



RED MEAT UPDATES

T A S M A N I A

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On-farm biosecurity

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Why biosecurity?

- Prevent or minimise impacts of weeds, pest and disease on your business.
- Reduce production costs.
- Gain and maintain market access.



Today

- Prevention
- On-farm, ongoing
- Early action to limit new disease
- Market access



Prevention is better than cure

- Introducing new animals is highest risk.
- Isolating introduced animals on arrival is critical.
- **National Farm Biosecurity Checklist —
Grazing Livestock Production Animal Health
Australia.**
- See our stall for minimalist LPA and J-BAS 6 guidelines.

Introducing new sheep

- Sheep Health Declaration
- Walk through footbath on entry
- Quarantine drench/empty out in yards/10 day WORMTEST



Introducing new sheep

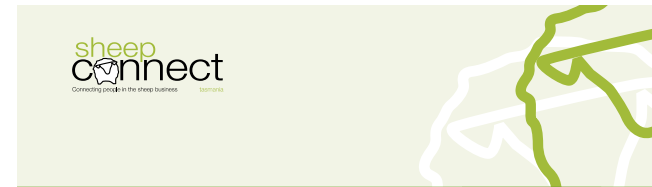
- Isolate as long as practical.
- Foot inspection/lame sheep check.
- OJD vaccination?
- Check/treat for lice.



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Ongoing management practices (sheep measles, sarco, toxo, OJD etc)

- SheepConnect Tasmania fact sheets



factsheet

Key messages

- Sheep measles can cause significant economic impact with lost yield due to carcase condemnation.
- Dogs are the primary host for tapeworms, which are the primary disease agent. Dogs infected with adult tapeworms excrete eggs, which can be ingested by sheep.
- Eggs can be swallowed during grazing and hatch inside sheep where the immature larvae form cysts in the organs of infected animals.
- Worm dogs monthly with praziquantel to break the parasite life cycle and burn or bury any of offal and livestock carcasses.



What are sheep measles?

Sheep measles, also known as *Cysticercus ovis*, is the cystic stage of the dog tapeworm (*Taenia ovis*). Despite a similar name and life cycle, this parasite is not the same as bladder worm (*Taenia hydatigena*) or hydatids (*Echinococcus granulosus*).

The cysts form in the organs of intermediate host animals — sheep and goats.

Economic impact

If there are more than five cysts in the sheep carcass, the whole carcass is condemned at the abattoir. If there are five or less cysts, processors will trim the carcass as required, reducing profits.

Infected offal (liver heart lungs) is condemned.

Parasite life cycle

The adult dog tapeworm lives in the intestines of dogs. Worm eggs pass out in the dog's faeces onto pasture and are ingested by sheep during grazing.

The larvae burrow through the wall of the sheep's intestine into the bloodstream and lodge in muscle tissue. Here they develop into oval-shaped cysts, especially in the skeletal muscles, heart, diaphragm, cheek muscles and oesophagus (see Figure 1).



SheepConnect Connecting people in the sheep business

“A stitch in time saves nine”

- Early action to **minimise losses**.
- Signs in livestock or wildlife.
- Act on first weird case.



Early reaction

- Isolate affected group.
- Talk to trusted animal health advisor.
- Take and send photos if you can.



