

## RED UPDATE: JUNE - AUGUST 2012

### AUSSIE RED & NORWEGIAN RED SIRES ARE ACHIEVING TOP PROOFS

*Writes John Harle*

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#### KEY MESSAGES FROM THE APRIL PROOF RELEASE INCLUDE

- Outstanding performance of top proven Aussie Red sires marketed by Genetics Australia. Congratulations to John R Williams, the breeder of ARBBONJOVI. ARBBONJOVI is the new Red Team Leader in Australia. Three other Aussie Red bulls are in the top five. These bulls are ARBLIPPMAN, ARBLEX and ARBBOBDOWN. This is a great achievement for Aussie Red breeders, Australian progeny test cooperators and Genetics Australia.
- The Norwegian Red sire EIK10540 held his high proof and is in the top group of Red sires with ABV(i)s or Interbull proofs.
- The Base Changes implemented by the Australian Dairy Herd Improvement School (ADHIS) in April showed that the Red dairy cattle group of breeds is making higher genetic gains than any other breed. Clearly it is the strong performance of the Aussie Reds that is driving the genetic gains in this section.

#### OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRALIAN DAIRY FARMERS RIGHT NOW

Whether you are a Red breeder or a Cross breeder or have both Red cows and crossbred cows, you can increase your profit by selecting a team of top proven Red Sires marketed by Genetics Australia for your breeding program.

#### STRENGTHS OF THE RED BULLS MARKETED BY GENETICS AUSTRALIA - USE THEM TO IMPROVE FARM PROFITS: -

All the bulls in our Premium and Value teams have good proofs. However, they have different strengths. The aim of this newsletter is to help you to select your red team and gain the most from your purchase of Red dairy semen.

#### ARBBONJOVI – BOSGOWAN BONJOVI (ORRARYD X TORP 882) APR 216

He is the highest rated Red dairy bull with a proof based on the performance of daughters milking in Australia.

##### HIS FEATURES:

- He has a top all round proof including significant improvements in the production of protein and fat as well as milk components. This makes him an obvious choice to mate to high milk flow, low component cows with the aim of improving production and profit in the next generation.
- ARBBONJOVI also has high ratings for workability traits, cell counts, daughter fertility and survival.
- Consider TYPE – his ratings of 111 for overall type and 104 for the mammary system are very good.
- In summary ARBBONJOVI has a top proof and deserves his rank of No. 1.

**ARBLIPPMAN – BOSGOWAN LIPPMAN (TMOBERG X STENSJO) APR 190, now ranks No. 3 in Australia. ARBLIPPMAN started off with a sound proof in April 2011. It improved in August. Now it has improved again. One obvious question remains: How high will his proof go?**

##### HIS FEATURES:

- ARBLIPPMAN has an outstanding proof. He is definitely the best son of TMOBERG in the world.
- Top production protein, milk and fat and he holds milk composition. ARBLIPPMAN is the best bull in the Premium team for improving protein and milk production and No. 2 after ARBBONJOVI for improving fat production. This makes him an obvious choice to mate to those cows with acceptable components to increase production and profit in the next generation.
- He is in the top group for improving cell counts and is rated above 100 for the important traits of daughter fertility and survival.

- Consider TYPE. ARBLIPPMAN has a sound, well balanced proof. His ratings of 104 overall type and 104 for the mammary system are very good.
- Consider OUTCROSS GENETICS. ARBLIPPMAN (TMOBERG X STENSJO) brings outcross genetics to our team.

**ARBLEX** – BEAULANDS LEX (ORRARYD X CHRISTIANSBORG) APR 186, is now ranked No. 4 in Australia for those bulls whose Breeding Values are based on the performance of their Australian daughters.

