

Preface

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS). The theme of this year's seminar, "35 Years of Dairying: Knowledge, Pride and Passion," encompasses challenges, opportunities and advancements in the dairy industry. The seminar comprises seven sessions, including:

- Industry Challenges and Perspectives
- Farm Management
- Nutrition
- Student Research and Producer Presentations
- Reproduction
- Cow Management and Welfare
- Technology and Facilities

An important part of the success of WCDS over the years has been the guidance and support of the Advisory Committee. This committee includes representation from academia, the provincial and federal governments, Alberta Milk, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Nutrition Association of Canada, equipment manufacturers, financial institutions, milk processors, and pharmaceutical companies, as well as a committee member from each of the other three western provinces. Many thanks to the Advisory Committee for their hard work, and to Kate Davies for her superb organizational skills as seminar coordinator.

Another key to the success of the WCDS is our great line up of speakers who are recognized nationally and internationally in their area of expertise. The advisory committee gives its heartfelt thanks to the speakers for making the WCDS an outstanding success; the speakers' oral presentations and in-depth papers published in these proceedings certainly reflect their knowledge of, and commitment to, dairying.

Special thanks to our sponsors for their continued financial support. This support is essential to maintaining a quality seminar, as it allows us to invite the very best speakers while still maintaining a reasonable registration fee.

The mission of the WCDS is to contribute to the development of the dairy industry by providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in research, technology, and policy that influence production efficiency, quality, and marketing of milk and dairy products. Delegates come from a broad cross section of the dairy industry, which includes producers, feed industry personnel, consultants, veterinarians, various services companies, government and university/college personnel. We are especially pleased that the seminar continues to attract the innovators and leaders in the dairy industry. We have no doubt that this has a significant multiplier effect in terms of impact on the efficiency and sustainability of the dairy industry.

We hope you enjoy these proceedings.

Lorraine Doepel and Michael Steele
Program Co-Chairs