

AUGUST UPDATE - AUSSIE RED PROGENY TEST TEAM 2014

Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test program is a real success story! writes John Harle

Because of a successful partnership between Aussie Red Bull Breeders, Australian Progeny Test Cooperators and staff at Genetics Australia some old favourites including ARBLAWRENCE, ARBRALPH and ARBHARFORD have gone. Younger, higher rated bulls have taken their places. This is the sign of a successful breeding program – this is what should be happening. Obviously we are very pleased with the initial proofs of ARBNICK, ARBICESTAR, ARBHILLY and ARBOBAMA. However to help Australian Dairy Farmers grow and improve their herds and increase their profits we would like to do more. We would like to test a greater number of young Aussie Red Progeny Test Sires.

To do this we need more support from Australian Dairy Farmers. AB Centres by themselves cannot prove bulls. We need the support and cooperation of a significant number of Dairy Farmers who are prepared to include a significant amount of Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test semen in their program.

Obviously we appreciate the support we already receive from many Australian Dairy Farmers. It is because of the support of these Dairy Farmers that Genetics Australia can offer to the world an outstanding team of Aussie Red Proven sires led by the current big stars, ARBBONJOVI, ARBFROSTY and ARBLEX. It is also because of these farmers that four new Aussie Red bulls with real potential – ARBNICK, ARBICESTAR, ARBHILLY and ARBOBAMA have been included in our Proven Aussie Red Team 2014.

I have always described the Aussie Red Breed as a Scandinavian Red Breed being developed in Australia. Genetics Australia's program is being developed in a country where the main dairy farming system is based on year round grazing of pastures and crops topped up with supplements. Genetics Australia's export manager, Rob Derksen is finding enormous interest in Aussie Reds from farmers in many countries that have similar pasture based systems.

It will help farmers in many countries as well as Australian Dairy Farmers if Genetics Australia can Progeny Test a larger team of high index young Aussie Red Sires. To do this we need more support from more Australian Farmers. We need more Aussie Red Progeny Test Cooperators including a significant amount of Progeny Test semen in their Breeding Program.

IF YOU ARE ALREADY USING REDS IN PURE BREEDING OR CROSS BREEDING AND ARE NOT ALREADY A GENETICS AUSTRALIA AUSSIE RED PROGENY TEST COOPERATOR – THE QUESTION IS WHAT IS HOLDING YOU BACK?

Why not include Genetics Australia's Red Progeny Test semen in your breeding program? Genetics Australia is currently marketing a team of outstanding Red sires proven under Australian conditions.

The climate, the feed and management systems in Australia are vastly different to the climate, feed and management systems used in the Nordic Countries. Surely it is an advantage that you and other Australian Farmers have access to bulls proven under our conditions. If we received more support we could prove more of them.

Maybe you would like to know more about the pedigrees of the current Aussie Red Progeny Test bulls and how they are selected.

FIRST, consider that the wants and needs of Australian Dairy Farmers and Genetics Australia are relatively similar – we both want bulls that are successful with good all-round proofs. Candidly it is an expensive business and a lot of work progeny testing bulls. At Genetics Australia we only select for our Progeny Test teams bulls that have suitable pedigrees. We try and get everything possible stacked in our favour. Based on the information available to us – we select the bulls with the best chance of having a marketable proof.

At the same time we realise the need for Genetic diversity. The bulls selected come from a background of different successful sire lines and different successful cow families. Depth of Pedigree is very important, we look for 3-4 generations of top sires and 3-4 generations of top cows.

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SIRES OF PROGENY TEST BULLS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN TEAM 2014

Every year the aim is to test sons from a team of top successful sires. I have always acknowledged that the heartland of the Scandinavian Red world is the four Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. As well as testing sons of highly rated successful sires proven in Australia, we always consider as sires of sons, highly rated successful bulls proven in these countries .

CURRENTLY WE ARE TESTING SELECTED SONS OF:

BULL PROVEN IN AUSTRALIA

- ARBBONJOVI (ORRARYD x TORP 882)

BULLS PROVEN MAINLY IN DENMARK

- FASTRUP (ORRARYD x STADEL (HF))
- HASLEV (ORRARYD x SYD GARANT)

BULL PROVEN MAINLY IN FINLAND

- TOSIKKO (LAMMIN LIFE x RISTITIEN JOHDE)

BULL PROVEN IN NORWAY

- EIK 10540 (LUIRO x ULSAKER)

BULLS PROVEN MAINLY IN SWEDEN

- GEDBO (BOTANS x SYD ABRU)
- VFOSKE (MIQUR x GARDO)

All of the above bulls have many strengths and I believe they are all worthy to have been selected as sires of sons for Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test Program.

BULL DAMS – COW FAMILIES

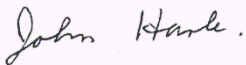
Currently we are using bull dams from 12x cow families. We put a lot of time checking into the backgrounds of the bull dams. Naturally we look for consistency, we look for cow families that have been successful for several generations. Milking Speed and Temperament are important considerations when selecting bull dams. We also study the credentials of the bulls used in previous generations in the cow families. In reality we are looking for successful cows that are sired by bulls that were successful in their generation. At the same time we are looking for Genetic diversity.

A study of the Maternal Grandsires of the bulls currently available in Team 2014 tells us that the bull dams are daughters of 12x different sires originally Progeny Tested in 5x countries; Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden.

We can certainly claim that we are making very good use of the Red genetics available to us. We genuinely believe that the Aussie Red Progeny Test bulls available in Team 2014 have a lot to offer.

We welcome new cooperators and we appreciate all the support given by Australian Dairy Farmers. As always if there is any aspect of Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test Program that you would like to discuss, please give me a call on (07) 3818 0564.

I wish everyone a very successful year.



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