

# Preface

2011 marks the 29<sup>th</sup> year of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar held annually in Red Deer, Alberta. The theme of this year's conference is "Facing the Challenges of Modern Dairying", and encompasses seven areas of interest:

- Consumer and Producer Realities
- Health Management
- Optimizing Feeding Efficiency
- Environmental Impact of Dairying
- Strategies to Improve Reproductive Performance
- Minerals for a Healthy Herd
- Strategies to Improve Your Bottom Line

We hope that the topics covered within each of these themes address many of the issues that the dairy industry is currently facing, and that the papers found in these proceedings will be of value to producers and other stakeholders in the dairy industry.

We would like to thank our speakers for their presentations and the papers in these proceedings and their dedication to the dairy industry. We would also like to thank our sponsors for their tremendous financial support of this conference and for their continued endorsement of WCDS.

Finally, successfully hosting an annual conference such as the WCDS requires the hard work and dedication of many individuals, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the WCDS Advisory Committee, Joanne Morrison (seminar coordinator), and the student volunteers for their contributions to the conference.

We hope that you enjoy reading these proceedings and thank you for your continued support of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar.

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