



Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 5 – 8, 2024

Red Deer Resort & Casino, Red Deer, AB

Empowered for the Future

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Once again, there will be **no pre-conference tour** as the **Virtual Farm Tours** will be returning as part of the Producer Panel on Thursday March 7.

Pre-conference workshops are hosted by various sponsors and will be promoted as they are confirmed.

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

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm **Opening Reception**

Please join us at our opening reception for cocktails, refreshments and live music.

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Morning Plenary Session

8:30 Welcome – **Miriam Sweetnam, Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

Introductory Remarks and Conference Overview – **Karin Orsel, University of Calgary, Chair, WCDS Program Committee**

8:50 The Future of Sustainability in the Dairy Industry: A Fireside Chat with **Dianne Finstad, Ag Journalist** and **Sara Place, Colorado State University**

9:45 **Nutrition Break**

Session I: Resilience through Sustainability

10:30 Supplying Canadian Demand: Economic Sustainability and Supply Management - **Matthew Gaudreau, Canadian Dairy Commission**

11:05 Sustainable Canadian Dairy: Why it is Important and How it is Being Achieved - **Connie McLellan, Ducks Unlimited Canada**

11:40 Sustainability and On-Farm Realities: Our Journey **Annie AcMoody, Dairy Farmers of Canada**

12:15 **Lunch**

Afternoon Plenary Session

Session II: Nutrition

2:00 Back to the Future: New Ideas for Today's Dairy Herd Challenges - **Daniel Scothorn, Scothorn Nutrition**

2:35 Feed Preference & DMI: Is there a Real-World Link that NASEM Predictive Models Miss? - **Paul Kononoff, University of Nebraska**

3:10 **Nutrition Break**

Session III: Transition Management

3:55 Transitioning to Success: The Intersection Between Peripartum Nutrition, Health & Reproduction - **José Santos, University of Florida**

4:30 Mining Dry Period Data for Insights into Improved Lactation Performance - **Barry Bradford, Michigan State University**

Evening Banquet

6:00 Cash Bar

7:00 Supper

Entertainment – **The Heebee-jeebees**

The banquet is optional. Separate registration required.

The 2024 WCDS will once again have a Student Poster Competition

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Morning Plenary Session

Session IV: Student Research Competition

- 8:30 **Student Research Presentation Competition**
Five graduate students will present their dairy-related research findings

9:45 **Nutrition Break**

Session V: Producer Panel & Virtual Farm Tours

- 10:30 **Producer Panel Presentations**
Three dairy farms demonstrating sustainability and resilience on their operations will be virtually toured followed by a Q&A period

12:30 **Lunch**

Afternoon Plenary Session

Session VI: Animal Welfare

- 2:15 Revised Dairy Code of Practice: What Will it Really Mean for Us? - **Clem Nash, Novus International and Dairy Farmers of Canada**

- 2:50 Mindful Pain Management: Addressing Both Visible and Unseen Pain in Dairy Cows - **Kate Creutzinger, University of Wisconsin-River Falls**

3:25 **Nutrition Break**

Session VII: Future Proofing: Designing 2050 Ready Facilities

- 4:10 Whole-Farm Visioneering Concepts for a Resilient Future Dairy Farm - **Vern Osborne, University of Guelph**
- 4:45 A Producer's Perspective on Best Practices in Robotic Barn Design - **Anton Borst, Halarda Farms Ltd.**
- 5:30 **Cocktail Reception**
Announcement of Winners for the Student Research Presentation and Poster Competitions

Friday, March 8, 2024

Morning Plenary Session

Session VIII: Disaster Management: Lessons Learned

- 8:30 Preparing for the Next Big Disease: Surveillance, Biosecurity and Other Key Steps in Emerging Disease Preparedness - **Glen Duizer, Government of Manitoba**

- 9:15 When Disaster Strikes - Living through the BC Floods - **Lisa McCrae, Agwest Veterinary Group**

- 9:50 All-Hazard Type Events: Producer Preparation and Response - **Katherine Altman, Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation**

10:25 **Nutrition Break**

Session IX: The New Age of Digital Agriculture

- 11:05 Practicing Strategic Social Media Engagement in Agriculture: The Fight Against Disinformation - **Kevin Folta, University of Florida**

- 11:40 Dairy Farming 2.0: Milking the Potential of Artificial Intelligence – **Diego Nobrega, University of Calgary**

12:15 **Closing**

Program subject to change