Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 5 – 8, 2013

Red Deer, Alberta

Dairy Health is Dairy Wealth

http://www.wcds.ca/

**Tuesday, March 5th**

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Pre-Conference Tour**
This tour will visit three local dairy farms with the focus on progressive, innovative dairy managers.

11:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Workshop for Producers:**
“Hands-on assessment of dairy cattle welfare”
Facilitators: Karin Orsel, University of Calgary, and Ed Pajor, University of Calgary (Max 30)

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Pre-Conference Symposium for Nutritionists:** “Getting the most out of rations: Troubleshooting feed bunk management” Facilitator: Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph (Max 50)

6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Registration**
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**

**Wednesday, March 6th**

**Morning Plenary Session – 8:30 am**

**Session I. Current and Future Challenges In Dairying**

- Defining the future of animal agriculture – Charlie Arnot, The Center for Food Integrity, MO
- Finding the tools to achieve longevity in Canadian dairy cows – Blair Murray, OMAFRA
- International dairy market prospects: Promising future but ensure seat belts buckled and crash hats on! – David Hughes, Imperial College London
- Why science isn’t enough – what consumers need to trust dairy today – Charlie Arnot, The Center for Food Integrity, MO
- Panel (all speakers)

**Afternoon Concurrent Sessions - 1:50 pm**

**Session II. Reproduction**

- Linking reproduction and hoof health – Ronaldo Cerri, University of British Columbia
- Impacts of dystocia on health and survival of dairy calves – Jason Lombard, USDA
- Using behavior to improve housing and management around the time of calving – Margit Bak Jensen, University of Denmark, Aarhus
- New research on controlled breeding programs for dairy cattle – Marcos Colazo, Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development
- Panel (all speakers)

**Session III. The Dairy Industry-Consumer Continuum**

- Influencing fluid milk sales with innovative product attributes – Ellen Goddard, University of Alberta
- The Trans Pacific Partnership: implications for supply management and the Canadian dairy industry – Bruce Muirhead, University of Waterloo
- Dairy farming and social media – Christina Crowley, Holstein Canada
- Sharing the Canadian dairy farmer story with our consumers and elected officials – Wally Smith, Dairy Farmers of Canada
- Panel (all speakers)

**Evening Banquet:** Don Bryan, ventriloquist - his fast paced, funny and completely customized presentations combine to delight the audiences.
Thursday, March 7th

Morning Plenary Session – 8:30 am

Session IV. New Approaches and Technologies in Dairying

- New technologies in precision dairy management - Jeffrey Bewley, University of Kentucky
- Application and cost effectiveness of dairy genomics – Blair Murray, OMAFRA
- Strategies for increasing on-farm profitability – Rebecca White, Pennsylvania State University
- Group housing and milk feeding of dairy calves – Margit Bak Jensen, University of Denmark, Aarhus
- Panel (all speakers)

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions - 1:50 pm

Session V. Feeding and Forages

- Impact of feeding management on cow behaviour, health, and productivity – Trevor DeVries, University of Guelph
- Nutritional management of milk fat – Adam Lock, Michigan State University
- How to get more from our conventional feeds: barley grain and barley silage – Masahito Oba, University of Alberta
- High quality forages – how sweet should they be? – Robert Berthiaume, Valacta
- Panel (all speakers)

Session VI. Digital Dermatitis and Lameness

- Non-infectious lameness - André Desrochers, University of Montreal
- Digital dermatitis: Dynamics and management - Arturo Gomez Rivas, University of Wisconsin
- Treatment strategies for digital dermatitis for the UK - Marijntje Speijers, Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute, UK
- Decreasing lameness and increasing cow comfort on Alberta dairy farms – Laura Solano, University of Calgary
- Panel (all speakers)

5:00 Reception (to be held after Sessions)

6:30 Student Poster Presentations

Friday, March 8th

Morning Plenary Session – 8:30 am

Session VII. Dairy Health and Productivity

- Performance on dairy farms – findings from NAHMS studies - Jason Lombard, USDA
- Lessons learned from the Norwegian mastitis control program – Olav Østerás, TINE Norwegian Dairies SA / Norwegian School of Veterinary Science
- Using physiological markers to detect health and production problems in transition dairy cows - Julie Huzzey, University of British Columbia
- Practical methods for mastitis control - Christina Petersson-Wolfe, Virginia Tech
- Panel (all speakers)

Closing