

RED UPDATE: MAY - AUGUST 2013

By John Harle

Everyone who receives this newsletter should have received a copy of Genetics Australia's Colour Breeds Sire Catalogue. However, if you did not please give me a call on 07 3818 0564.

The aims of this newsletter are to complement the sire catalogue, provide more detailed information about some of the bulls and help farmers to make the best use of the Red genetics marketed by Genetics Australia. I am obviously very pleased with the high quality of the top bulls of many breeds included in the Colour Breed Sire Catalogue.

AUSSIE REDS

This is definitely the best team of Proven Aussie Red Sires ever presented to Australian farmers. It is good to know farmers in a number of countries around the world including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Thailand, Uruguay and Costa Rica are now also benefiting by having access to top proven Aussie Red genetics. We now have an AB organisation representing Genetics Australia in USA and the first shipment of semen, including semen from top Aussie Red Sires is due to leave in the near future. We are also putting a lot of effort into building a market for Aussie Red genetics in the Philippines.

ARBONJOVI – BOSGOWAN BONJOVI (ORRARYD X TORP 882), Dam BOSGOWAN PRIMULA 278 EX, APR 204/83% Rel
ARBONJOVI held his top proof and remains one of Australia's Premium Red Sires. He will continue to be in high demand.

ARBONJOVI is an obvious choice to mate to high milk flow, low component cows. By doing this you will benefit from higher profits, higher production and an improvement in type, workability and health traits. Sexed semen of ARBONJOVI is also available.

ARBBOBDOWN – LODEN BOB (BOTANS X HUSVEG), Dam LODEN SPOTTY 1740, APR 174/90% Rel
ARBBOBDOWN also qualifies as one of Australia's Premium Aussie Red Sires. A test of a top sire is how well his second crop daughters perform. The second crop daughters of ARBBOBDOWN are performing very well.

ARBBOBDOWN is a natural poll. When mated to horned or dehorned cattle, 50% of the progeny should be natural polls. He is a highly fertile bull. A recent report showed that he was team leader of the Reds for overall semen fertility. At Genetics Australia ARBBOBDOWN is now team leader for ASI (production) with a rating of 178, team leader for protein production + 26kg and for improving protein composition + 0.28%. He is the best choice to mate to high milk flow cows, producing milk with low protein composition. If you want to improve profit, protein production and composition you should include ARBBOBDOWN in your team.

ARBLEX – BEAULANDS LEX (ORRARYD X CHRISTIANSBORG), Dam BEAULANDS CHRISTIAN LADY, APR 143/79% Rel
ARBLEX also qualifies as one of Australia's Premium Red Sires.

- He offers a combination of high profit, high production, good workabilities and outstanding type.
- ARBLEX is also assessed as a high fertility sire. In addition he is in the top group for siring highly fertile daughters.
- ARBLEX does not have a top proof for cell counts. However he is now one of the team leaders for, survival. His daughters definitely stay in herds. I consider this high rating of ARBLEX for survival is very important.

ARBLIPPMAN – BOSGOWAN LIPPMAN (T MOBERG X STENSJO), Dam BOSGOWAN PRIMULA 334, APR 163/78% Rel
ARBLIPPMAN is developing into a top all-round sire. He definitely qualifies as one of Australia's Premium Red Sires. He is the best Aussie Red bull to improve milk production. This makes him a very good choice to mate to high

component cows, with the aim of breeding more productive and higher profit daughters. ARBLIPPMAN is also a very good bull to improve type and health traits.

THE NEW BOYS IN THE TEAM

We welcome:

ARBFROSTY – MERIBEN PARK JACK FROST, Dam MERIBEN PARK FROSTY 1790, APR 165/74% Rel
Bred by Meriben Park Aussie Reds, Tyers, Gippsland

ARBLONGBOW – LOUVIC LIBBA (BOTANS X KREJSTAD), Dam LOUVIC LINDY 2029, APR 147/72% Rel
Bred by GV, JL & A Waltham, Glengarry, Gippsland

ARBLEVER – LOUVIC LEVER (BOTANS X KREJSTAD), Dam LOUVIC LINDY 2029, APR 168/52% Rel
Bred by GV, JL & A Waltham, Glengarry, Gippsland

ARBFROSTY has a really good initial proof. He improves profit, production, protein composition, type, workability and health traits. ARBFROSTY deserves a place in the proven teams of both Red breeders and Cross breeders. However we do have a request. ARBFROSTY is siring some stylish daughters. We need to photograph some of these daughters so that we can adequately promote him!!! If you see any daughters possibly worth photographing please phone me on (07) 3818 0564 or contact your local Genetics Australia representative.