Market access

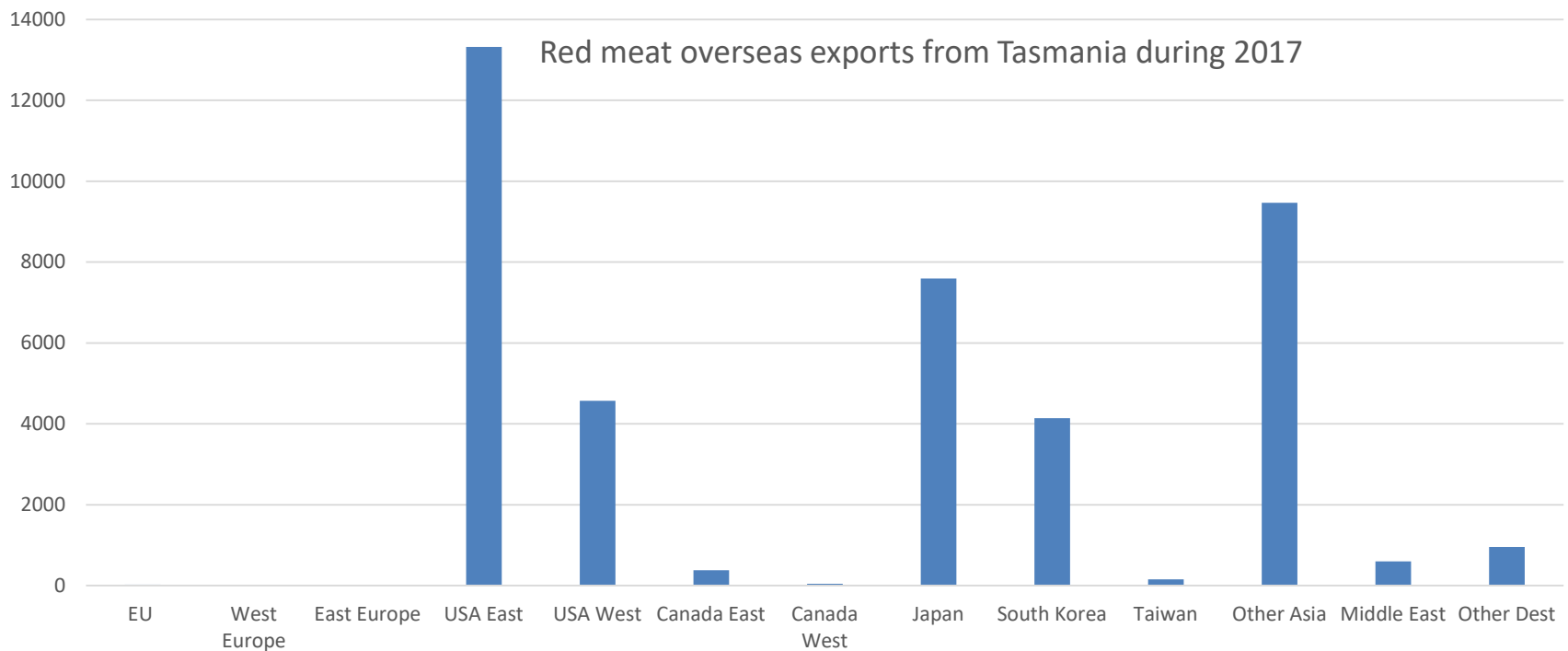
“Australia conducts surveillance and accurately reports our disease and health status, we rely on this status to access export markets”

Mark Schipp, Australian Chief Veterinary Officer



Where does our red meat go?

- More than 70% exported — USA, Japan, Asia



Overseas market access

- Our red meat export partners want evidence we are looking hard for diseases they don't want.

Why are some outbreaks not reported?



Pilot disease monitoring project

Aims:

- Identify barriers to reporting disease incidence.
- Develop model that collects good disease info.
- Recommend a practical and low-cost system.



Confidential and anonymous

- Confidential/anonymous system.
- Non-departmental interface.
- Focus on southern Tasmanian sheep.



Initial model

- Network of industry people
 - producers, vets, contractors etc

Pilot project

- Free, local, confidential and anonymous vet advice
 - email, mobile – text or voice
 - photos if possible
- Monthly feedback



Top three take home messages

1. Good animal entry programs
2. Good ongoing management practices
3. Early reaction to outbreaks

A rectangular sign with a red border. At the top, the word "VISITORS" is in white bold capital letters inside a red rounded rectangle. Below this, "PLEASE RESPECT" is in black bold capital letters, and "FARM BIOSECURITY" is in red bold capital letters. A horizontal line separates this from the text "Please phone or visit the office before entering". Below this text is a small black telephone icon. Another horizontal line follows, then the text "Do not enter property without prior approval" in red, and "Vehicles, people and equipment can carry weed seeds, pests and diseases" in red. At the bottom are three logos: "animalhealth AUSTRALIA" (black), "farmbiosecurity" (black) with a stylized double arrow icon, and "Plant Health AUSTRALIA" (black).

Tools, resources & training

- <http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/toolkit/>
- <https://sheepconnecttas.com.au/disease-factsheets/>
- <https://www.mla.com.au/prices-markets/overseas-markets/market-access/>
- <https://www.mla.com.au/meat-safety-and-traceability/red-meat-integrity-system/about-the-livestock-production-assurance-program/seven-lpa-requirements/biosecurity/>



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Come and see us at our stand for
templates and resources

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