
Preface

One cannot start a preface to the 40th Annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar (WCDS) proceedings without a word about the impact COVID had on our lives. Our 38th conference was cut short, the 39th was a virtual format, and the 2022 Seminar was cancelled at the last minute. However, it is with great pride we present to you the proceedings for the 40th WCDS “Building on 40 Years of Dairy Extension”. We have lots to celebrate! We invited “Canadas finest”; all speakers currently residing in Canada that can lead the way for the next 40 years of dairy extension. This year’s seminar has the following eight sessions:

- Sustainable dairy for society’s challenges
- Adopting new trends/technologies to bolster on-farm nutrition
- Reproduction
- Student Research, presented in presentation and poster competitions
- Producer Panel with virtual farm tours
- Preventing diseases in future
- Calf management
- Healthy people, healthy cows

Personally, I am very excited to start off with a keynote fireside chat, to get our focus on our industry and place in the food market. Also, I am excited to have not just healthy cows, but healthy people on our program. The importance of taking care of each other and ourselves is evident in our current day and age. And hopefully the seminar will help provide some resources and food for thought on this topic.

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 be enjoyed thoroughly now that we are back in person.

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 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, the 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 especially acknowledge the tremendous support of our conference coordinator, Kira Hames, who always goes the extra mile to ensure that the excellence of the seminar is maintained.

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, Cregg Nicol, Divakar Ambrose, Anne Laarman, and Karen Koenig



Karin Orsel (*Program Chair*)