
Preface

It has been a year since we celebrated our 40th Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, with a great line up of Canadian speakers. However, it is with great pride we present to you the proceedings for the 41st WCDS “Empowered for the Future”. We worked hard to beat last years’ program and I hope you agree with us that we did. A line-up of leaders in our dairy research field will be presenting in Red Deer focusing on:

- Resilience through sustainability
- Nutrition
- Transition management
- Student Research, presented in presentation and poster competitions
- Producer panel and virtual farm tours
- Animal welfare
- Future proofing: designing 2050 ready facilities
- Disaster management and lessons learned
- The new age of digital agriculture

Personally, I am very excited to start off with a keynote fireside chat, to get our focus on sustainability of our industry and take more time to explore all components of this new “keyword” for the future. Also, besides some pillars of our industry, nutrition for example, we focus on looking forward and how social media and artificial intelligence becomes part of our day-to-day dairy lives.

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, in the speaker seminars, in the tradeshow and during our industry receptions.

Our special thanks to all sponsors for their continued financial support. Without the generous support of our sponsors, it would not be possible to bring you 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, Nilusha Malmuthuge, Masahito Oba, Anne Laarman, Cregg Nicol and supported by the WCDS advisory committee,



Karin Orsel (*Program Chair*)