HIS FEATURES:

- ARBLEX is the best bull for improving type and production. He has outstanding ratings of 117 for overall type and 107 for the mammary system. His high ratings for body traits make him an obvious choice to mate to any cows lacking strength.
- Consider his ratings for the mammary system. He has a really well balanced proof, no weak spots, and is in the top group for improving udder depth, centre ligament, fore attachment and front teat placement.
- Good workability proof. He is in the top group for improving temperament. Farmers milking his daughters certainly like them.
- Strong production proof offering a significant improvement in the production of protein, milk and fat and he improves components.
- ARBLEX is the team leader for survival and is in the top group for daughter fertility.
- Just one point to remember. His MGS was Christiansborg 125. It should not surprise us that his rating for cell counts is below 100. When making breeding decisions for any high cell count cows I would check the credentials of his half brothers ARBBONJOVI and ARBMAWSON.

**ARBBOBDOWN** – LODEN BOB (BOTANS X HUSVEG) APR 184, is our highest rated polled dairy bull. When mated to horned or dehorned cows, half the calves should be naturally polled. ARBBOBDOWN is now the highest demand and most popular red bull ever marketed by Genetics Australia. His lifetime semen sales are now higher than those of the previous team leader for this category, ARBLAWRENCE.

HIS FEATURES:

- Team leader for production with a high ASI rating of 155 at 90% Rel.
- Outstanding ratings for improving protein production and composition. ARBBOBDOWN is the best bull to mate to high milkflow cows producing milk with low protein composition.
- Good ratings for survival. He is in the top group.
- Consider TYPE – ARBBOBDOWN has high ratings of 109 for overall type and 104 for the mammary system.
- Just one point to remember, ARBBOBDOWN has a rating below 100 for chest width. This would probably come from his sire BOTANS who has a Nordic rating below 100 for this trait. For any cows lacking chest width I would check the credentials of ARBBONJOVI, ARBLEX, ARBRALPH, ARBSUNNY and ARBPOTSIE.

**ARBMAWSON** – BOSGOWAN MAWSON (ORRARYD X BJURIST) APR 156, is another successful son of ORRARYD with a different type of proof, with different strengths.

HIS FEATURES:

- High milk flow. ARBMAWSON is a good choice to mate to high component cows with the aim of increasing production and profit in the next generation.
- He is in the top group for improving both cell counts and survival.
- He has been widely used as a calving ease bull with few reported problems.
- Consider TYPE. ARBMAWSON has high ratings for overall type 110 and the mammary system 109. He is our Red team leader for improving centre ligament and front teat placement.

**ARBHARFORD** – BOSGOWAN BERNARD (SKOLE X TALEBO 1115) APR 146, is another highly rated bull offering different strengths.

HIS FEATURES:

- Team leader for improving workability traits. Outstanding ratings for milking speed 104, temperament 104, farmer likeability 104.
- A significant improvement in fat production and composition makes him a very good choice to mate to high milk flow but low fat composition cows.
- Good ratings for survival and cell counts.

- Consider TYPE. ARBHARFORD has good ratings of 108 for overall type and 100 for composite mammary. He is the Red team leader for improving udder depth, siring daughters with nice shallow udders.

**ARBRALPH** – GRAZIN PRINCE RALPH (VPRINCE X EKES 519) APR 62 (HOLSTEIN CONTENT 31%), now has a proof of high reliability based on 575 daughters in 144 herds.

HIS FEATURES:

- Outstanding ratings for type. He remains our team leader for type with ratings of 117 for overall type and 116 for the mammary system. He scores very high ratings for the rear attachment height of 115 and rear attachment width 120.
- He is also a good choice to mate to high milk flow cows, with low fat composition.

**ARBKOOKA** – LODEN KOOKABURRA (ARBLORIKEET X HANSMOEN) APR 139

**ARBPIRATE** – LODEN PIRATE (ARBLORIKEET X HUSVEG) APR 124.

Both ARBKOOKA and ARBPIRATE are polled bulls. Mated to horned and dehorned cows, 50% of their progeny should be polled.

