

Preface

This issue of *Advances in Dairy Technology* contains the text of papers presented at the 27th Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS), held in Red Deer, Alberta, March 10th to 13th, 2009. The theme of this year's conference is "Forging Ahead Through Challenging Times". The papers in these proceedings span a wide range of subject areas, all of which are relevant to the dairy industry and address many of the challenges faced by the industry today. These include:

- The Sustainability of Dairying
- Dairy Policy
- Animal Health and Productivity
- Nutrition and Feeding
- Calf Management
- Housing and Cow Welfare
- Forages

Successfully hosting an annual conference such as the WCDS requires the hard work and dedication of many individuals, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the WCDS Advisory Committee and the student volunteers for their contributions to the conference. I would like to send special thanks to Joanne Morrison, Seminar coordinator since 1999, because without her the Seminar would never get off the ground.

Also key to the success of the Seminar is the financial support of the sponsors; we are very thankful for their continued endorsement of the WCDS. 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.

Finally, I would like to thank our speakers for their presentations and the papers in these proceedings, which are consistently of the highest calibre, and which provide a valuable source of timely and relevant information to anyone involved in the dairy industry.

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
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