



41st Annual Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

Empowered for the Future

March 5 – 8, 2024

Red Deer Resort & Casino, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada



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INTRODUCTION

In 2024, the Western Canadian Dairy Seminar will be celebrating 41 years of providing novel ideas, information, and solutions relevant to current and emerging challenges of the Canadian dairy industry.

Topics covered in this year's Seminar include:

- Sustainable Dairying
- Cow Nutrition and Transition Management
- Designing 2050 Ready Facilities
- Disaster Management
- And More!

In addition to the formal program, the seminar offers ample opportunity for participants to have informal discussions with the speakers and with industry service representatives. Come and meet our sponsors at the trade show.

REGISTRATION

\$320 on or before **February 9, 2024**

\$370 after February 9, 2024

All those who register by February 9, 2024 will be entered to win a WCDS touque!

Register and pay online by [visiting our website](http://www.wcds.ca).

Or mail the registration form to:

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar
Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science
4-10 Agriculture/Forestry Centre
University of Alberta
Edmonton AB, T6G 2P5

Payment may be made by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or cheque. The Seminar registration fee **does not** include accommodation costs.

LOCATION

Red Deer Resort & Casino (formerly Cambridge Hotel),
3310 – 50th Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada T4N 3X9

ACCOMMODATION

The Red Deer Resort & Casino is holding a block of rooms for the Seminar until February 3, 2024. The hotel will continue to accept reservations as long as space is available.

Please state that you are attending the “Western Canadian Dairy Seminar 2024” when making hotel reservations.

Reservations

Phone: (403) 346-2091 or 1-800-662-7197

Email: reservations@rdrcasino.ca

A block of rooms is also being held at nearby hotels (Sandman Hotel, Holiday Inn Express, Super 8 by Wyndham). For more information [visit our website](http://www.wcds.ca).

Proceedings: each registrant will receive a complimentary USB copy of the proceedings. Past seminar proceedings can be downloaded and/or ordered from [our website](http://www.wcds.ca).

Note: The Program for the 2024 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar has been approved for **13.5 hours** of **Continuing Education Credits** by the **Alberta Veterinary Medical Association**

For further information phone (780) 492-3236 or email wcds@ualberta.ca

Program

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Once again, there will be **no pre-conference tour** as the **Virtual Farm Tours** will be returning as part of the Producer Panel. **Pre-conference workshops are hosted by sponsors** and will be promoted as they are confirmed.

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

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **Opening Reception**

Please join us for cocktails, refreshments and live music

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Morning Plenary Session

• **Keynote Speakers**

The Future of Sustainability in the Dairy Industry: A Fireside Chat with **Dianne Finstad, Ag Journalist and Sara Place, Colorado State University**

Session I: Resilience through Sustainability

- Supplying Canadian Demand: Economic Sustainability and Supply Management - **Matthew Gaudreau, Canadian Dairy Commission**
- Sustainable Canadian Dairy: Why it is Important and How it is Being Achieved - **Connie McLellan, Ducks Unlimited Canada**
- Sustainability and On-Farm Realities: Our Journey **Annie AcMoody, Dairy Farmers of Canada**

Afternoon Plenary Session

Session II: Nutrition

- Back to the Future: New Ideas for Today's Dairy Herd Challenges – **Daniel Scothorn, Scothorn Nutrition**
- Feed Preference & DMI: Is there a Real-World Link that NASEM Predictive Models Miss? - **Paul Kononoff, University of Nebraska**

Session III: Transition Management

- Transitioning to Success: The Intersection Between Peripartum Nutrition, Health & Reproduction - **José Santos, University of Florida**
- Mining Dry Period Data for Insights into Improved Lactation Performance - **Barry Bradford, Michigan State University**

Evening Banquet Entertainment:

The Heebie-jeebees (*optional, separate registration required*)

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Morning Plenary Session

Session IV: Student Research

- **Student Research Presentation Competition**
Five graduate students will present their dairy-related research findings.

