



## 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>

6:30pm – 9:00pm Registration

7:00pm – 10:00pm 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 Windhell, 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-Madison*

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**

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*

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*

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

4:00 *Adult Cow Barn Ventilation and Assessment by - Courtney Halbach, Farm Dynamics Ltd*

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

5:30 - 6:30 *Cocktail Reception*

*Announcement of Student Presentation and Poster Competition Winners*

## 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*