

20 Years of CDN!

May 2015 marks CDN's 20th anniversary; 20 years of providing leadership in dairy herd improvement through genetic evaluation services and an information infrastructure that are envied around the world. The company was officially incorporated on May 29th, 1995 as the result of the privatization of national genetic evaluation services from the federal government to industry. CDN member organizations include breed associations, milk recording agencies and A.I. companies marketing genetics in Canada, as well as Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC). CDN is fully funded by its industry member organizations with an annual operational budget approaching two million dollars in addition to over \$400,000 per year to support genetics research in universities across Canada. The Board of Directors consists of eight representatives from the member organizations, with the vast majority being dairy producers.

CDN People

A total of twelve people work at CDN representing three main areas of activity, namely (1) genetic evaluation and research, (2) data processing and industry services and (3) management, administration and communications.



CDN staff from left to right: Front row: Gladys Huapaya, Janusz Jamrozik, Brian Van Doormaal (General Manager), Jamie Zimmerman, Lynsay Beavers, Patti Beaumont (Information Services Manager) Back row: Pete Sullivan, Gerrit Kistemaker (Chief Geneticist), Filippo Miglior (Chief of Research & Strategic Development), Jarmila Johnston, Michela Arbuthnott, Shakeel Ahmad

Genetic Evaluation and Research

CDN's primary mandate is to provide genetic evaluation services for all dairy cattle breeds in Canada. To accomplish this objective with timely and accurate proofs, there are six geneticists at CDN. Dr. Gerrit Kistemaker has worked at CDN for 16 years and, in his role as Chief Geneticist, he ensures that genetic evaluation systems are executed properly while conducting ongoing research to continually improve existing systems. Gladys Huapaya has been with CDN for 15 years and assists with the calculation of genetic evaluations. New to CDN in the past five years, Drs. Jarmila Johnston and Janusz Jamrozik carry out research activities to address

industry concerns and identify improvements in methodology. Dr. Pete Sullivan has been Research Scientist for nearly 10 years and concentrates his time on developing and implementing new methods associated with CDN's genetic and genomic evaluations but also significantly contributes to the international genetic and genomic evaluation services provided by Interbull. With more than 15 years experience working in the CDN environment, Dr. Filippo Miglior is the Chief of Research and Strategic Development at CDN and is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guelph. His activities target industry-driven research priorities by developing new methodologies and tools for implementation by CDN as well as coordinating research projects and securing government funding for major industry initiatives.

Industry Services and Data Management

In addition to genetic evaluation services and research, CDN is responsible for the maintenance of a national dairy database for the exchange of data among industry partner organizations, as well as for public access via the CDN website. As Information Services Manager, Patti Beaumont has nearly 15 years experience at CDN and supervises all activities related to computer hardware, software, database design, data exchange and internet services. Patti is also a database programmer and expert in Oracle, and therefore ensures the proper functionality of the database processes and develops new ones as required.

As Coordinator of Data Exchange and Information Services, Jamie Zimmermann is responsible for the regular receipt and processing of data from milk recording, breeds and A.I. for loading in the CDN database as well as the genotypes for all animals tested in North America. In addition, she coordinates the provision of all data from CDN back to the industry organizations, which is a continual process. Shakeel Ahmad has been the information technology expert at CDN in the role of System and Network Administrator for over 13 years and is responsible for the maintenance of all hardware and software including the powerful computers used for genetic evaluation calculations, research and web queries accessing the CDN database. A new role developed a few years ago is that of Industry Liaison Coordinator. This position is held by Lynsay Beavers who writes articles and gives presentations on topics related to the genetic improvement of dairy cattle. She also interacts directly with industry personnel and producers on matters related to genetic and genomic evaluation services provided by CDN.

Management, Administration and Communications

As General Manager since the creation of CDN twenty years ago, Brian Van Doormaal and Michela Arbuthnott, as Administrative Assistant for the past 8 years, are a solid team that cover all activities related to the management, finances, administration and record keeping for the corporation. Working closely with the Board of Directors, they implement policies and directives and coordinate activities associated with three advisory committees, namely the Dairy Cattle Genetics Research and Development Council (DairyGen), the Genetic Evaluation Board (GEB) and the Industry Standards Committee. CDN is also responsible for the organization of the Dairy Cattle Improvement Industry Forum held in September of each year in conjunction with the CDN Annual General Meeting.

The Future

Today, genetic evaluation systems and services at CDN are highly respected and envied around the world. In this era of genomics, the need for information management is growing while industry partners strive for continued efficiencies. Under the umbrella and structure of CDN, the dairy cattle industry in Canada is well positioned to face the challenges of the future and maintain the profitability of Canadian producers in the years to come.

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