THEIR FEATURES:

- Both bulls have sound, well balanced proofs.
- Both bulls have been used by farmers as calving ease bulls with few reported problems.
- ARBKOOKA, ARBPIRATE and ARBBOBDOWN can be used to increase the number of polled cattle in a herd.

## **NEW BULLS PROGENY TESTED IN TEAM 2008**

Four bulls graduated from Progeny Test Team 2008. ARBHELM graduated to the Premium Team and ARBGAMMA, ARBIRELAND and ARBECTASY graduated to the Value Team.

**ARBHELM** – ORANA FRIEDHELM (BOTANS X SKOLE) APR 128, was the first Aussie Red progeny test bull selected from the Orana herd owned by Toby and Lyn Leppin from Bena in Gippsland.

FEATURES OF THE INITIAL PROOF OF ARBHELM:

- Sound, well balanced initial proof.
- Good production and he improves components.
- In the top group for temperament and farmer likeability. Sound rating for survival.
- Obviously we look forward to studying his August proof.

**ARBGAMMA** – LODEN GAMMA (VEST DELTA X ARBMAHATMA) APR 150, is one of the first sons of VEST DELTA to be progeny tested in Australia. VEST DELTA is rated far more highly in Australia than he is in Denmark where he was originally progeny tested.

FEATURES OF THE INITIAL PROOF OF ARBGAMMA:

- He offers high production of protein, milk and fat.
- Good ratings for cell counts and sound ratings above 100 for daughter fertility and survival.
- Excellent type ratings of 113 for overall type and 109 for the mammary system.
- Concerns are his ratings of 98 for milking speed and 97 for temperament. His sire VEST DELTA has an Australian rating of 94 for milking speed, so for this trait ARBGAMMA has obtained a far better proof. Selectively mated to cows which are both quiet and quick milking, ARBGAMMA should sire some high profit daughters.

## **NORWEGIAN REDS**

I find it difficult assessing the genetic merits of bulls tested in Norway. There are a number of factors that lead to the situation. One is that staff at Geno does not calculate ratings for survival. These ratings are not calculated because the research geneticists at Geno believe they are not needed. Rather, their preference is to supply their farmers with very detailed information about a number of health traits.

Also, whilst both Norway and Australia have Total Merit Index (TMI) systems, known in Australia as the Australian Profit Ranking (APR), the allocation of points in calculating these indices is quite different. In the Australian system there is high emphasis on production, whereas in the Norwegian system there is far more emphasis on health traits.

The end result is that many bulls rank and rate quite differently when they are assessed under these two TMI systems. We genuinely believe that the bulls we have previously selected and are including in our data panels have something to offer Australian dairy farmers. We will only be able to assess the true genetic merit of these Norwegian bulls when they have Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) of high reliability.

**EIK 10540** (LUIRO X ULSAKER) APR (I) 188, NTM 24, is an outstanding Red and white sire. He is the highest ABV rated Norwegian bull ever marketed in Australia. In addition, he is now equal No. 3 in Norway.

**FEATURES:**

- High ratings for profit +188 APR(I) and +24 Norwegian Total Merit Index. He offers outstanding production plus a significant increase in protein composition.
- His Norwegian daughters rate highly for composite mammary 113. Their strengths include high ratings for fore attachment, rear attachment height and width and ligaments. Teats are longer than breed average.
- He is a calving ease sire in Norway.
- Good Norwegian ratings for temperament 103 and milking speed 106.
- Positive ratings for udder health. In Norway he is rated 103 for mastitis resistance. He is rated 120 for cell counts on his Interbull proof.
- EIK introduces high quality outcross genetics. His sire LUIRO was an outstanding Finnish Ayrshire whose semen never came to Australia. I consider EIK to be LUIRO's best son.
- We plan to test sons of EIK in future Aussie Red progeny test teams.
- I encourage all Australian red and cross breeders to include EIK 10540 and at least one other Norwegian bull in their teams.

