

# Preface

We are very excited to deliver the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS). The theme of this year's seminar is "Achieving Dairy Excellence". This seminar brings together experts from around the world speaking about a variety of topics, including an up to date overview of the challenges, opportunities and advancements in the dairy industry. The 2018 seminar comprises seven sessions:

- Transforming Challenges into Opportunities
- Principles of Farm Management
- Fundamental of Nutritional Management
- Student Research and Producer Presentations
- Advances in Genetics and Reproduction
- Replacements – Management Pre- and Post-weaning
- Healthy Cows Produce Health Milk

The WCDS would not be possible without the guidance, support and commitment of the Advisory Committee. The committee has a collection of various backgrounds such as academic, government, animal nutrition, veterinary medicine, pharmaceutical, finance, farm service, milk processing, Alberta Milk from all four Western provinces. We are so fortunate to work with such a dedicated Advisory Committee team, who along with – and especially because of – our fantastic conference coordinator, Kate Davies, brings the quality of the seminar to the highest level.

We are always fortunate to have some of the most passionate and innovative speakers in the world at our seminar. Not only are our speakers leaders in their technical areas of interest, but they also value and enjoy engaging with the industry, which is of utmost importance to ensure new knowledge meets end-users. We sincerely thank all of the speakers for taking time out of their hectic schedules to share their knowledge with us through both the proceedings and the seminar.

We are committed to fulfilling the mission of the WCDS 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. It is always exciting to see delegates from such a broad cross section of the dairy industry - including producers, nutritionists, consultants, veterinarians, services companies, government, university/college personnel and students – come together to learn and network. This exchange of ideas and contacts is so critical to advancing our dairy industry. We also appreciate all of the financial support from our sponsors as it allows us to invite the very best speakers while still maintaining a reasonable registration fee. This support is essential to delivering a quality seminar,

In closing, we hope you enjoy these proceedings and the event and thank you for being a part of the WCDS.

Michael Steele  
Program Chair