



Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 8 – 12, 2021

Virtual. Dairy. Reality.

All times are in MST

Spread out over 5 days (2-3 hours a day), the virtual (online) version of WCDS 2021 gives you the opportunity to hear from speakers presenting on a range of topics, including calf health, nutrition, and reproduction and genetics.

There will be virtual tours of 3 progressive dairy operations, a student research presentation competition and, the always popular, producer panel.

In addition to the formal program, there will be chance to reconnect with our industry sponsors in the virtual display booth area and discuss the latest dairy-related research findings with students in the research poster display area.

Something unexpected comes up one morning and you're not able to tune in? Don't worry; the speaker presentations will be available for on-demand viewing until March 19, 2021. You can login to the virtual platform to view the presentations when it is convenient for you.

Monday, March 8, 2021

10:00 Welcome – **Nelson Dinn, University of British Columbia, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

Session I: Calf Health

- 10:03 Overview by Session Chair – **Karin Orsel**
- 10:08 Presentation Title TBD – **Michael Ballou, Texas Tech University**
- 10:35 Presentation Title TBD – **Kathryn Proudfoot, University of Prince Edward Island**
- 11:00 Presentation Title TBD – **John Gilleard, University of Calgary**
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Speaker Q&A Period**

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Session II: Nutrition

- 10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Masahito Oba**
- 10:05 Presentation Title TBD – **Mike Van Amburgh, Cornell University**
- 10:30 Managing high-straw dry cow diets to optimize health and performance – **Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph**
- 11:00 Presentation Title TBD – **Jacquelyn Boerman, Purdue University**
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Speaker Q&A Period**

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Session III: Virtual Farm Tours

- 10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Tietsia Huyzer**
- From the comfort of your own home or office or in the barn virtually tour three progressive and innovate dairy operations.
- Locations TBD
- 10:05 Farm Tour Video #1
- 10:25 Farm Tour Video #2
- 10:45 Farm Tour Video #3
- 11:05 – 12:05 **Farm Tour Hosts Q&A Period**

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Session IV: Student Research Presentation Competition

10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Karen Beauchemin**

Four graduate students will present their dairy-related research findings. To enter the competition, students submit a short summary of their research. A panel of judges then selects the top 4 research summaries based on a number of criteria, including a well written summary, demonstrating good and relevant science.

10:05 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

10:20 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

10:40 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

11:00 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

Student competition voting and awards announcement

11:25 **Nutrition Break**

Session V: Producer Panel

11:30 Overview by Session Chair – **Devon Simmelink**

Three dairy producers will discuss different aspects of their farming operations.

11:35 Presenter TBD

11:50 Presenter TBD

12:10 Presenter TBD

12:30 **Producer Panel Q&A Period** (1 hour)

Friday, March 12, 2021

Session VI: Reproduction and Genetics

10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Divakar Ambrose**

10:05 Advancing genetic gain in dairy cattle through genomics and reproductive technologies – **Kent Weigel, University of Wisconsin**

10:30 Impact of altering the voluntary waiting period on reproduction and economics in dairy herds – **Julio Giordano, Cornell University**

11:00 Daily profit of 3-breed crossbreds compared to Holsteins – Our experience from a 10-year designed study – **Les Hansen, University of Minnesota**

11:30 **Speaker Q&A Period**

12:00 Closing – **Nelson Dinn, University of British Columbia, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

TBD = To Be Determined

Program is subject to change

**We aim to meet again in-person for the 2022
WCDS 40th Anniversary celebration**