**AASHEIM 10183** (KREJSTAD 3823 X NYLOKKEN) APR(I) 111, NTM 13, is a red and white sire and a natural poll.

**HIS FEATURES:**

- High production and he improves protein composition.
- Very good Norwegian ratings for temperament 111.
- His Norwegian daughters rate highly for composite mammary 113. Their strengths include high ratings for rear udder width and height, and front teat placement. Teats are longer than breed average
- Has an excellent Norwegian rating for growth rate or daily gain of 116, based on the slaughter weight of over 4400 sons.
- We are currently testing a son of Aasheim, ARBAARON, in our Aussie Red progeny test team.
- Just one point to remember. Aasheim is currently assessed as below breed average in Norway for milking speed so to benefit the most from his many good genes, mate him to quick milking cows.

**NOTTESTAD 108** (BACKGARD 3082 X J HUSVEG 4502) APR(I) 104, NTM 5.

We selected Nottestad because we wanted to add another calving ease sire to our team and he was a son of the renowned Swedish Red sire, Backgard 3082.

**HIS FEATURES:**

- Sound production and he improves milk components.
- High Norwegian ratings for temperament 108 and milking speed 108.
- A calving ease sire in Norway and his daughters calve easily.
- Rating for composite mammary of 108. His daughters have an outstanding rating for ligaments 125. Teats are longer than breed average.

**BRAUT 10177** (KREJSTAD 3823 X KJAER 4843) APR(I) 98, NTM 24, was selected because we wanted to add another calving ease bull to our team and we liked his outstanding Norwegian ratings for temperament, milking speed and growth rate.

**HIS FEATURES:**

- BRAUT is currently ranked equal No. 3 in Norway with EIK 10540.
- Sound production and he improves components.
- He still has excellent ratings for temperament 127, and milking speed 115.
- Outstanding rating in Norway for growth rate 127. This is of high reliability and is based on the slaughter weight of over 8500 sons.
- A calving ease sire in Norway.

- Above breed average for fertility and remember, Norwegian Reds are a very fertile breed.
- High ratings for composite mammary 115. Outstanding ratings for rear udder height and width. Teats are longer than breed average.

**SAND 10232** (GALDE X NYLOKKEN) APR(I) 84, NTM 12, was selected because of his positive ratings for temperament, milking speed, mammary system, mastitis resistance and the fact that he contributes outcross genetics.

**HIS FEATURES:**

- Outstanding ratings for temperament 116 and milking speed 108.
- Outstanding rating in Norway of 109 for mastitis resistance, although he is only assessed by Interbull with a rating of 101 for cell counts.
- Good rating for the mammary system of 109. Norwegian daughters score highly for udder depth, front teat placement, fore udder attachments and ligaments.

**HAGA 10278** (ULSAKER X RISTITIEN JOHDE) APR(I) 66, NTM 25, is an example of a bull with a top Norwegian proof but a very ordinary Interbull proof. Currently HAGA is ranked No. 2 in Norway but he has the lowest Interbull proof of the team of Norwegian bulls that we are marketing. HAGA has high ratings for many traits including growth rate, milking speed, temperament, fertility and the mammary system. These high ratings contribute valuable points to his Norwegian proof; however, his production ratings are too low for him to achieve a high Interbull proof.

**HIS FEATURES:**

- High ratings for daughter fertility 117.
- High ratings for milking speed 118 and temperament 115.
- High ratings for growth rate 115, based on the slaughter weight of 6000 sons.
- High ratings for the mammary system 115. Strengths in this area include ligaments, udder shape, fore udder attachment and rear teat placement wide.

**SUMMARY**

Breeders have access to both Aussie Red and Norwegian Red bulls with very good proofs. If you would like additional information or would like to discuss some options, please contact your local *Genetics Australia* representative or give me a call on **07 3818 0564**.

I wish all dairy farmers a successful year.

John Harle  
Red Breeds Specialist

Encl

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