
Preface

One cannot start a preface to the 39th Annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS) proceedings without a word about the current pandemic. Our 38th conference was cut short, and the 39th will be a virtual format. However, it is with great pride we present you the proceedings for the seminar “Virtual. Dairy. Reality”

This year’s seminar has the following five sessions:

- Calf Health
- Nutrition
- Virtual farm tours
- Student Research and Producer Panel
- Reproduction and genetics

As in person meetings are currently not an option, we have chosen to work with TK Virtual to provide a professional platform to present to you some of the best speakers in the world at this year’s WCDS. As teachers, researchers, extension specialists and industry experts, our speakers are not only leaders in their areas of expertise, and the virtual platform provided no restriction to getting the best ‘on board’. Besides the presentations, the virtual format allow us to take you all on a virtual farm tour and into a virtual trade show floor. Our special thanks to all sponsors for their continued financial support in this new format. Without the generous support of our sponsors it would not be possible to bring you the speakers of this caliber while keeping the registration fee low.

The WCDS was founded in 1982 with a vision to support the growth and success of the Canadian dairy industry. Every year the dairy industry looks to the WCDS for solutions to emerging issues, and for new research results. As in past years, we are thrilled to see attendees from a broad cross section of the dairy industry, including producers, nutritionists, consultants, veterinarians, services companies, government, university/college personnel and students. We truly hope that the networking and knowledge-sharing will also happen and be enjoyed in our virtual reality.

The continued success of the WCDS is attributable to the guidance, support and commitment of the WCDS Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee includes representatives from academia, the provincial and federal governments, Alberta Milk, Alberta Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Nutrition Association of Canada, dairy equipment manufacturers, financial institutions, milk processors, pharmaceutical industry, as well as representatives from each of the four Western provinces. We thank the Advisory Committee members for their input and advice in shaping this year’s program. We specially acknowledge the tremendous support of our conference coordinators, Kate Davies, Jody Forslund and Kira Macmillan, who always go the extra mile to ensure that the excellence of the seminar is maintained, in person or in our virtual reality.

Once again, we extend a warm welcome to you and thank you for your participation. We wish everyone a wonderful time learning and networking over the week.

On behalf of the program committee; Tietsia Huyzer, Devon Simmelink, Divakar Ambrose, Masahito Oba



Karin Orsel (*Program Chair*)