

GENETICS AUSTRALIA UPDATE APRIL 2016

“PROGRESS CONTINUES” Writes John Harle, Genetics Australia

Two very important events for both staff of Genetics Australia and Australian Red Breeders are the releases of the Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) every year in April and August.

The results of this year's April proof release confirms that Genetics Australia and Australian Red Breeders are continuing to make progress. Genetics Australia's Aussie Red proven team includes bulls with the strength to improve important individual traits and at the same time help farmers to improve their profits.

If you want to improve Protein Production, Protein Composition and Profit in the next generation check the credentials of ARBOBAMA, ARBIMPULSE, ARBICESTAR and the Norwegian Red - EIK. If however your emphasis is on improving Fat Production, Fat Composition and Profit in your next generation, bulls such as ARBBONJOVI, ARBROGER, ARBICESTAR and the Norwegian Red, SKEI would better fit the bill.

However you may also have a group of high component cows that produce only modest amounts of milk. To improve profit from the descendants of these cows, the best strategy may be to lift milk and protein production. For these cows I would suggest the like of ARBHILLY, ARBLIPPMAN, the young Aussie Red sires included in our data panel and several of our Norwegian Red sires including SKJELVAN, TANGVOLL, ENGEBAKKEN and SMEDSTAD.

Following is a summary of the features of the bulls in our current line-up.

***ARBOBAMA – BEAULANDS OBAMA (OBROLIN x BOTANS)**

ARBOBAMA is a very worthy team leader.

His strengths include:

- Great protein yield plus a significant improvement in protein composition.
- High ratings for milking speed and farmer likeability.
- Strong ratings for survival, longevity and fertility.
- Based on pedigree he should be a calving ease sire.

***ARBHILLY – BEAULANDS HILLY (VEST DELTA x FYNAKS)**

ARBHILLY is an outstanding sire.

His strengths include:

- High milk flow – our red team leader for milk production.
- High ratings for workability traits – milking speed, temperament and farmer likeability.
- Will improve type – our highest rated red bull for improving rear udder height.
- High ratings for survival – daughters are staying in herds.
- Will reduce cell count.

***ARBBONJOVI (A22) – BOSGOWAN BONJOVI (ORRARYD x TORP882)**

ARBBONJOVI has a top proof of high reliability

His strengths include:

- Significant improvement in fat and protein production and composition.
- High rating for daughter fertility.
- High rating for survival
- High reliability – production proof based on data from 1284 Australian daughters in 200 herds.

***ARBICESTAR (A22) – BEAULANDS SATELLITE (ANDERSTA x CHRISTIANSBORG)**

ARBICESTAR has a top all round proof.

His strengths include:

- Red team leader for improving daughter fertility.
- High ratings for survival – daughters are staying in herds.

- Good proof for reducing cell count.
- High well balanced production proof. He improves production of protein, milk and fat and milk composition.

***ARBLIPPMAN – BOSGOWAN LIPPMAN (TMOBERG x STENSJO)**

ARBLIPPMAN added data from significant numbers of second crop daughters and he still has a top proof.

His strengths include:

- High well balanced production proof.
- Improves udders, good ratings for all traits in the mammary system.
- Good rating for reducing cell count.
- Production proof of high reliability – based on data from 249 Australian daughters in 62 herds.

***EIK 10540 (LUIRO x ULSAKER)**

EIK achieved his first Australian proof this April including data from 125 Australian daughters in 20 herds. His production proof in Norway is now based on data from 10548 daughters. The data also contributes to his Australian proof.

His strengths include:

- Outstanding Australian rating for improving protein production and composition.
- In Norway in addition to improving protein production and composition EIK also achieves high ratings for calving ease, daughter fertility, clinical mastitis resistance, general disease resistance, claw or hoof health and the mammary system.

Three new bulls graduated from Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test Program. Whilst we expect proofs of higher reliability in August their strengths are already evident.

***ARBIMPULSE – ORANA IMPULSE (ARBBOBDOWN x ORRARYD)**

Bred by Toby Leppin – Bena, Vic.

ARBIMPULSE has a sound initial proof.

His real strength at this stage is his outstanding rating for improving protein production and composition. In addition his rating for temperament is higher than that of his sire.

***ARBLIKEABLE – BEAULANDS LIKEABLE (S.ADAM x ORRARYD)**

Bred by Sam Graham (Beaulands) Nowra, NSW.

The initial proof of ARBLIKEABLE indicates that he should be a very suitable bull for both crossbreeders and red breeders. He has very good ratings for type, temperament, farmer likeability, cell count, fertility and survival.

ARBROGER (A22) – ORANA ROGER (BANGKOK x JUBY 1617)

Bred by Toby Leppin – Bena, Vic.

I consider ARBROGER could develop into another very useful bull for both Red Breeders and Crossbreeders. He offers outcross genetics and already has a top proof for improving fat production and composition. In addition he has high ratings for temperament, farmer likeability, cell count and survival.

We are very pleased with the high EBVs for some of our current and former Aussie Red Progeny Test sires. ARBDAIRYWEEK and ARBSCAREBEAR – both sons of Swedish Red VFOSKE continue to rate highly and on the back of VFOSKE's ABV performance, we have included 2 sons among the new young sires we have sourced.

The new bulls are:

ARBGLACIER (VFOSKE x TOSIKKO)

ARBLONGROAD (VFOSKE x OYGARDEN)

ARBSRING (TOSIKKO x FYNAKS)

ARBGLACIER from Beaulands Tosikko Rosie 3 has a very high EBV rating of 262 for BPI. In fact the only bull with a higher rating than him is his sire VFOSKE. Initially semen of ARBGLACIER will be reserved for Progeny Test Co-operators. However once a certain amount of semen has been collected, his semen will then become available to all farmers.

ARBLONGROAD – P (A22) was bred by Tim Humphris at Tongala in North Victoria. Tim purchased his dam Beaulands Oygarden Lady VG86 when Beaulands had a “promotion” sale, a number of years ago. ARBLONGROAD was a popular, high demand Aussie Red Progeny Test sire in 2015. We are finding increasing demand from farmers for semen from bulls that are natural polls. Consequently we decided to include ARBLONGROAD in this team and give all farmers access to his semen.

ARBSPRING bred by Sam Graham at Beaulands, was another obvious choice. Tosikko was a very successful sire in Australia but unfortunately he is now dead. We have tested a number of sons of TOSIKKO – they all have potential. However we like the strong Birdie cow family at Beaulands. Consequently ARBSPRING became the first son of TOSIKKO to be added to this elite team.

SUMMARY – all these five young sires have great pedigrees and high EBV ratings. I encourage all red breeders and crossbreeders to include all five bulls in their breeding program in 2016. This team of bulls has a lot to offer.