

## CONTINUED SUCCESS – AUSSIE RED PROGENY TEST PROGRAM

*Writes John Harle, Genetics Australia*

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The results of the recent release of the Australian Breeding Values in August 2009 were very positive.

**ARBBOWDOWN** – LODEN BOB (BOTANS X HUSVEG X ARDROSSAN EV KATES TRIDENT) held his proof and remains the red team leader with an outstanding APR of 147. He was bred by Dennis and Michael Riggs, trading as Loden Aussie Red Stud, from Cooroy in Queensland.

ARBBOWDOWN was tested in *Genetics Australia's* Aussie Red progeny test team 2005 and received his first proof in April 2009. He is an outstanding, all round performer and deserves to be included in the proven teams of all red breeders and cross breeders. His strengths include high ratings for APR (profit), ASI (production) and he improves milk components. In addition he improves type, workability traits, survival and lowers cell counts.

**ARBALPH** – GRAZIN PRINCE RALPH (VPRINCE X EKES 519 X STOPAFORS 548), our team leader for type, also held his proof and remains a high demand sire. He is also in the top group for improving fat production and composition and for survival. His daughters stay in herds.

**ARBBLAIR** – BOSGOWAN BLAIR (BJURIST X CHRISTIANSBORG X HALLA 798), proven in Team 2004, also continues to be a high demand sire. He is our team leader for survival, has good type ratings and is in the top group for farmer likeability and breeding quick milking daughters. ARBBLAIR has a sound, well balanced production proof and he improves milk composition.

He is potentially a very good bull for cross breeders as well as red breeders. Today there are concerns that many commercial dairy cows produce a lot of milk but they have become too fine and frail and lack strength and chest width. ARBBLAIR has high ratings for muzzle width, chest width and pin width. The more I study his proof, the more convinced I become that ARBBLAIR is a very good choice for both red breeders and cross breeders.

**ARBAGGINS** – LODEN FRODO (NZLCHALLENGE X ARBTOILER X LISEBERG) was also bred by Dennis and Michael Riggs, Loden Aussie Red Stud, and proven in Team 2005. He has also become a popular high demand sire. ARBAGGINS has a good proof for improving protein and milk production. His daughters milk quickly and they are in the top group for survival – they stay in herds.

In common with ARBBLAIR, he has a very good type proof. ARBAGGINS has good ratings for virtually all parts of the mammary system. With his high ratings for muzzle width, chest width and pin width, he is

another obvious choice to mate to many commercial dairy cows lacking strength. In other words, ARBBAGGINS has much to offer cross breeders as well as red breeders.

IT IS ALSO VERY PLEASING TO REPORT THAT THREE OF THE “STAYERS” IN *GENETICS AUSTRALIA’S AUSSIE RED TEAM* – ARBLAWRENCE, ARBJIM & ARBSUNNY, HAVE HELD THEIR PROOFS AND CONTINUE TO BE HIGH DEMAND SIRES.

**ARBLAWRENCE** – BOSGOWAN LAWRENCE (DROPSTAD X TORLAND X ANGANAS), from the famous Primula cow family at Bosgowan, was proven in Team ’99. Lifetime sales for semen of ARBLAWRENCE are now higher than for any other red bull ever marketed by Genetics Australia. It is pleasing to report that ARBLAWRENCE continues to be in high demand.

ARBLAWRENCE has always been promoted as a “Classic All Rounder”. That is an accurate statement of what he has to offer Australia’s red breeders and cross breeders. Today we could also add another Logo to this name, “Mr Reliability”. His proof is currently based on 590 Australian daughters in 147 herds. He is still the team leader for daughter fertility and he still has a very good all round proof. ARBLAWRENCE still has much to offer both red breeders and cross breeders.

**ARBJIM** – BEAULANDS JIM (CHRISTIANSBORG X FREDVANG X GRASGARDE) was proven in Team 2000 and comes from the famous Scarlet cow family at Beaulands. On this occasion ARBJIM added nearly 30 additional daughters to his proof and it improved. His proof is now based on 190 Australian daughters in 82 herds. ARBJIM has retained a high, well balanced production proof and he is one of the better choices for reducing cell counts.

**ARBSUNNY** – BEAULANDS SUNNY (HULAN X CHRISTIANSBORG X TORLAND) was proven in Team 2003. He comes from the same successful cow family, the Beaulands Scarlets, as ARBJIM. He is another highly rated red line with a good all round proof.

ARBSUNNY offers high production and he improves milk composition. He is in the top group for farmer likeability, survival and overall type and sires quick milking daughters. As a son of Hulan he should be an easy calving bull. ARBSUNNY is also very suitable to cross breeding and mating to narrow, fine or frail cows lacking strength. He is a breed average bull for stature and has good ratings for muzzle width, chest width and rear attachment width.

SUMMARY – The proofs of the above bulls should indicate to everyone that the Aussie Red progeny test program is succeeding and proving top sires whose daughters perform in Australia.

THE FUTURE IS ALSO LOOKING VERY POSITIVE.

AUSSIE RED BULLS TESTED IN TEAM 2006 ARE DUE TO RECEIVE THEIR FIRST PROOFS IN APRIL 2010.

Six bulls have been selected for LTE-Linear Type Evaluation. These bulls are: -

- ARBBONJOVI – BOSGOWAN BON JOVI  
(ORRARYD X TORP 882 X STOPAFORS 548)

- ARBKOOKA – LODEN KOOKABURRA  
(ARBLORIKEET X HANSMOEN X JONLAND)
- ARBLORD – BEAULANDS LORD (ET)  
(FYNAKS X CHRISTIANSBORG X TORLAND)
- ARBMAWSON – BOSGOWAN MAWSON  
(ORRARYD X BJURIST X CHRISTIANSBORG)
- ARBPIRATE – LODEN PIRATE  
(ARBLORIKEET X HUSVEG 4630 X TRIDENT)
- ARBRIDLEY – BOSGOWAN RIDLEY  
(PETERSLUND X FYN AKS X EKES 519)

We certainly anticipate that we will be able to identify several new ‘Stars’ from this elite group of young sires when we study the new Australian Breeding Values in April.

THESE ACHIEVEMENTS - proving and marketing bulls whose daughters perform in Australia are the results of the cooperation of many people. We should recognize and acknowledge the contribution of all of them. These people include the breeders of the bulls, team members of the Aussie Red Progeny Test Committees of the ARDB and Genetics Australia, many team members of Genetics Australia involved with looking after the bulls, collecting and processing semen and all the “backroom work” organizing and distributing PT brochures, getting orders for our PT bulls, dispatching semen and managing the project. In addition we need to recognize semen retailers, staff at ADHIS and data processing centres plus of course the classifiers.

Finally, we need to recognize and thank the real VIPs – the Australian progeny test cooperators. Their role is vital and is really appreciated. At Genetics Australia we are very committed to doing everything possible to increase the number of active progeny test cooperators and maximizing the support we get from them. In reality the more support we get from progeny test cooperators, the younger, high index Aussie Red sires we can test for the benefit of Australian dairy farmers, both red breeders and cross breeders.

Genetics Australia is always on the lookout for more progeny test cooperators so we can continue to test more bulls and have a ready supply of top Australian standing Aussie Red bulls. If you would like to find out how you can be involved and the benefits of participation contact John Harle on 07 3818 0564 or free call 1800 039047.