

**25**  
**MARS**  
**2020**

LE  
**RENDEZ-VOUS**  
**laitier**  
AQINAC

**AGENDA**

**7:30 am Registration, Coffee and Booth Visits**

## CONFERENCES

**9:20 am Word of welcome**

**9:30 am Overview of Growth and Debt in Dairy Production and Outlook for 2020**

Jean-Philippe Gervais, Ph.D.,  
Vice-president and chief economist,  
*Farm Credit Canada*



The dairy sector has met several changes in the last years: faster growth, lower profit margins and escalating debt. What is the current financial health of dairy farms? Are they still in a position to increase productivity and stay competitive?

## FLASH CONFERENCE

**10:10 am How to progress in the milk transformation market with the new social factors and political impacts**

Alain Chalifoux,  
Entrepreneur and Chair of the  
*Conseil des industriels laitiers du Québec*



From the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) to the young generation's consumption habits; we will explore how to understand your business environment and how to take advantage of the related opportunities.

**10:35 am Update on BCS in Dairy Cows : New Views on an Old Topic**

James K. Drackley, Ph. D.,  
Professor, *Illinois University*



Body condition score remains a valuable tool to assess long-term changes in body nutrient storage. New data indicates that calving at a BCS of 3.0 (on a 5-point scale) may be the optimum for production, health, and reproduction. But how do we achieve that score?

**11:25 am Farming 4.0 : A Revolution Driven by Artificial Intelligence**

Jacquelin Labrecque, ing., P. Eng.,  
Research and Development  
Manager, *Conception Ro-Main inc.*



Artificial intelligence (AI) is often portrayed as the engine of the next technical evolution. This presentation will demystify AI, explain its impact on breeding and help dairy breeders and stakeholders understand how AI can quickly become a tool enabling them to progress on several levels. Practical examples of AI used in the dairy sector and other types of productions will also be presented.

**12:15 am Lunch and Booth Visits**



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## CONFERENCE SESSION : Investment Strategy

1:45 pm **Can you afford to raise your heifers**

Luc Gagné, agr.,  
Farm Management Advisor,  
*Ontario Farm Management Group*

There is more than one way to ensure dairy herd replacement. Raising heifers at the farm is the most common. But, are your heifers worth raising? Are you really an expert in that area? And at what price? What are the other options?

2:25 pm **The Main Layout Options and Their Impacts**

Christian Lemay, ing.,  
Owner and Dairy and Beef Project  
Manager,  
*Consultants Lemay & Choinière*

When the time comes to plan for the construction of a new dairy complex, several layout and equipment options are available to the farmers. To better understand the pros and cons, the different possibilities and their budget differences, examples of current realizations will be presented to help identify management elements differentiating these layouts.



## CONFERENCE SESSION : Health and Food

1:45 pm **Alternative Forages in Dairy Nutrition**

Dr Dan Undersander, Ph. D.,  
Forage Professor Emeritus,  
*University of Wisconsin*

There are times when forages other than the standard timothy, alfalfa or clover may be the most economic for growers. We will discuss a number of alternative forages, including sorghum, sudangrass, ryegrass, soybean silage, and small grains (oatlage/wheatlage). The management of each crop and their positive and negative aspects will be discussed.

2:25 pm **Giving Antibiotics or Not, That Is the Question!**

Dr. Jean-Philippe Roy, DMV,  
Full Professor,  
*Faculty of Veterinary  
Medicine*

This conference will explain the main principles of judicious use of antibiotics and of antibiotic resistance. Concrete examples in the dairy context will be presented to illustrate how to improve the practices and, doing so, lower the use of antibiotics and the risk of developing antibiotic resistance.

3:25 pm **Return to plenary**3:30 pm **Dairy industry facing new challenges**

Pierrette Desrosiers, Work  
Psychologist, Lecturer

With the arrival of new means of communication, new food trends, consumers' expectations and interest groups, new challenges lie ahead for the dairy industry. This conference will answer all your questions and show you how to prepare for these changes.



4:45  
to

6:30 pm

**CELEBRATIONS of the  
Rendez-vous laitier !**

**Come celebrate the excellence  
of our industry!**

*Included with your registration*

