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## **A Newly Emerging Cause of Diarrhea in Weanling Foals Raymond D. Rood, D.V.M.**

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About 6 weeks are left in breeding season, and many foals are at, or approaching, weaning. There has been an increased incidence of diarrhea and dependent edema in 4-10 month old foals caused by a bacterium called *Lawsonia Intracellularis*.

The bacteria causes moderate to severe diarrhea that will not respond to common treatments, and dependent edema in the throatlatch and along the abdomen and chest. The edema results from a low serum total protein content that is common in affected foals. A positive serum titer for *Lawsonia* can help to diagnose the condition.

Treatment is based on appropriate antibiotics, and supportive care. Plasma transfusions may be required to correct excessively low total protein content that is common in some foals.

If you suspect that you may be having a problem similar to this condition, please contact your veterinarian.