



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 Nutraceuticals: An alternative strategy for the use of antimicrobials in dairy calves – **Michael Ballou, Texas Tech University**

10:30 Giving calves a good start: Lessons from the maternity pen – **Kathryn Proudfoot, University of Prince Edward Island**

11:00 Coccidiosis in dairy calves – **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 Growth benchmarks and nutrient requirements of dairy heifers from weaning to calving – **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 Protein during the dairy cow transition period: What we feed and what they lose – **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.

10:05 Farm Tour Video #1: **Hoek Holsteins**

10:25 Farm Tour Video #2: **Deerfield Colony**

10:45 Farm Tour Video #3: **Robella Holsteins**

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 Anogenital distance is consistent throughout adult life in Holstein cows and associated with embryo quality – **Iswarya Rajesh, University of Alberta**

10:20 Effects of Glutamate Supplementation During the Periparturient Period on the Performance of Dairy Cows – **Satoko Hisadomi, University of Alberta**

10:40 The effect of gradual weaning method and forage type on feeding behaviour and growth of dairy calves – **Allison Welk, University of British Columbia**

11:00 Effect of selective removal of high proviral load cattle on the herd prevalence of bovine leukosis – **Sulav Shrestha, University of Calgary**

Note: Timing is based on students responding to questions after each 10 minute presentation has aired

Student competition voting and awards announcement

11:25 **Nutrition Break** (5 minutes)

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 Producer Introductions

B.C – **Casey Pruum, Prime Acres Ltd.**

Saskatchewan – **Michael McLeod, Caroncrest Farms**

Manitoba – **Saskia Reutter, Reutter Dairy**

11:45 Producer Panel Discussion

12:10 **Producer Panel Q&A Period**

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**

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