



## 2025 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 4 – 7, 2025

Red Deer Resort & Casino, Red Deer, AB

### Excellence in Efficiency

Once again, there will be **no pre-conference tour** as delegates preferred virtual farm tour videos, which will be presented during the producer panel.

Pre-conference workshops are hosted by various sponsors, details online.

#### Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm Registration

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Opening Reception

Cocktails, refreshments and the Bix Mix Boys.

#### Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

7:30 *Breakfast*

##### Wednesday AM, Plenary Sessions

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

*Introduction and Conference Overview:*  
Karin Orsel, University of Calgary, Chair, WCDS Program Committee

##### **Keynote Session**

8:45 *The Impact of Herd Longevity on Sustainability, Animal Welfare, and Farm Profitability presented: A Fireside Chat with* – Dr. Steve Eicker, Valley Ag Software & Dianne Finstad, Ag Journalist

9:45 *Nutrition break*

##### **Session I. Dairy Products: Emerging Opportunities for Dairy and Dairy Products**

10:30 *An Evolving Dairy Consumer Marketplace*– Dr. Mike von Massow, University of Guelph

11:10 *Supply Management and Supply Chain Management: Dairy Processor Perspectives*– Dan Wong, Western Dairy Council

11:50 *Harnessing precision technologies for improving dairy herd performance and management*– Dr. Julio Giordano, Cornell University

12:20 *Lunch*

##### Wednesday PM, Plenary Sessions

##### **Session II. Nutrition: What is Needed to Feed Our Cows?**

2:00 *Keys to Corn Silage Success in Western Canada* – John Winchell, Alltech

2:40 *New Insights about the Fat Cow Syndrome and Insulin Resistance in High-Yielding Dairy Cows by?* – Dr. Geert Opsomer, University of Ghent

3:15 *Nutrition break*

##### **Session III. Reproduction: Making Reproduction More Efficient**

3:45 *Improving Dairy Herd Fertility: Genomics & Beyond* – Dr. Jodi Wallace, Ormstown Veterinary Hospital

4:20 *Demystifying Reproductive Performance Data – Why Randomness Matters* – Dr. Paul Fricke, University of Wisconsin

6:00 **Cash Bar**

7:00 **Banquet – The Denim Daddies**

## **Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 **Breakfast**

### **Thursday AM, Plenary Sessions**

#### **Session IV. Student Research**

- 8:30 *Student Research Presentation Oral Competition*
- *The effect of Saccharomyces cerevisiae var. boulardii CNCM I-1079 supplementation during late gestation in* - **Marijke Boerefyn, University of Guelph**
  - *The effect of colostrum supplementation following a triggered disease* - **Alison Welk, University of Guelph**
  - *Bioengineering a bacteriophage used in Johne's Disease prevention trial to abolish phage resistance*- **Natali Shafer, University of Calgary**
  - *Pre-partum training of dairy heifers to an automated milking system affects their adaptation and performance*- **Jessica Brasier, University of Guelph**
  - *Herd-level prevalence of contagious mastitis pathogens, Johne's disease, and Salmonella Dublin in Alberta* - **Waseem Shaukat, University of Calgary**

9:45 **Nutrition break**

#### **Session V. Producer Panel and Virtual Farm Tours**

10:30 *Succession Planning: Panel and Virtual Farm Tours Transition Tactics for Canadian Dairy Families*  
– **Annessa Good-Hassard**

#### **Virtual Farm Tours**

Lone Pine Jersey, Didsbury, Alberta &  
El Shaddai Dairy Farm, Leduc County, Alberta

#### **Panel Discussion**

12:30 **Lunch**

### **Thursday PM, Plenary Sessions**

#### **Session VI. Animal Welfare: Finding Your Feet: Pathways to Improved Locomotion**

2:00 *A problem shared: A collaborative approach to tackling lameness* – **Dr. Sara Pedersen, Farm Dynamics**

2:40 *Healthy Feet Initiatives – finding our hidden mojo*  
– **Dr. Nick Bell, HerdHealth**

3:15 **Nutrition break**

**Announcement of Student Presentation and Poster Competition Winners**

#### **Session VII. Future Proofing: Topics for Progressive Dairy Management**

4:00 *Adult Cow Barn Ventilation and Assessment by* – **Courtney Halbach, University of Wisconsin**

4:40 *Manure Management* – **Dr. Mario de Haro-Martí, University of Idaho**

5:30 – 6:30 **Cocktail Reception**

## **Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 **Breakfast**

### **Friday AM, Plenary Sessions**

#### **Session VIII. Other Things You Need to Know**

8:40 *Avian influenza in cows, a virus in a new animal species* – **Dr. Frank van der Meer, University of Calgary**

9:20 *Creating and Maintaining an Elite Dairy Workforce* – **Mireille Chahine, University of Idaho**

10:00 **Nutrition break**

#### **Session IX. Feeding the Youngstock for an Efficient Future**

10:30 *Early-life management of crossbred calves: Where we are today and where we'll be tomorrow*–  
**Dr. Mike Steele, University of Guelph**

11:10 *Feeding the post-weaned heifer benchmarks for growth and calving, feed additives, and alternative feeds.* – **Dr. Pete Erickson, University of New Hampshire**

11:50 *The Impact of Fat Levels in Milk Replacer for Dairy Calves* – **Dr. Marco Marcondes, William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute**

12:30 **Closing Remarks**