



Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 10 - 13, 2015

Sheraton Red Deer, Red Deer AB

Taking Care of Dairy Business

Tuesday, March 10th

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.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Symposium for Nutritionists: Managing feed variability **Facilitator:** Bill Weiss, The Ohio State University (Max 50)

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop for Producers: Is synchronization here to stay or will new technologies soon rule the day? **Facilitators:** Stephen Butler, Teagasc, Ireland & Marcos Colazo, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Canada (Max 30)

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

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

Wednesday, March 11th

Morning Plenary Session

Session I Hot Topics in the Industry

- 8:30 **Welcome – Pauline Van Biert, ARD, Chair, WCDS Advisory Committee**
Introductory Remarks and Conference Overview – Lorraine Doepel, University of Calgary, Chair, WCDS Program Committee
- 8:50 *Dairy cow welfare – motivation for improvement - Jennifer Walker, Deans Foods*
- 9:50 *Nutrition Break*
- 10:20 *Looking out instead of looking in – the opportunities from open markets - Mike Petersen, Special Agricultural Trade Envoy for NZ*
- 11:05 *Why supply management should remain in Canada. - Bruce Muirhead, University of Waterloo*
- 11:50 **Panel (all speakers)**
- 12:10 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session II Replacement Stock

- 1:40 *Advancements in automated feeding for calves: Where we are today and where we'll be tomorrow. Michael Steele, University of Alberta*
- 2:20 *The effects of housing and nutrition on immunity of the dairy calf - Michael Ballou, Texas Tech University*
- 3:00 *Nutrition Break*
- 3:30 *The effects of poor calf health on the future of the dairy replacement heifer - Sheila McGuirk, University of Wisconsin - Madison*
- 4:10 *Replacement heifers aren't free - Roger Mills, Manitoba Dairy Farm Management Group*
- 4:50 **Panel (all speakers)**

Session III Reproduction

- 1:40 *Selecting for fertility traits in dairy cows: waste of effort or light at the end of the tunnel? - Stephen Butler, Teagasc, Ireland*
- 2:20 *The relationship of immunity and reproduction in dairy cows - David Hurley, University of Georgia*
- 3:00 *Nutrition Break*
- 3:30 *Optimizing fertility: the importance of transition cow health - Ricardo Chebel, University of Minnesota*
- 4:10 *Management strategies to maximize reproductive performance of dairy herds - Julio Giordano, Cornell University*
- 4:50 **Panel (all speakers)**

Evening Banquet: Entertainment TBA

Thursday, March 12th

Morning Plenary Session

Session IV Feeding and Forages

- 8:30 *Getting the rumen working at its optimum* - **Jeff Firkins, The Ohio State University**
- 9:10 *Optimizing and evaluating dry matter intake of high producing cow* - **Bill Weiss, The Ohio State University**
- 9:50 *Nutrition Break*
- 10:20 *Making or breaking rations with forage digestibility* - **Mary-Beth Hall, USDA**
- 11:00 *New technologies in alfalfa* – **Peter Reisen, Forage Genetics International**
- 11:40 **Panel (all speakers)**
- 12:00 **Lunch**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

Session V Health and Welfare

- 1:30 *Sub-acute ruminal acidosis: effects on the cow and her gut* - **Tanya Gressley, University of Delaware**
- 2:10 *Parasites eat your profits* - **Donald Bliss, MidAmerica Agricultural Research Inc.**
- 2:50 *Nutrition break*
- 3:20 *Dealing with animal welfare issues on dairy farms – the BC experience* - **Jim Byrne, Chairman of BC Milk Marketing Board**
- 4:00 *Are we doing our best at transporting our cull dairy cows to market?* - **Karen Schwartzkopf-Genswein, AAFC Lethbridge**
- 4:40 **Panel (all speakers)**

Session VI Housing and Environment

- 1:30 *Crowding your cows costs you cash* - **Albert de Vries, University of Florida**
- 2:10 *Making and evaluating energy use changes in the dairy barn* - **Jim Salfer, University of Minnesota**
- 2:50 *Nutrition Break*
- 3:20 *Management of Cows Using Robotic Milkers: efficient use of robotic milkers, efficient barn layout, cow movement, different management vs. in traditional parlor* - **Producer panel**
- 4:40 **Panel (all speakers)**
- 5:00 **Reception (to be held after Sessions)**
- 6:30 **Student Research Presentations**

Friday, March 13th

Morning Plenary Session

Session VII Managing the Transition Cow

- 8:30 *Management practices for successful calving* - **Gustavo M. Schuenemann, The Ohio State University**
- 9:10 *Managing the transition cow to keep her and her liver healthy* - **Todd Duffield, University of Guelph**
- 9:50 *Nutrition Break*
- 10:20 *Stocking density and feeding behavior around transition* - **Pete Krawczel, University of Tennessee**
- 11:00 *Culling/longevity versus genetic progress from heifers* - **Albert Devries, University of Florida**
- 11:40 **Panel (all speakers)**
- 12:00 **Closing**