



# Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 8 – 12, 2021

## Virtual. Dairy. Reality.

All times are in MST

Spread out over 5 days (2-3 hours a day), the virtual (online) version of WCDS 2021 gives you the opportunity to hear from speakers presenting on a range of topics, including calf health, nutrition, and reproduction and genetics.

There will be virtual tours of 3 progressive dairy operations, a student research presentation competition and, the always popular, producer panel.

In addition to the formal program, there will be chance to reconnect with our industry sponsors in the virtual display booth area and discuss the latest dairy-related research findings with students in the research poster display area.

Something unexpected comes up one morning and you're not able to tune in? Don't worry; the speaker presentations will be available for on-demand viewing until March 19, 2021. You can login to the virtual platform to view the presentations when it is convenient for you.

### Monday, March 8, 2021

10:00 Welcome – **Nelson Dinn, University of British Columbia, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

#### **Session I: Calf Health**

- 10:03 Overview by Session Chair – **Karin Orsel**
- 10:08 Nutraceuticals: An alternative strategy for the use of antimicrobials in dairy calves – **Michael Ballou, Texas Tech University**
- 10:30 Giving calves a good start: Lessons from the maternity pen – **Kathryn Proudfoot, University of Prince Edward Island**
- 11:00 Coccidiosis in dairy calves – **John Gilleard, University of Calgary**
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Speaker Q&A Period**

### Tuesday, March 9, 2021

#### **Session II: Nutrition**

- 10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Masahito Oba**
- 10:05 Growth benchmarks and nutrient requirements of dairy heifers from weaning to calving – **Mike Van Amburgh, Cornell University**
- 10:30 Managing high-straw dry cow diets to optimize health and performance – **Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph**
- 11:00 Protein during the dairy cow transition period: What we feed and what they lose – **Jacquelyn Boerman, Purdue University**
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Speaker Q&A Period**

### Wednesday, March 10, 2021

#### **Session III: Virtual Farm Tours**

- 10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Tietsia Huyzer**
- From the comfort of your own home, office or in the barn, virtually tour three progressive, innovative and community minded dairy operations. The online format has allowed for the expansion of farm tours outside of Alberta for the first time. The 2021 featured farms are located in B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- 10:05 Farm Tour Video #1:
- 10:25 Farm Tour Video #2
- 10:45 Farm Tour Video #3
- 11:05 – 12:05 **Farm Tour Hosts Q&A Period**

## **Thursday, March 11, 2021**

### **Session IV: Student Research Presentation Competition**

10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Karen Beauchemin**

Four graduate students will present their dairy-related research findings. To enter the competition, students submit a short summary of their research. A panel of judges then selects the top 4 research summaries based on a number of criteria, including a well written summary, demonstrating good and relevant science.

10:05 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

10:20 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

10:40 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

11:00 Presentation Title and Speaker TBD

Student competition voting and awards announcement

11:25 **Nutrition Break** (5 minutes)

### **Session V: Producer Panel**

11:30 Overview by Session Chair – **Devon Simmelink**

The 2021 producer panel will feature three passionate dairy producers from B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The discussion will include how going virtual has affected the farm, strategies adapted on farm for 'distanced' business, and how COVID-19 has affected mental health on the farm and in the surrounding industry.

11:35 Presenter #1

11:50 Presenter #2

12:10 Presenter #3

12:30 **Producer Panel Q&A Period**

## **Friday, March 12, 2021**

### **Session VI: Reproduction and Genetics**

10:00 Overview by Session Chair – **Divakar Ambrose**

10:05 Advancing genetic gain in dairy cattle through genomics and reproductive technologies – **Kent Weigel, University of Wisconsin**

10:30 Impact of altering the voluntary waiting period on reproduction and economics in dairy herds – **Julio Giordano, Cornell University**

11:00 Daily profit of 3-breed crossbreds compared to Holsteins – Our experience from a 10-year designed study – **Les Hansen, University of Minnesota**

11:30 **Speaker Q&A Period**

12:00 Closing – **Nelson Dinn, University of British Columbia, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**

WCDS 2021 **registration** is **\$50** and includes all virtual activities:

- Presentations
- Farm Tour
- Producer Panel
- Student Research Presentation Competition
- Sponsor Trade Show Access
- and more ...

Registration is available at [www.wcde.ca](http://www.wcde.ca)

*Program is subject to change*

**We aim to meet again in-person for the 2022  
WCDS 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration**