

Aussie Red Field Report Aug 2011

August ABV release;

Once again the Aussie Red has shown its dominance as the leading Red Breed under Australian payment and dairying conditions, holding 15 of the top 22 positions on APR.

The value of selecting Red Breed Genetics proven under our Australian payment and dairying systems and environmental conditions cannot be underestimated. Since the formation of the Aussie Red Breed in 1987, Aussie Red breeders quickly learnt that the top rated Scandinavian sires do not perform in the same order under Australian conditions. Some perform to expectation and some disappoint.

The vastly different dairying conditions in Scandinavian countries, with housed small herds fed a fully TMR ration, compared to being required to compete in large herds in a vastly different climate and pasture based systems where the average cow producing 30 litres will take 35,000 bites a day of pasture!!!!!! A cow that has the luxury of just sucking up a TMR ration compared to cow having to work hard taking 35,000 bites of pasture a day may help explain why some imported bulls do not live up to expectation when proven under Australian conditions.

Aussie Red sires now Number 1 for ASI, Protein kgs, Fat kgs, components, plus Type, Udders and importantly all Workability categories, Temperament, Milking Speed and Likeability for the Red Breeds group with APR proofs.

The August ABV release shows the strength of the Aussie Reds, with our Aussie Red sires now holding the number one positions for ASI, Protein kgs, Fat kgs, components, plus Type, Udders and importantly all Workability categories, Temperament, Milking Speed and Likeability for the Red Breeds group with APR proofs.

No.1 ASI; ARDBOBDOWN at 182

No. 1 Protein kgs; ARBBOBDOWN at +24 kgs

No. 1 Fat Kgs; ARBPOTSIE at +39 Kgs

Equal No.1 for Type; ARBTHATCH & ARBRALPH at 119

Equal No.2 for Type; ARBLEX 118

No.1 Mammary System; ARBRALPH 116

No.2 Mammary System; ARBMAWSON 109

No. 1 Milking Speed; ARBHARFORD

Equal No.1 Temperament; ARBHARFORD and ARBMOLONE

No. 1 Likeability; ARBHARFORD

The Aussie Red Breed has increased its Type ABV by a massive 6 standard deviation points over the past five years. This is an amazing achievement and testament to the breeding

skills and strict selection process by Aussie Red breeders and the ARDB Progeny Test Selection Committee and those from Genetics companies helping to develop the Aussie Red.

BULL REPORTS

ARBLEX; His daughters are now calving down for their 2nd lactation, I would rate ARBLEX as the best Red bull going at present for both Red Breeders and Cross breeders. His daughters are calving down and continuing off from last season, with great silky textured udders and teat placement, fantastic type and again with lots of will to milk.

It must be remembered that the facial eczema outbreak in Gippsland affected some LEX daughters, so his initial proof could be slightly lower than it could have been.

For the cross breeder, Lex is the perfect choice to use in any situation.

ARBONJOVI; Daughters are still looking great! Their udders are holding together well and like Lex, they should prove to be long living very profitable cows. Also like Lex, I rate Bonjovi as one of the best Red sires available for both Red and cross breeders. He is ideal to use over Holstein cows.

ARBMAWSON; Most farmers using Mawson have reported that his calves are a bit smaller than average and no calving issues. The daughters that I have seen since May have impressed me. Good type and udders, great production.

ARBTHATCH; If you are chasing Type, then this sire will not disappoint! They also have great udders and he has far better cell counts than ARBRALPH. His daughters are sharper and do tend to take longer to put condition back on. For the Red breeder wanting Type, I feel he will work best over those heavier type cows. For the cross breeder I his best use may be over J x HF cows or larger framed HF cows.

PETERSLUND; Peterslund's rise to No.1 on APR shows the strength of using a bull in the breeding situation that best suits it. Peterslund was clearly best suited for use over J x HF cows and as such was used heavily in this position. Now with more second crop daughters added to his proof and many being 3-way cross, giving 100% heterosis (hybrid vigour) his proof has increased accordingly.

For the cross breeder, the value of using a Red sire in the position within your crossbreeding program that maximises his strength cannot be underestimated. Doing so is a win win situation for you and the success of your breeding program.

Daughters of German Red Angler sires in Red herds are very impressive. **Zober**, like his daughters I saw in Germany, they are quiet, heaps of milk, great udders and very consistent in type. I am now milking Zober, Dragomir and Didolum daughters, very impressed with them. The **Dragomir's** are like those I saw in Mike Greens herd, really good! The **Didolum's** are taller a bit sharper with great type and udders and good production. Hopefully there will be some high genetic merit daughters of these sires to build bull dam lines from.

Ron Graham and John Williams did a very successful tour in Northern Victoria and parts of NSW. They visited several herds that have not had contact from the ARDB previously and found some impressive cows.

Interestingly whilst at Frank and Marianne Kelly's at Tragowel of the best 6 heifers they saw going around on the rotary, 5 were by montbeliarde sire Solstice! All reports back from those calving and milking his progeny have been fantastic.

Currently I am back in WA this week for the WA dairy days.

Cheers

Steve Snowdon

ARDB Field Officer

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