Session V: Producer Panel & Virtual Farm Tours

- Three dairy farms demonstrating sustainability and resilience on their operations will be virtually toured followed by a Q&A period

Afternoon Plenary Session

Session VI: Animal Welfare

- Revised Dairy Code of Practice: What Will it Really Mean for Us? - **Clem Nash, Novus International**
- Mindful Pain Management: Addressing Both Visible and Unseen Pain in Dairy Cows - **Kate Creutzinger, University of Wisconsin-River Falls**

Session VII: Future Proofing: Designing 2050 Ready Facilities

- Whole-Farm Visioneering Concepts for a Resilient Future Dairy Farm - **Vern Osborne, University of Guelph**
- A Producer's Perspective on Best Practices in Robotic Barn Design - **Anton Borst, Halarda Farms Ltd.**

Cocktail Reception

Friday, March 8, 2024

Morning Plenary Session

Session VIII: Disaster Management: Lessons Learned

- Preparing for the Next Big Disease: Surveillance, Biosecurity and Other Key Steps in Emerging Disease Preparedness - **Glen Duizer, Government of Manitoba**
- When Disaster Strikes - Living through the BC Floods - **Lisa McCrae, Agwest Veterinary Group**
- All-Hazard Type Events: Producer Preparation and Response - **Katherine Altman, Alberta Agriculture & Irrigation**

Session IX: The New Age of Digital Agriculture

- Practicing Strategic Social Media Engagement in Agriculture: The Fight Against Disinformation - **Kevin Folta, University of Florida**
- Dairy Farming 2.0: Milking the Potential of Artificial Intelligence – **Diego Nobrega, University of Calgary**

Your 2023 Speakers

Keynote Speakers



Dianne Finstad used her farm roots to build what's become a four-decade long communications career in television, radio and writing, specializing in agriculture and rodeo coverage, based in Red Deer. After working in both daily television and radio, Dianne is now a communications specialist, pursuing a wide variety of MC-ing, announcing and reporting opportunities. Dianne diversified her hosting skills during the pandemic, serving as an online moderator for a number of virtual events. She has also started her 'TV career 2.0', hosting Frontline Farming Canada, for RFD-TV Canada. Dianne is board director for Westerner Park in Red Deer, and a board member for Lakeland College.



Sara Place is an expert in livestock systems sustainability with over a decade of experience in academia, industry associations, and private industry. She joined Colorado State University's AgNext, a research collaborative focused on sustainable animal agriculture, in August 2022. Dr. Place's research focuses on enteric methane emissions measurement and mitigation from cattle. Previously, she was the chief sustainability officer for Elanco Animal Health, senior director for sustainable beef production research at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and an assistant professor in sustainable beef cattle systems at Oklahoma State University.



Annie AcMoody is the VP, Policy & Trade for Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC). She has been with the organization since October 2020, overseeing policies, analysis and recommendations that support DFC objectives. Her work at DFC also focuses on programs supporting sustainable production practices in the industry, including proAction and DFC's sustainability strategy.



Katherine Altman first became involved in emergency management as part of the southern Alberta 2013 flood response and recovery. She also has extensive experience working with distinct and remote communities, including as an advocate for indigenous communities. Katherine works full time in the emergency management field with Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation.



Anton Borst is one of the owners of Halarda Farms Ltd in Manitoba. Halarda Farms Ltd is currently milking 1300 cows with 20 milking robots and farms approximately 5000 Acres. In addition to Dairy farming, Anton does management consulting work for several farms in North America, specializing in robotic farms.



Barry Bradford completed his BSc at Iowa State University and a PhD in animal nutrition at Michigan State University. He served on the faculty at Kansas State University from 2006 to 2019, and in 2020 he returned to Michigan State as the Clint Meadows Chair in Dairy Management. Dr. Bradford's research focuses on dairy cattle nutrition and metabolism as well as dairy management.



Kate Creutzinger is an assistant professor of dairy science in the Department of Animal and Food Science at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. There, she teaches dairy production and animal welfare and performs basic and applied research aimed at improving the lives of dairy cattle. Her expertise is in transition dairy cows, non-replacement calves, and animal welfare



Glen Duizer is a veterinarian and epidemiologist with Manitoba's Chief Veterinary Office, whose work includes animal health surveillance, disease preparedness and response, and veterinary extension. He leads the province's animal health investigation and surveillance programs, coordinating the detection and response to reportable and emerging animal diseases in Manitoba.



Kevin Folta is a molecular biologist/genomics expert with an emphasis in fruit crops. He also specializes in strategic communication and has been recognized with prestigious awards for efforts in agricultural and science communication.



Matthew Gaudreau is the Executive Director of Policy and Economics at the Canadian Dairy Commission. He joined the organization in 2016 as a senior analyst and, with his team, works on a variety of topics in dairy supply management, from measuring and forecasting Canadian demand, to establishing annual price changes for milk from the farm, to engaging in trade files related to CUSMA and CPTPP.



Paul Kononoff is a native of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. He holds a BSA and an MSc in animal science from the University of Saskatchewan and a PhD in dairy and animal science from The Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Kononoff is currently a Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and serves as Editor-in-Chief for the Journal of Dairy Science.



