

Preface

The theme of this year's conference—*Taking Care of Dairy Business*—encompasses all areas of dairying, ranging from the cow to the farm to the consumer. I am sure that our topics this year will promote discussion (and possibly debate!) and introspection about the dairy industry—are we doing all we can to sustain our industry, to promote cow health and welfare, to optimize reproductive performance, and to give our calves a healthy start so that they become productive members of the herd. Whether you are a producer or affiliated to the industry in some other manner, I am sure that you will find the presentations and papers interesting and informative. Enjoy the conference!

I would like to thank our speakers for their presentations and the papers in these proceedings. The speakers provide the conference attendees with invaluable information, and they are always eager to share their knowledge with the participants during their talks and outside of their designated presentation time. I would also like to thank our sponsors for their tremendous financial support and endorsement of the seminar. It is this support that continues to enable us to attract the quality of speakers that we do.

Successfully hosting the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar requires the hard work and dedication of many individuals. I take this opportunity to thank the members of the WCDS Advisory Committee for their contributions to the organization of the conference, and to thank the student volunteers for their assistance at the registration desk during the conference.

It is with a sad heart that I announce that this year is the last year that Joanne Morrison will be the conference coordinator for WCDS. Joanne has decided to retire after 17 years of being the WCDS coordinator. Her dedication, organization, attention to detail, and warm, caring personality has contributed greatly to the success of the seminar. Honestly, we couldn't have pulled it off without her all these years. All the best to you, Joanne. I hope that retirement treats you well. I will miss you!

Lorraine Doepel
WCDS Program Director