

Preface

This year the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS) is celebrating its 32nd year of providing novel ideas, information and solutions relevant to current and emerging challenges of the Canadian dairy industry. The issues faced by the dairy industry today include those concerning production efficiency, consumer perceptions, dairy health and nutrition, on-farm labour and human resources, and economic and environmental sustainability, to name a few. Our conference theme this year – “Strategies to Optimize Performance” – addresses these issues by focusing on performance, ranging from performance of the calf and the cow, to the farm and its employees, to the industry in general.

Hosting the WCDS on an annual basis requires the commitment and dedication of the people on the WCDS Advisory Committee, who volunteer their time to organize the seminar. Without them, this seminar would not be possible so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work in putting together this year’s seminar, and for their continuous enthusiasm for the seminar and the dairy industry in general.

Also critical to the success of the WCDS is the financial support of our sponsors. We are very thankful for their generosity and continued commitment to the seminar. We also extend our appreciation and thanks to the speakers, who provide us with excellent presentations and useful “take home messages” year after year.

Finally, thank you to everyone who attends. Your support and participation are vital to the continued success of the WCDS.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued support of the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar.

Lorraine Doepel
WCDS Program Director