
Preface

As program co-chairs we take great pleasure in delivering the 38th Annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS) and welcoming you to Red Deer, Alberta. The theme of the 2020 seminar is “Looking Beyond 2020”. This year’s seminar has the following seven sessions:

- Future Matters
- Secrets of Healthy Feeding
- Human and Cattle Well-Being
- Student Research and Producer Panel
- Nurturing the Next Generation
- Enhancing Herd Fertility
- Herd Health – Protect, Monitor, Investigate

The continued success of the WCDS is attributable to the guidance, support and commitment of the WCDS Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee includes representatives from academia, the provincial and federal governments, Alberta Milk, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Nutrition Association of Canada, dairy equipment manufacturers, financial institutions, milk processors, pharmaceutical industry, as well as representatives from each of the four Western provinces. We thank the Advisory Committee members for their input and advice in shaping this year’s program. We specially acknowledge the tremendous support of our conference coordinator, Kate Davies, who always goes the extra mile to ensure that the excellence of the seminar is maintained.

We are fortunate to have some of the best speakers in the world at this year’s WCDS. As teachers, researchers, extension specialists and industry experts, our speakers are not only leaders in their areas of expertise, but they are also passionate about engaging with and learning from the industry. To ensure that effective knowledge-sharing occurs both ways, we encourage attendees to connect with speakers through active participation in question sessions and panel discussions, and at informal settings. Our special thanks to all sponsors for their continued financial support. Without the generous support of our sponsors it would not be possible to bring you the speakers of this caliber while keeping the registration fee quite affordable.

The WCDS was founded in 1982 with a vision to support the growth and success of the Canadian dairy industry. Every year the dairy industry looks to the WCDS for solutions to emerging issues, and for new research results. As in the past years, we are thrilled to see attendees from a broad cross section of the dairy industry, including producers, nutritionists, consultants, veterinarians, services companies, government, university/college personnel and students. We truly hope that the networking and knowledge-sharing that occurs at this year’s WCDS is beneficial to all participants and has a positive impact on our dairy industry.

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to you and thank you for your participation. We wish everyone a wonderful time learning and networking over the next three days.

Divakar Ambrose & Masahito Oba
Program Co-Chairs