

Opening Remarks
Narine Singh
Poultry Service Industry Workshop Committee

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Planning Committee of the Poultry Service Industry Workshop, to extend a warm welcome to all of you. I extend a special welcome to our speakers, some of whom have come long distances to be with us. I know that you have worked hard to prepare your presentations and scripted copies for the proceedings; I have seen most of them. But whilst here, do take the time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Canadian Rockies, since it is especially for this bonus that we hold the Workshop in the Banff National Park. To all of you, our wish is that you enjoy the conference, and that you find it enlightening and intellectually stimulating.

The 2004 PSIW Planning Committee chair - Rob Anderson - has done a stellar job putting this year's program together. He has carefully listened to all ideas, and suggestions and worked hard to ensure their full and fair representation on the program. As you can see, the program offers something for everyone, including topics on nutrition, management, water, drugs and drug free production, summer ventilation, and Avian Influenza, consensus being allowed to subvert the emergence of an overriding theme. There is great competition for the 17-18 time slots available in the program, and I have again been a witness to the collective effort of members to put together the best possible combination of topics and speaker matches. Even after the program was printed, we continued to receive calls from individuals and companies, each desirous of being included in this year's program. I wish we had the time to include half of the topics suggested for this year.

It is a given that cutting edge technology is critical to the success of any industry, including the poultry industry. To stay competitive, those involved in the transfer of this technology to industry, must also have a deeper and broader knowledge of this technology. It is the hope of PSIW to effectively provide the opportunity for such transfer. Since the desired poultry expertise is distributed across particularly the developed world, PSIW continues to increase the number of international experts invited to speak. Another important reason is that, more now than at any other time in history, there is greater commonality of issues/challenges, whether in Europe, Asia or North

America, and correspondingly greater recognition that in this increasingly interdependent world, success is predicated on learning from one another, cooperation, and teamwork among provinces, nations and regions of the world.

At first, slowly, but now with swifter steps, we witness the inexorable emergence of the global village, and if this trajectory is followed, it is anyone's guess as to what it would look like in the next 25 years. An impact in one area of the world can quickly produce a significant resonance in another part of the world. Also, the world has become a significantly smaller place, such that problems half a world away can now be on our doorstep within twenty-four hours after their emergence. Thus, it appears that the world's problems have now become ours as well. As SARS vaporized any hint of complacency in the field of human diseases, so too, the BC Avian Influenza "catastrophe" of 2004, was the poultry industry's wake-up call. The first three talks as you would see on your program, are dedicated to AI, and I assure you that it was not easy to constrain it to just three. Nonetheless, I like you, would like to know what lessons we have learned and could yet learn from this experience, and how much better prepared we are today for this and similar challenges, than last year at this time.

This workshop also creates an excellent forum for "networking", a term that describes communication and the transfer of information on a more personal and informal level, the shell of formality having being stripped away. This is the ground level, where theory takes a back seat to practical considerations and where such things as temperatures, concentrations, prices, product availability, recommendations, and the brutally frank questions, opinions and intuitions are engaged. We encourage you to make full use of this opportunity.

I am confident, however, that you will be pleased with the 2004 Workshop. During the next one and one half days you will be hearing from a host of experts, and it is our hope that you will get most, if not all your questions, answered.

Without further delay, I wish to declare, "Open" the 29th Poultry Service Industry Workshop. Ladies and gentlemen, have a good conference.

Thank you.

Narine Singh