



# Western Canadian Dairy Seminar

## March 6 - 9, 2012

### Red Deer, Alberta

## 30 Years of Advancing Dairy Knowledge

### Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

#### 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.

#### 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop for Producers -

“Cow Signals – understanding what your cows are telling you” **Facilitators:** Jack Rodenburg, DairyLogix Consulting and Dan McDermid, DairySMART Management (Max 30)

#### 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Symposium

for Nutritionists- “Feeding strategies for economically challenging times” **Facilitators:** Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois-Champagne and Adam Lock, Michigan State University (max 50)

#### 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Workshop for Producers -

“Say, Listen, Hear: Improving productivity through effective communication” **Facilitator:** Karen Gingras, HR Diva Corp. (Max 25)

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

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

### Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Morning Plenary Session

#### Session I. WCDS and Dairying: A 30 Year Perspective

8:50 *Highlights of the past and a look into the future of dairy nutrition - Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois - Champagne*

9:30 *Highlights of the past and a look into the future of dairy reproduction - Matt Lucy, University of Missouri*

10:10 Nutrition Break

10:40 *What we've learned about optimizing efficiency of dairy production - Normand St-Pierre, The Ohio State University*

11:20 *Agriculture, food and society – philosophy to nanotechnology - Paul Thompson, Michigan State University*

12:00 **Panel (all speakers)**

12:20 **Lunch**

#### Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

##### Session II. Reproduction

1:50 *Importance of health and fertility traits – A producer's perspective - Don Bennink, North Florida Holsteins*

2:30 *Perspectives on embryo transfer - Reuben Maplettoft, WCVM, University of Saskatchewan*

3:10 Nutrition Break

3:40 *Resynchronization programs for dairy cows - Matt Lucy, University of Missouri*

4:20 *Prevalence and risk factors for dystocia in dairy cows - with emphasis on confinement systems - John Mee, Teagasc, Ireland*

5:00 **Panel (all speakers)**

##### Session III. Finance, Management & Economics

1:50 *Achieving excellence in dairying - Gordie Jones, Central Sands Dairy LLC, WI*

2:30 *Employee management and labour retention on dairy farms - Karen Gingras, HR Diva Corp.*

3:10 Nutrition Break

3:40 *Succession planning for dairy farms - Reg Shandro, Farmacist Advisory Services Inc.*

4:20 *Discuss the Undiscussabull ...tools to talk about tough transfer issues and ACT! - Elaine Froese, Seeds of Encouragement*

5:00 **Panel (all speakers)**

**Evening Banquet:** Todd Butler, Entertainer, political satirist, musician

## Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

### Morning Plenary Session

#### Session IV. Management: Calves to Cows

- 8:30 *Bovine neonatal survival – is improvement possible?* - **John Mee, Teagasc, Ireland**
- 9:10 *Health and immune function of bovine calves* - **Ken Leslie, OVC, University of Guelph**
- 9:50 Nutrition Break
- 10:20 *Stockman-ship: a step forward in handling dairy cows* - **Gordie Jones, Central Sands Dairy LLC, WI**
- 11:00 *New concepts in dry period management* – **Daniel Lefebvre, Valacta**
- 11:40 **Panel (all speakers)**
- 12:00 **Lunch**

### Afternoon Concurrent Sessions

#### Session V. Nutrition

- 1:30 *How variation in diets affects productivity* - **Normand St-Pierre, The Ohio State University**
- 2:10 *Efficient use of forages and impact on cost of production* - **Karen Beauchemin, AAFC**
- 2:50 Nutrition break
- 3:20 *Lessons learned from dealing with high feed costs* - **Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois - Champaign**
- 4:00 *Feeding for milk components* – **Adam Lock, Michigan State University**
- 4:40 **Panel (all speakers)**

#### Session VI. Dairy Health

- 1:30 *Overcoming barriers to lameness control on dairy farms* - **Becky Whay, Bristol Veterinary School, Bristol University**
- 2:10 *Meeting the challenges of improving health in periparturient dairy cows* - **Burim Ametaj, University of Alberta**
- 2:50 Nutrition Break
- 3:20 *An update on the Alberta Johnes Disease Initiative* - **Herman Barkema, University of Calgary, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine**
- 4:00 *Should you treat them or should you eat them...how to improve mastitis treatments* - **Pamela Ruegg, University of Wisconsin - Madison**
- 4:40 **Panel (all speakers)**

Reception to be held after Sessions

## Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

### Morning Plenary Session

#### Session VII. Dairy Production and the Environment

- 8:30 *Dairy's carbon footprint and sustainability* - **Frank Mitloehner, University of California - Davis** –
- 9:10 *Managing cows, milking and the environment to minimize mastitis* - **Pamela Ruegg, University of Wisconsin - Madison**
- 9:50 Nutrition Break
- 10:20 *Bedding options for dairy farms* - **Marcia Endres, University of Minnesota**
- 11:00 *Public and producer attitudes to contentious topics in dairy farming* - **Dan Weary, University of British Columbia**
- 11:40 **Panel (all speakers)**
- 12:00 **Closing**