

## Livestock Health Monitoring Report – November 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-January.

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

<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>
Bent legs in lambs (Chondrodysplasia)	One flock, one lamb	Southern Tasmania	Front legs deformed, bent in or out at knees.	Can be hereditary (Suffolk, South Down, Hampshire, Cheviot), due to eating wild parsnip, from calcium/phosphorus mineral imbalance or of unknown cause. Splinting, surgery or euthanasia recommended.
Black udder in ewes	Several ewes, two flocks.	Northern and southern Tasmania	One half of udder goes cold and grey, blood-stained fluid can be milked out of teat. Usually caused by a Staph bacteria.	Acute cases caught early – treat with antibiotic and pain relief. If teat is cold and dead, remove it so toxic fluids can drain. Isolate from flock. A lot of udder tissue will die, must be gently cleaned out and can heal up over time.
Contracted tendons in front legs in lambs	Two flocks, small numbers of lambs.	Northern and southern Tasmania	Lambs unable to walk, properly. Unable to stretch front legs out fully.	One case in October was associated with low levels of Manganese but another case tested had normal Manganese.
Cough, persistent, in ewes, then their lambs.	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Ewes and lambs cough, little response to lungworm drench.	If little response to lungworm drench then probably an infection. May be viral. Use antibiotics if production loss/deaths occur and post mortem indicates bacterial involvement.

Cystic/cancerous udders in crossbred milking ewes	One flock, small numbers of ewes.	Southern Tasmania	Very enlarged deformed udders.	Cull.
Dermo (Lumpy wool)	Three medium wool, spring shorn flocks, 5% of hoggets.	Northern Tasmania	Usually young sheep in wet years. These all shorn as lambs.	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.
Downer ewe with eye damage by crows.	One case	Southern Tasmania	Full wool and in good condition.	Hold ewe up on feet and massage legs until she can walk off. Eye ointment for eye damage. Maintain BCS 3, shear every 8-12 months.
Entropion (turned-in eyelids) in lambs.	Multiple cases, several flocks	Northern and southern Tasmania	Lower eyelid turns in and eyelashes rub on cornea of eye causing discharge and partial blindness	Usually hereditary. Roll eyelid back out and apply eye ointment. Injecting half a ml of antibiotic under skin of affected eyelids can also work.
Face lice	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Sucking lice, larger and darker than body lice, attach around head area but seen all over body in heavy infestations.	Drench mob with ML family drench. Repeat in 15 days if short-acting ML.
Fly strike	Many cases	Widespread, very severe in Derwent Valley.	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	Foot abscess was relatively common in heavy ewes, especially if bearing multiples, not shorn recently or grazing in crops with muddy conditions underfoot. 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 (i.e. on slatted floor of shearing shed), Epsom salts on drainage point and bandage. Preferentially feed to prevent pregnancy toxemia.
Footrot	Several properties	Widespread	Footrot actively spreading in lambs and ewes.	Responding well to foot bathing. Plan eradication if possible when conditions underfoot dry out.

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 there are different shearing/treatment times. Use more recent lice products and good treatment technique for off-shears eradication when shorn. Complete musters and ensure good fences.
Lumpy jaw	Several cases, one flock	Northern Tasmania	Bony swelling of lower jaw around incisor teeth	Cause unknown. Sheep condition not affected in early stages. Cull.
Mycoplasma ovis anaemia in lambs	Two outbreaks in one flock	Southern Tasmania	Usually seen several weeks after marking, but rarely during marking. Lambs can't walk far when mustered, pale gums, deaths.	Infection is spread through marking equipment or insects and destroys red blood cells, resulting in anaemia. Lambs will recover if left alone on good feed and water for 4-6 weeks. Can treat whole mob with oxytetracycline antibiotic.
Navel ill (infected belly button) in lambs	Several cases, in several flocks	Southern and northern Tasmania	Wet and mushy around the belly button (umbilicus) or seen as large swelling (abscess) on flank near belly button	Try to lamb down in clean paddocks without too much mud. Ensure good colostrum intake in first 12 hrs of life. Can treat with broad-spectrum antibiotics.
Ovine Johne's Disease (OJD)	One flock	Southern Tasmania	Adult sheep lose weight, may or may not scour, don't respond to drench, and die within weeks to months.	Best diagnosis by post mortem on typical case. Use Gudair vaccine at marking or weaning every year. Reduces losses to very low levels over time. Can start off by vaccinating whole flock.
PEM (polioencephalomalacia)	Three flocks (one confirmed, two suspected)	Northern and southern Tasmania	'Star gazing', blindness, other neurological signs, deaths	Usually associated with rich diet. Treat early with vitamin B1 injections. Animal Health Australia subsidies available for post mortems on neurological cases.
Pneumonia in pet lamb	One pet lamb in one small flock	Southern Tas	Respiratory distress.	Lamb responded well to antibiotics.
Puffy knees in stud rams	One flock	Northern Tas	Skin over knees swollen. Unknown cause.	Rams responded well resting time.

