POULT ENTERITIS

• A highly contagious disease of turkeys that is characterized by profuse diarrhea and high mortality in young poults.

• A variation called "spiking mortality " has become a major problem in GA and NC adding 2-3 weeks to the growth period.
VIRUS

• A coronavirus has been isolated that will reproduce the disease.
• Many other viruses appear to be involved - reovirus, rotavirus, astrovirus, and others.
INCUBATION PERIOD

2-3 days. Spreads very rapidly.
COURSE OF DISEASE

2 weeks

MORTALITY

Poults - 10-50%
METHODS OF SPREAD

• Contamination of litter, feed and water with infected fecal material.

• Carriers do develop and serve as a source of infection for young poults.
SIGNS

POULTS

• Restlessness, increased noise
• Depression
• Anorexia - prominent keel
• Brownish diarrhea - flush between 8-10 weeks of age losing 1-2 lbs.
• Unevenness, feathering problem
• High mortality
Diarrhea
Diarrhea
Feathering Abnormalities
POSTMORTEM LESIONS

POULTS

• Watery gaseous distention of the intestinal tract
• Emaciation
• Severe enteritis
• Spleen reduced in size
• Litter in gizzards
• Thymus atrophy
Emaciation
Emaciation
Fluid, gassy intestines
Fluid, gassy intestines
Fluid, gassy intestines
Litter in gizzard
TREATMENT

- Broad spectrum antibiotics (i.e. penicillin)
  Reduce mortality by controlling secondary infections.
- Electrolytes
- Increase in environmental heat
PREVENTION

- Isolation rearing of young poults
- Strict sanitation
- Depopulation and clean up to break cycle
- Vaccine available for reovirus immunization of breeder hens.

Immunity is passed to poults resulting in lower mortality.