

# Preface

We are very excited to deliver the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS). The theme of this year's seminar is "Knowledge is Power". This seminar brings together experts from around the world speaking about a variety of topics, including an up to date overview of the challenges, opportunities and advancements in the dairy industry. The 2019 seminar comprises seven sessions:

- The Road Ahead
- Optimizing Farm Management
- Fundamental of Nutrition
- Student Research and Producer Presentations
- Healthy Cows, Healthy Milk
- Advances in Genetics and Reproduction
- Improving Animal Welfare with proAction

The WCDS would not be possible without the guidance, support and commitment of the Advisory Committee. The committee is comprised of experts from all 4 Western provinces, bringing knowledge and expertise from academia, government, animal nutrition, veterinary medicine, pharmaceutical, finance, farm service, milk processing, and Alberta Milk. We are so fortunate to work with such a dedicated Advisory Committee team, who along with – and especially because of – our fantastic conference coordinator, Kate Davies, brings the quality of the seminar to the highest level.

We are always fortunate to have some of the most passionate and innovative speakers in the world at our seminar. Not only are our speakers' leaders in their technical areas of interest, but they also value and enjoy engaging with the industry, which is of utmost importance to ensure new knowledge meets end-users. We sincerely thank all of the speakers for taking time out of their hectic schedules to share their knowledge with us through both the proceedings and the seminar.

We are committed to fulfilling the mission of the WCDS, contributing to the development of the dairy industry by providing all stakeholders with the latest developments in research, technology, and policy that influence production efficiency, quality, and marketing of milk and dairy products. It is always exciting to see delegates from such a broad cross section of the dairy industry – including producers, nutritionists, consultants, veterinarians, services companies, government, university/college personnel and students – come together to learn and network. This exchange of ideas and contacts is so critical to advancing our dairy industry. We also appreciate all of the financial support from our sponsors, as it allows us to invite the very best speakers while still maintaining a reasonable registration fee. This support is not only appreciated, but essential to delivering a quality seminar.

In closing, we hope you enjoy the proceedings and the event and thank you for being a part of the WCDS.

Michael Steele  
Program Chair