Scabby Mouth	Low % of lambs	Three flocks, northern and southern Tasmania	In one flock 5% were affected despite being vaccinated at marking	Vaccinate at marking. Vaccine must not be frozen. Follow label instructions for applying vaccine.
Scald	One flock. Lambs but not ewes on irrigated pasture	Northern Tasmania	Lambs lame with score 1 and 2 lesions (less than 2mm under-running of hoof horn at heel)	Also called benign footrot. Re-check in 14 days to ensure not progressing to virulent footrot. Usually responds to foot bathing and dry conditions underfoot.
Scrotal mange	Northern Tasmania	One flock	Bare crusty area at bottom of scrotum. Can affect pasterns as well in severe cases.	May result in lowered fertility if more than 10 square cm of scrotum affected. See veterinary advice for treatment.
Scours in crossbred lambs with low worm egg counts	One flock, small number of lambs	Northern Tasmania	Thought to be due to eating weeds	Some weeds such as capeweed can cause scours. Could also be due to mild bacterial gut infection or worms. If problem becomes significant some testing worthwhile. Hard to control capeweed at this time of year.
Scouring with high worm egg counts	Many cases	Widespread	Prolonged parasite season due to wet November in many areas	Use WORMTEST regularly or to confirm cause of scouring. Check drenches are working with DRENCHTEST 10-14 days after drenching.
Swollen teste in ram	One case, one flock	Southern Tasmania	One testicle enlarged and painful.	Could be due to infection, trauma or strangulation of cord. Treat with antibiotics, anti-inflammatories or surgical removal. If other teste undamaged, ram may still be fertile.
Toe abscess	Several cases, one flock	Northern Tasmania	Foot not swollen, but very lame. Black mark at point of toe seen when pared back, pus can drain out at coronary band at front of hoof.	Pare point of toe carefully until pus is released (may be 'dirty' and small volume). Administer antibiotics and pain relief.
Vulval deformity in ewe lambs	Widespread	Northern and southern Tasmania	Urine staining of breech wool. Thought to be genetically pre-disposed.	May be best not to breed from affected ewe lambs.
<b>CATTLE</b>				
Calf deaths	Multiple cases in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Well-grown calves 2-6 weeks after marking. Froth at mouth.	Possible plant or lead poisoning or clostridial disease. Check paddock for plants and old batteries, vaccinate with 5-in-1. Complete post-mortem if fresh body found.

Cooperia worms in 15-month old cattle	Multiple cases in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Well-grown yearlings growing well, but with egg counts up to 700epg.	Most text books claim Cooperia worms don't hurt cattle badly and disappear by 12 months old. However, experience has been that Cooperia can harm weaners. These older cattle don't appear to be clinically affected. May still treat to reduce pasture larvae contamination for next year's weaners.
Eye cancer in Angus cow.	One case in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Growth or ulceration of eye or eyelid. More common in breeds with white pigmentation around eye.	Very early growths can be frozen, burnt (electrocautery) or scraped off. More advanced require surgery. Severe cases will require euthanasia. Don't transport if cow can't close eyelid over growth.
Foot injury/infection in calf	One case in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Only one claw affected	Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Keep dry, restrict movement.
Grass seeds in eyes	Several cases in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Discharge down cheeks as seen in cases of Pink Eye	Examine eye carefully, especially behind third eyelid. Remove all of grass seed carefully. Administer antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Control Barley grass.
Incomplete castration by rubber rings	Several cases in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Rubber rings used to castrate bull calves	Rubber rings should only be used on bull calves up to 2 weeks of age.
Pneumonia/travel sickness in cattle	One mob of imported cattle	Southern Tasmania	Difficulty breathing after long journey.	Treat with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories. Prevention – reduce stresses and contacts with other cattle during long journeys.
Virus (suspected) infection in steers	Three affected (two deaths on one property)	Southern Tasmania	Recently transported from Northern Tas.	Antibiotic cover and good nursing
Wooden Tongue in cows	Two cases in one herd	Northern Tasmania	Difficulty eating, tongue may stick out a bit.	Intravenous iodine given by vet usually best treatment. Antibiotic injections may work. Reduce access to spikey plants.
<b>ALPACAS</b>				

Nasal dermatitis	One case in one herd	Southern Tasmania	Skin changes over nose.	Check for facial eczema, scabby mouth or photosensitization, treat accordingly.
<b>PIGS</b>				
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. Best to re-treat after 10 days to break life cycle.
<b>GOATS</b>				
Lice	Several herds	Southern Tasmania	Goats can be infested with both sucking lice (large and dark), and body lice (smaller, lighter colour) Only survive a few days off goat.	Sprays, pour-on and powder treatments available. Re-treat (sprays, powder) after 15 days to break life cycle.
Wasting in adult goats	One herd	Southern Tasmania	Could be chronic worms, liver fluke, Johne's disease, or Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE).	Treat for worms and fluke. Have vet investigate if little response.
Worms in weaner goats	One herd	Southern Tasmania	Scouring, losing weight	Confirm with egg count. Treat with drenches registered for goats or off-label as per vet's instructions.