Preface

Thirty one years ago marked the birth of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar. The goal of the seminar has remained constant over all these years – to be a forum for presenting the latest research and technological advances in dairying to producers and industry stakeholders. To achieve the goal this year we have international speakers who are sharing with us their global perspective on dairy issues and national speakers who are presenting the latest dairy developments here at home. Of our 24 speakers, 4 are from Europe, 7 are from the US, and 13 are from Canada.

The theme of this year's conference, "Dairy Health is Dairy Wealth", encompasses seven areas of interest: Current and Future Challenges in Dairying, Reproduction, The Dairy Industry – Consumer Continuum, New Approaches and Technologies in Dairying, Feeding and Forages, Digital Dermatitis and Lameness, and Dairy Health and Productivity. Success in these areas will certainly contribute to the health and wealth of the dairy industry.

The success of the WCDS is the result of the commitment and support of four groups: 1) The WCDS advisory committee, that consists of dairy producers, academics, and representatives from various facets of the dairy industry; this is the group that organizes the seminar, the workshops and the preconference tour; 2) the sponsors – their tremendous financial support allows us to keep the registration fees very low and allows us to bring in the best speakers from around the world; 3) the speakers, who are committed to presenting us with the latest information pertaining to dairying; and finally 4) the attendees, whose support and participation are vital to the continued success of the WCDS. So, as program director, I extend my thanks to all the people who attend and support the seminar.

I hope that you enjoy reading these proceedings and that the information within these pages will be of value to you. Thank you for your continued support of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar.

Lorraine Doepel

Chair, WCDS Program Committee