



# Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 5 – 8, 2019

Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer, Alberta

## Knowledge is Power

### Tuesday, March 5, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Pre-Conference Farm**

**Tour:** This tour will visit three local dairy farms with the focus on progressive and innovative dairy managers.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Workshop: Addressing Precision Feeding Strategies for Cows in Automated Milking Systems. Facilitator:** Greg Penner, University of Saskatchewan (Max 75).

This workshop will cover the theory associated with precision feeding strategies, diet formulation, cow responses associated with the implementation of precision feeding strategies, and challenges associated with imposing precision feeding in group-fed cattle. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to improve their ability to assess precision feeding strategies under commercial settings.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**

### Wednesday, March 6, 2019

#### Morning Plenary Session

8:30 Welcome – **Gezinus Martens, Alberta Milk, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

Introductory Remarks and Conference Overview – **Mike Steele, Universities of Alberta and Guelph, Chair, WCDS Program Committee**

#### **Session I: The Road Ahead**

8:50 **Keynote Speaker**  
When Celebrity Culture and Science Clash – **Timothy Caulfield, University of Alberta**

9:50 **Nutrition Break**

10:20 How do we Earn Public Trust in Food and Farming with Canadian Consumers? – **Crystal Mackay, The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity**

11:05 Milk Supply Management After CUSMA: An Economic Policy Analysis – **Al Mussell, Agri-Food Economic Systems**

11:50 **Speaker Panel**

12:10 **Lunch**

#### Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

##### **Session II: Optimizing Farm Management**

- 1:40 New Concepts in Dairy Cow Barn Design – **Gordie Jones, Central Sands Dairy LLC**
- 2:20 Mission 2050: Building Envelopes for the Future – **Vern Osborne, University of Guelph**
- 3:00 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:30 Mental Health in the Dairy and Livestock Production Sector – **Andria Jones-Bitton, University of Guelph**
- 4:10 Understanding the Internal Frictions Weighing on Milk Supply Management – **Al Mussell, Agri-Food Economic Systems**
- 4:50 **Speaker Panel**

##### **Session III: Fundamentals of Nutrition**

- 1:40 Strategies to Alleviate Aflatoxin Deleterious Effects on Performance, Inflammation, and Oxidative Stress in Dairy Cows – **Phil Cardoso, University of Illinois**
- 2:20 Gut Health and How to Improve It – **J.C. (Kees) Plaizier, University of Manitoba**
- 3:00 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:30 Feeding Management for Cows in Automated Milking Systems: What We Know and What We Still Need to Learn – **Greg Penner, University of Saskatchewan**
- 4:10 Consistency is Key When it Comes to Feed Consumption in Dairy Cows! – **Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph**
- 4:50 **Speaker Panel**

##### **Evening Banquet**

6:00 Cash Bar

7:00 Supper

Entertainment – Tribute artist and comedian **Corny Rempel** will be performing Johnny Cash

## Thursday, March 7, 2019

### Morning Plenary Session

#### **Session IV: Student Research and Producer Panel**

##### 8:30 **Student Research Presentation Competition**

Five graduate students will present their dairy-related research findings

Effect of wheat straw chop length in high-straw dry cow diets on behaviour and physiology of dairy cows across the transition period – **Casey Havekes, University of Guelph**

Deep learning improves mastitis detection in automated milking systems – **Ali Naqvi, University of Calgary**

Economic evaluation of longevity to increase profits – **Jesse Schuster, University of Calgary**

Condition of cull dairy cows at farm, auction and before slaughter – **Jane Stojkov, University of British Columbia**

Where are we now with lameness prevention and control, after nearly a decade of research – **Michelle van Huyssteen, University of Calgary**

##### 9:50 **Nutrition Break**

##### 10:20 **How I Define Efficiency on My Farm – Producer Panel Presentations**

Three dairy producers will discuss different aspects of efficiency on their farms

Geoff Brown, Lakeland College, Vermillion, AB

George Dick, Dicklands Farms, Chilliwack, BC

Armand Lavoie, Enterprises Lavoie Inc., St. Isidore, AB

##### 11:40 **Producer Panel**

##### 12:00 **Lunch**

### Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

#### **Session V: Healthy Cows – Healthy Milk**

##### 1:30 **Better Fresh Cows – Gordie Jones, Central Sands Dairy LLC**

##### 2:10 **Being a Mom is Hard: Calcium Demands of Early Lactation Dairy Cows – Jessica McArt, Cornell University**

##### 2:50 **Nutrition Break**

##### 3:20 **Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV) in Your Herd? Get rid of it! – Frank van der Meer, University of Calgary**

##### 4:00 **No Guarantees with Johne's Disease: Use of common and novel diagnostic methods – Jeroen De Buck, University of Calgary**

##### 4:40 **Speaker Panel**

#### **Session VI: Advances in Genetics and Reproduction**

##### 1:30 **Impact of Nutritional Strategies, Including Feeding Amino Acids, on Health, Performance and Fertility of Dairy Cows – Phil (F.C.) Cardoso, University of Illinois**

##### 2:10 **Benchmarks for Reproduction at the Herd Level – Mark Carson, EastGen Genetics**

##### 2:50 **Nutrition Break**

##### 3:20 **Timed AI in Context: Fitting Reproductive Programs to Cows' Physiological Needs – Rafael Bisinotto, University of Florida**

##### 4:00 **Using Automated Activity Monitors to Modify Reproductive Programs – Ronaldo Cerri, University of British Columbia**

##### 4:40 **Speaker Panel**

##### 5:00 **Cocktail Reception**

## Friday, March 8, 2019

### Morning Plenary Session

#### **Session VII: Improving Animal Welfare with proAction**

##### 8:30 **Managing Robot Herds to Optimize Health and Welfare – Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph**

##### 9:10 **Why Do Some Calves Thrive and Others Die? Risk Factors Impacting Male and Female Dairy Calf Health – David Renaud, University of Guelph**

##### 9:50 **Nutrition Break**

##### 10:20 **What are the Options to Improve the Comfort and Welfare of Dairy Cows? – Elsa Vasseur, McGill University**

##### 11:00 **Key Considerations for the Implementation of a Hoof Health Program – Laura Solano, Farm Animal Care Associates**

##### 11:40 **Speaker Panel**

##### 12:00 **Closing**