

# Preface

This issue of *Advances in Dairy Technology* contains the text of papers presented at the 24th Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS), which was held in Red Deer, Alberta, March 7 – 11, 2006. The theme of this year's conference is "Strategies and Tools – Managing Tomorrow's Dairy Farm" featuring many new aspects of dairy research from around the world.

The key to the success of WCDS is the high calibre of our speakers who are recognized nationally and internationally in their area of expertise. We are most grateful to these very busy people for devoting so much of their time and energy to making the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar such an outstanding success. We thank them for helping make WCDS one of the premier dairy seminars in the world.

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.

An important part of the success of WCDS over the past 24 years has been the guidance and support of the Advisory Committee. This committee includes representation from academia, the provincial and federal governments, and milk producer organizations (Alberta Milk). Other stakeholders represented include the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, the feed industry (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 are extended to the Advisory Committee for their hard work and to Joanne Morrison for her superb organizational skills as Seminar Co-ordinator. Joanne's tireless efforts in coordinating all aspects of the meeting, as well as compiling the proceedings, are gratefully acknowledged.

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 sector and include: producers, feed industry representatives, consultants, veterinarians, service company representatives, government researchers and policy makers, students, and university/college professors. 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.

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Program Co-Directors