



Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 5 – 8, 2019

Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer, Alberta

Knowledge is Power

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Pre-Conference Farm**

Tour: This tour will visit three local dairy farms with the focus on progressive, innovative dairy managers.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Workshop: Addressing Precision Feeding Strategies for Cows in Automated Milking Systems. Facilitator:** Greg Penner, University of Saskatchewan (Max 75).

This workshop will cover the theory associated with precision feeding strategies, diet formulation, cow responses associated with the implementation of precision feeding strategies, and challenges associated with imposing precision feeding in group-fed cattle. By the end of the workshop, participants should be able to improve their ability to assess precision feeding strategies under commercial settings.

6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Registration**

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

Morning Plenary Session

8:30 Welcome – **Gezinus Martens, Alberta Milk, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

Introductory Remarks and Conference Overview – **Mike Steele, Universities of Alberta and Guelph, Chair, WCDS Program Committee**

Session I: The Road Ahead

8:50 **Keynote Speaker**
When Celebrity Culture and Science Clash – **Timothy Caulfield, University of Alberta**

9:50 **Nutrition Break**

10:20 Public Trust in Dairy: So What? Now What? – **Crystal MacKay, The Canadian Centre for Food Integrity**

11:05 Milk Supply Management After USMCA: An Economic Policy Analysis – **Al Mussell, Agri-Food Economic Systems**

11:50 **Speaker Panel**

12:10 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session II: Optimizing Farm Management

1:40 New Concepts in Dairy Cow Barn Design – **Gordie Jones, Central Sands Dairy LLC**

2:20 Mission 2050: Building Envelopes for the Future – **Vern Osborne, University of Guelph**

3:00 **Nutrition Break**

3:30 Mental Health in the Dairy and Livestock Production Sector – **Andria Jones-Bitton, University of Guelph**

4:10 Understanding the Internal Frictions Weighing on Milk Supply Management – **Al Mussell, Agri-Food Economic Systems**

4:50 **Speaker Panel**

Session III: Fundamentals of Nutrition

1:40 Strategies to Alleviate Aflatoxin Deleterious Effects on Performance, Inflammation, and Oxidative Stress in Dairy Cows – **Phil Cardoso, University of Illinois**

2:20 What is Gut Health and How to Improve It? – **Kees Plaizier, University of Manitoba**

3:00 **Nutrition Break**

3:30 Feeding Management for Cows in Automated Milking Systems: What We Know and What We Still Need to Learn – **Greg Penner, University of Saskatchewan**

4:10 Consistency is Key When it Comes to Feed Consumption in Dairy Cows! – **Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph**

4:50 **Speaker Panel**

Evening Banquet

6:00 Cash Bar

7:00 Supper

Entertainment – Tribute artist and comedian **Corny Rempel** will be performing Johnny Cash

Thursday, March 7, 2019

Morning Plenary Session

Session IV: Student Research and Producer Panel

- 8:30 **Student Research Presentation Competition**
Five graduate students will present their dairy-related research findings.
- 9:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 10:20 **How I Define Efficiency on My Farm – Producer Panel Presentations**
Three dairy producers will discuss the different aspects of efficiency on their farms.
- 11:40 **Producer Panel**
- 12:00 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session V: Healthy Cows – Healthy Milk

- 1:30 **Better Fresh Cows – Gordie Jones, Central Sands Dairy LLC**
- 2:10 **Being a Mom is Hard: Calcium Demands of Early Lactation Dairy Cows – Jessica McArt, Cornell University**
- 2:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:20 **Bovine Leukemia Virus in Your Herd? Get Rid of It! – Frank van der Meer, University of Calgary**
- 4:00 **No Guarantees with Johne's Disease – Jeroen De Buck, University of Calgary**
- 4:40 **Speaker Panel**

Session VI: Advances in Genetics and Reproduction

- 1:30 **Impact of Feeding Amino Acids on Health, Performance, and Fertility of Dairy Cows – Phil Cardoso, University of Illinois**
- 2:10 **Integration of Reproduction and Genetic Inventory Management – Mark Carson, EastGen Genetics**
- 2:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 3:20 **Timed AI in Context: Fitting Reproductive Programs to Cows' Physiological Needs – Rafael Bisinotto, University of Florida**
- 4:00 **Using Activity Monitors to Modify Reproductive Programs – Ronaldo Cerri, University of British Columbia**
- 4:40 **Speaker Panel**
- 5:00 **Cocktail Reception**

Friday, March 8, 2019

Morning Plenary Session

Session VII: Improving Animal Welfare with proAction

- 8:30 **Managing Robot Herds to Optimize Health and Welfare – Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph**
- 9:10 **Why Do Some Calves Die and Others Thrive? Exploring Factors Impacting Calf Health – David Renaud, University of Guelph**
- 9:50 **Nutrition Break**
- 10:20 **What are the Options to Improve the Comfort and Welfare of Dairy Cows? – Elsa Vasseur, McGill University**
- 11:00 **Key Considerations for the Implementation of a Foot Health Program – Laura Solano, Farm Animal Care Associates**
- 11:40 **Speaker Panel**
- 12:00 **Closing**