



Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

March 9 – 12, 2010

Red Deer, Alberta

A Decade of Success in the New Millennium

Tuesday, March 9

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 Industry Nutritionists: *Calf/heifer feeding and management*. Facilitators: Hugh Chester-Jones, University of Minnesota; Jud Heinrichs, Pennsylvania State University; Jim Quigley, APC, Inc. (Max 60)

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 pm. Pre-Conference Workshop for Producers – “Cow Signals”– *understanding what your cows are telling you*”. Facilitators: Jack Rodenburg, DairyLogix Consulting; Dan McDermid, DairySMART Management; Norm Machell, Merial Canada (Max 30)

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

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Wine and Cheese Reception**

Wednesday, March 10

Morning Plenary Session – 8:30 am

- **Welcome – Norm Machell, Chair, Advisory Committee**
- **Introductory Remarks and Conference Overview – Lorraine Doepel, University of Calgary, Chair, Program Committee**

Session I. Enhancing Production Efficiency

- *Benchmarking your feed efficiency, feed cost and income over feed cost* - **Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois**
- *Using high quality forages to optimize production* – **Randy Shaver, University of Wisconsin**
- *Metabolism and reproduction: the battle for nutrients* – **J. Leroy, University of Antwerp, Belgium**
- *Managing milking frequency* - **Tom McFadden, University of Alberta**
- **Panel (all speakers)**

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions – 1:50 pm

Session II. Optimizing Reproductive Performance

- *Maximizing embryonic and early fetal survival in dairy cattle* - **Keith Inskeep, West Virginia University**
- *Effects of energy balance on oocyte and embryo quality* - **Jo Leroy, University of Antwerp, Belgium**
- *Influence of mastitis and other diseases on fertility of dairy cows* - **Amin Ahmadzadeh, University of Idaho**
- *Health in the transition period and reproductive performance* - **Stephen LeBlanc, University of Guelph**
- **Panel (all speakers)**

Session III. Dairy Industry Updates

- *Practical steps to ensure your dairy is politically and environmentally righteous* – **Joe Zink, Colpitts Ranches**
- *Current status of the European dairy industry* – **Bénédicte Masure, European Dairy Association**
- *Greenhouse gases: what they are and the role of the dairy industry in reducing them* – **Karen Haugen-Kozyra, KHK Consulting**
- *Animal welfare standards for the dairy industry: background and justification* – **Jeff Rushen, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada**
- **Panel (all speakers)**

Evening Banquet: Herb Dixon is a master sound impressionist and comedian who brings his audience into the third dimension of comedy with his high-energy performance.

Thursday, March 11

Morning Plenary Session – 8:30 am

Session IV. Nutrition Session

- *Getting the most from dietary starch* - Randy Shaver, University of Wisconsin
- *Variation in susceptibility to acidosis* – Greg Penner, University of Saskatchewan
- *Refining the net energy system* – Bill Weiss, The Ohio State University
- *The benefits and costs of commodity feeding* - Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois
- Panel (all speakers)

Afternoon Concurrent Sessions – 1:30 pm

Session V. Farm Management

- *Farm management strategies to reduce costs and increase returns* - Jason Karszes, Cornell University
- *Feeding strategies to decrease manure output* – Bill Weiss, The Ohio State University
- *Impact of flooring and stall design on claw health* – Christer Bergsten, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- *Does higher production imply worse reproduction?* - Stephen LeBlanc, University of Guelph
- Panel (all speakers)

Session VI. Milking Management and Technologies

- *The impact of robotic milkers on cow welfare* - Rupert Bruckmaier - University of Bern, Switzerland
- *Robotic barn design* – Jack Rodenburg, Dairylogix
- *Robotic milkers – a producer's perspective* – Hendrik deGier, Lazy Acres Dairy
- *On-farm udder health programs* – Theo Lam, Dutch Udder Health Centre, The Netherlands
- Panel (all speakers)

Cocktail Reception (to be held following Sessions)

Friday, March 12

Morning Plenary Session – 8:30 am

Session VII. Genomics and Genetic Selection

- *Understanding genomics: an introduction to the terminology* – Jay Shannon, Holstein Canada
- *The benefits of genomics to the dairy industry* - Doug Blair, RockyMountain Holsteins
- *Genetic achievements in claw health* – Christer Bergsten, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- *The economics of using sexed semen* – Albert De Vries, University of Florida
- Panel (all speakers)
- Closing

Further details are available on the website: <http://www.wcds.afns.ualberta.ca/>

For More information please contact:

Joanne Morrison, Conference Coordinator
Ph. (780) 492-3236; Fax. (780) 492-5771
Email: wcds@ales.ualberta.ca