Connie McLellan grew up on a dairy farm in Nova Scotia milking 200 cows and has a degree in Environmental Horticulture from Dalhousie University. She lives and works part time on her partners family farm in Quebec where they milk 100 cows. Connie is the Dairy Lead for the National Sustainability Team at Ducks Unlimited Canada.



Diego Nobrega is an Assistant Professor in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary and holds a Canada Research Chair in One Health and Antimicrobial Resistance. After receiving his DVM, Dr. Nobrega worked in private practice for two years and then earned his PhD in Infectious Diseases from the UofC. His program focuses on developing evidence-based AMR intervention and control measures.



José Santos is a Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida where he conducts research and extension to develop technologies the improve peripartum health and reproduction. He earned his DVM degree from São Paulo State University in Brazil, completed an M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree at the University of Arizona, and a clinical residency in Dairy Production Medicine at UC Davis.



Lisa McCrea is a veterinarian and the dairy team manager at Agwest Veterinary Group. After graduating from the Atlantic Veterinary College, Dr. McCrea spent 10 years practicing in Ontario, specializing in dairy herd health and reproduction. Lisa is now a managing partner at Agwest Veterinary group, and she has also taken on the role of consulting, and producer training.



Clemence Nash is very active in the Dairy Health and Welfare space, having contributed to the original Animal Care module through her research, and leading Traceability and Animal Care files for DFC. Most recently, she has returned to Novus International as the C.O.W.S. Senior commercial director but continues to work closely with DFC on key Animal Care files.



Vern Osborne was born and raised on a Master Breeder Holstein operation in Ontario. After completing an MSc and PhD at the University of Guelph, he was a Professor at Ridgetown College before becoming the Marketing Director for Semex Canada. Vern is now a Professor at UGuelph where he is internationally recognized for his work in water nutrition of dairy animals and dairy facility design.



Daniel Scothorn earned his MSc in Ruminant Nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan and then worked as a nutritionist before co-founding Scothorn Nutrition. Scothorn Nutrition works mainly on the East Coast of Canada but also in the UAE and Vietnam. With 25 years of experience as a dairy nutritionist, growing up on a dairy farm and earning a MSc, Daniel will offer a balance of science and real-time farm experience.

Nominate an individual for the John
J. Kennelly WCDS Award of Merit.
More details at www.wcds.ca

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Processor Representative
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Representative from Saskatchewan
University of Alberta, Dept. of Ag, Food & Nutrition Sci.
University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

2024 Western Canadian Dairy Seminar - Registration Form

Name** _____ Company** _____

Address _____

City/Town** _____ Prov/State** _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Email _____ Phone () _____

Affiliation: Producer ☐ Industry ☐ Vet ☐ Gov't ☐ Academic ☐ Student ☐ Other ☐ _____

Registration Fees (please list additional people on a separate sheet or email us the details)

- ****Note:** This information will appear on your **name tag** at the Seminar.
- **The registration fee includes** a copy of the proceedings (USB), five nutrition breaks, two evening receptions, three breakfasts, and two luncheons. All fees include GST.
- For **cancellations** received prior to **February 26, 2024**, registration fees will be refunded minus a \$50 administration fee. Cancellations received **after February 26 will not be refunded, but can be substituted**. If you are unable to attend due to illness, registration can be substituted or deferred to 2024.
- For **more information** please contact **Kira Hames**, Conference Coordinator at (780) 492-3236 or wcds@ualberta.ca

	Cost		#		Total
Early Registration (payment must be received by February 9, 2024)	\$320	x		=	
Late Registration (payment received after February 9, 2024)	\$370	x		=	
One day registration (specify which day) - Wednesday <input type="radio"/>	\$170	x		=	
- Thursday <input type="radio"/>					
Friday morning only	\$100	x		=	
Student Registration	\$85	x		=	
Banquet - Wednesday evening *Please let us know of any special food requirements	\$75	x		=	
Proceedings – One copy included with registration.					
Additional proceedings on USB	\$15	x		=	
Total fee enclosed					

❖ How did you hear about the WCDS? (e.g. website, word-of-mouth, advert): _____

❖ Is this your first time attending the WCDS?: Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'No', how many times have you attended?: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Cheque in mail made payable to "Western Canadian Dairy Seminar"	Or pay by Visa # _____ MasterCard # _____ AMEX # _____ Print Name on Card _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____ CVS code (on back of card): _____
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OR scan and email completed form to wcds@ualberta.ca, OR fax completed form to (780) 492-4265, OR mail to: Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, 4-10 Ag/Forestry Centre, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2P5 Canada