



Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 10 – 13, 2020
Cambridge Hotel, Red Deer, Alberta

Looking Beyond 2020

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

10:00 am – 5:00 pm **Pre-Conference Farm Tour:**

This tour will visit three local dairy farms with the focus on progressive and innovative dairy managers.
Optional, separate registration required.

1:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Workshop:** Milk as a Diagnostic Tool for Nutritional Management. Facilitator: **Rick Grant, William H. Miner Agricultural Institute** (Max 75).

Optional, separate registration required.

Milk and its components are an important tool to identify nutrition and herd management changes that will optimize output of milk components. The workshop will focus on milk fat, protein, milk fatty acids, and other milk metrics to make nutrition and management decisions. The primary nutritional and management factors that influence milk composition will be identified and we'll discuss how they can be optimized on farm.

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm **Registration**

8:00 pm - 10:00 pm **Opening Reception**

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Morning Plenary Session

8:30 Welcome – **Nelson Dinn, University of British Columbia, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

Introductory Remarks and Conference Overview – **Divakar Ambrose, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Co-chair, WCDS Program Committee**

Session I: Future Matters

8:50 **Keynote Speaker** Can You Use Technology to Uber Proof Your Business? – **Marty Seymour, Farm Credit Canada**

9:50 **Nutrition Break**

10:20 Working Towards a More Socially Sustainable Dairy Industry – **Nina von Keyserlingk, University of British Columbia**

11:05 Sustainability of Animal Agriculture in the Global Food System – **Robin White, Virginia Tech**

11:50 **Speaker Panel**

12:10 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session II: Secrets of Healthy Feeding

- 1:40 Relationships between Fiber Digestibility and Particle Size for Lactating Dairy Cows – **Rick Grant, William H. Miner Agricultural Institute**
- 2:20 Corn Silage: Managing the Manageable – **Bill Mahanna, Pioneer Hi-Bred**
- 3:00 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:30 Managing Dietary Variation to Maintain or Improve Efficiency – **Bill Weiss, Ohio State University**
- 4:10 Feeding for a Healthy Liver: The Role of Methionine and Choline in Transition Cows – **Heather White, University of Wisconsin-Madison**
- 4:50 **Speaker Panel**

Session III: Human and Cattle Well-Being

- 1:40 Five Habits of Highly Effective Farmers – **Lisa McCrea, Agwest Veterinary Group**
- 2:20 How to Do More for Mental Health in Agriculture – **Adelle Stewart, The Do More Agriculture Foundation**
- 3:00 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:30 Transporting Cattle in 2020: Research and Regulation Update – **Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada**
- 4:10 Three Ways to Lose Money on the Farm: A View from the Udder – **Ronald Erskine, Michigan State University**
- 4:50 **Speaker Panel**

Evening Banquet

6:00 Cash Bar

7:00 Supper

Entertainment – Comedian **Matt Falk**

The banquet is optional. Separate registration required.

Thursday, March 12, 2020

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
- 9:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 10:20 **Bio-Security Management – Producer Panel Presentations**
Three dairy producers will discuss different aspects of bio-security management on their farms
- 11:40 **Producer Panel**
- 12:00 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session V: Nurturing the Next Generation

- 1:30 **Managing Calf Health and Performance in utero – Geoffrey Dahl, University of Florida**
- 2:10 **New Concepts in Calf Nutrition: The First Week of Life – Michael Steele, University of Guelph**
- 2:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:20 **Rethinking Ruminant Acidosis in Dairy Calves – Anne Laarman, University of Alberta**
- 4:00 **Economics of Raising Dairy Replacement Heifers – Michael Overton, Elanco Animal Health**
- 4:40 **Speaker Panel**

Session VI: Enhancing Herd Fertility

- 1:30 **Trouble-Shooting Reproduction Issues – Jocelyn Dubuc, University of Montreal**
- 2:10 **Potential Impact of Viral Diseases on Conception Rates in Cattle – Claire Wathes, Royal Veterinary College, United Kingdom**
- 2:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:20 **New Strategies to Maximize Pregnancy Outcomes – Jeffrey Stevenson, Kansas State University**
- 4:00 **Genetics and Economics of Using vitro-Produced Embryo Transfer in Dairy Herds – Albert De Vries, University of Florida**
- 4:40 **Speaker Panel**
- 5:00 **Cocktail Reception**

Friday, March 13, 2020

Morning Plenary Session

Session VII: Herd Health – Protect, Monitor, Investigate

- 8:30 **When (Before) Disaster Strikes: Preparation For a Disease Outbreak – Keith Lehman, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry**
- 9:10 **Investigating Fetal Calf Loss – Cameron Knight, University of Calgary**
- 9:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 10:20 **Use of Big Data to Monitor Herd Health – Heather White, University of Wisconsin-Madison**
- 11:00 **Antibiotic Therapy: It's Not the Drugs, It's How We Use Them – Ronald Erskine, Michigan State University**
- 11:40 **Speaker Panel**
- 12:00 **Closing**

Program subject to change