

Preface

This issue of Advances in Dairy Technology contains the text of papers presented at the 26th Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS), held in Red Deer, Alberta, March 4th to 7th, 2008. The theme of this year's conference is "Managing Resources for Increased Profitability". The primary objective of the seminar is to provide dairy producers and other industry stakeholders with information on applicable research findings and successful management practices targeted at improving the profitability of the dairy industry. Thus, the papers in these proceedings address many of the key factors that influence the future prosperity of the Canadian dairy industry. These include:

- Challenges and Opportunities for the Dairy Industry
- Nutrition and Feeding Management
- Human Resource Management
- Breeding and Genetics
- Regulatory and Insurance Issues
- Management Practices to Improve Animal Health and Reproduction

The WCDS could not be the success that it is without the valuable contributions of the organizing committee and student volunteers. We are most grateful to all these people for devoting so much of their time and energy to making the WCDS such an outstanding success. Special thanks also to Joanne Morrison, seminar coordinator since 1999, for continuing to ensure that the conference runs seamlessly and that the proceedings are of the highest quality.

The continued success of the seminar is very much due to the strong financial support of the sponsors; we are most grateful for their continued endorsement of this important event.

Finally, the authors of the papers in these proceedings are the key to the quality of the proceedings and the seminar. We are grateful to them for giving so freely of their valuable time, thus ensuring that the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar is of the highest calibre.

I hope that you enjoy reading these proceedings and find the information in its pages of value to you as you continue making contributions to the success of the Western Canadian dairy industry.

Lorraine Doepel
Program Director