks	Northern and Southern Tasmania.	Some severe cases seen in heavy rams. Many old healed cases with residual lameness.	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)	Widespread	Southern and Northern Tasmania,	Footrot actively spreading now.	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)	15 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.
Hanging around water	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Sheep seen near water trough most of the time.	Can be excessive thirst or unpalatable water. Check for diarrhoea, grain poisoning, excess salt in ration or supplements, blue-green algae or other contaminants of water source.
Lice (body lice)	Many cases	Widespread	Sheep body lice causing 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.	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 off-shears eradication when shorn. Complete musters, good

				fences. Beware goats can carry sheep lice.
Listeria	5 sheep across 3 properties	Northern Tasmania	Sheep may have head tilt, walk in circles, die. Often associated with silage or brassica bulb feeding.	This case associated with wrapped clover silage. Remove from offending feed. Treat early with antibiotics but usually unsuccessful.
Malnutrition	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Sheep and lambs in low body condition score, some down, wool break detected at shearing.	Monitor nutrition levels by body condition scoring (feel for prominent ends of 'short ribs' in loin area). Supply additional feed if less than condition score 2.
Sudden death	One death in one flock, several deaths in another flock	Southern Tasmania	Single ewe dropped out and died when driven. Not anaemic. Weaners found dead on turnips.	Check for anaemia (Barber's Pole worm or brassica anaemia - seen after 3 weeks on brassica leaf). If not anaemic can be variety of odd conditions. If suspect brassica anaemia take off for 10 days and re-introduce with good quality hay or run-off or run them onto crop for a few hours a day.
Off-shears losses	Several flocks	Southern Tasmania	Recently shorn sheep found dead after cold/wet/windy night	Fill sheep up with plenty of roughage (eg hay, silage) and a small amount of grain as well if possible. Place in most sheltered areas available - ideally a shed, otherwise lee side of hill, with vegetation cover to break wind.
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.
Photosensitisation	A number affected in one flock,	Southern Tasmania	Sheep on turnips.	Usually this means the brassica crop is too immature, remove sheep for several weeks and try them again later.
Rickets	A number affected in one flock,	Southern Tasmania	Wool lambs in full wool.	May be best to confirm diagnosis via necropsy and testing. Treat: Inject with Vitamin D (usually an ADE product) but take care handing sheep to prevent more bone fractures.
Toxoplasmosis	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Antibodies detected.	Expose maidens before mating by running them in areas frequented by breeding cats.
Worms	Widespread	Northern and Southern Tasmania	Scouring weaners, adults, high faecal egg count.	Differentiate from nutritional scour or coccidia 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>				
Liver fluke.	Abattoir feedback - several properties.	Southern Tasmania.	Bottle jaw and anaemia rare in cattle. Usually seen as sub-optimal growth rates in young cattle or low condition score 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.
Malnutrition	Widespread	Southern Tasmania.	Low body condition score	Monitor condition and supplementary feed if BCS drops to 2.
Ringworm	One property	Southern Tasmania	Only in young cattle, persistent	Best left alone, does not affect growth rates much and will self-cure in majority of cases after several months. Can spread to man. Pet calves can be treated with an iodine preparation - wear gloves, bathe off crusts and apply daily.
Split hooves	A number of cattle in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Vertical splits form in the wall of the hoof.	May be conformation (and possibly hereditary) vitamin/mineral deficiency or dry cold conditions. Unless causing lameness, leave alone. If lame may need to check for hoof abscess and feed dietary supplement with copper, zinc, vitamins A, D, E and biotin.