ARBLONGBOW and ARBLEVER are full brothers. ARBLEVER was born 12x months after ARBLONGBOW. A significant number of additional daughters of ARBLEVER are due to calve in the coming months. Consequently we expect a proof of higher reliability in August. Both ARBLONGBOW and ARBLEVER have good all-round proofs. They both offer increases in profit, production, lower cell counts altogether with an improvement in health traits. They are both well worth a place in a proven team of both Red breeders and Cross breeders.

NORWEGIAN REDS

First the bad news:

You will notice both **OYGARDEN** and **EGGTROEN** are in the sire catalogue but neither bull will be available this year. OYGARDEN is dead, consequently he cannot be health tested. The last 170x doses of his semen that we thought was eligible to come here – will not be coming.

The semen presently stored in Norway of EGGTROEN did not comply with Australian protocol, so it cannot come here. I consider EGGTROEN is a class sire and we plan to import semen in a future shipment.

Now the good news:

EIK 10540 is back. He was a virtual sell out in 2012. He still has a top proof and is contributing high quality outcross genetics. I am pleased to report he still has a good Norwegian rating for calving ease. I mention this because stocks of semen of our two other Norwegian bulls with good ratings for calving ease – BRAUT 10177 & NOTTESTAD 108 are now very limited. Unfortunately as with OYGARDEN (another calving ease bull) we cannot import any more semen of either BRAUT or NOTTESTAD.

Anyone who studies the fine print of the Norwegian proofs of EIK, would be aware that his rating for Norwegian Total Merit has dropped from 24 to 16 since December. This was a surprise as daughter numbers and ratings for nearly all his traits have not significantly changed. The only obvious cause of this is a drop in the composite rating for fertility from 99 to 93 from December 2012 to March 2013. What is driving this appears to be a drop in his rating for the non return rate for Heifers. EIK still has good ratings for non return rate for cows of 102 and calving to first insemination of 100. The non return rate for Heifers appears to have a huge influence on the allocations of points for composite fertility rate and subsequently on the Norwegian Total Merit Index.

I don't believe a bull with a rating of 102 non return rate cows and a rating of 100 – calving to first insemination is a problem bull. If I managed a dairy farm, I would include EIK in my team.

THE NEW BOYS IN THE TEAM

RAVN 10739 (OLSTAD X GALDE)
DAHLE 10801 (OLSTAD X SALTE)
ENGEBAKKEN 73 (GUTERUD X LILLEBJERKA)

ALL THESE BULLS ARE NATURAL POLLS (SOME MAY HAVE SCURRS). WHEN THEIR SEMEN IS MATED TO HORNED OR DEHORNED COWS, HALF OF THE CALVES SHOULD BE NATURAL POLLS.

THESE BULLS ARE IN THE TOP GROUP IN NORWAY.

One reason for importing semen from these bulls is to breed future bulls and bull dams for Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test program. Some Australian farmers have commented about the good performance of their daughters of OLSTAD. Unfortunately very little semen of OLSTAD came to Australia. We now plan to access his genes through his top sons RAVN and DAHLE. ENGEBAKKEN is related to them. He has both NYLOKKEN and BACKGARD in his pedigree and has a top proof. I certainly plan to include sons of him in future Aussie Red Progeny Test teams.

RAVN 10739 is currently No. 2 in Norway with a Norwegian Total Merit Index of 27. He has good ratings for production, growth rate, fertility, mastitis resistance, feet and legs and the mammary system. However remember that he is rated slightly below breed average in Norway for both milking speed and temperament. To make the best use of his good genes, use his semen to mate to cows that are both quiet and quick milkers.

A WORD ABOUT FERTILITY

Fertility is a big issue on many Australian Dairy Farms. I realise that many factors can have an influence on cow fertility. However I should point out that GENO (Genetics Norway) have put a lot of emphasis on two items for many years:

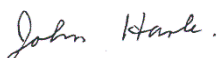
- Converting Norwegian Reds from being a horned breed to becoming a polled breed.
- Improving the profits of Norwegian farmers by improving health traits of Norwegian Reds.

They have put a lot of emphasis on improving fertility. I believe that including Norwegian genetics in your breeding program will definitely help to improve the fertility of your herd in the years ahead. RAVN and DAHLE do not have Interbull proofs for daughter fertility at present. However in Norway RAVN is rated at 108 and DAHLE at 102. I anticipate they should receive Interbull proofs in August and both their ratings for this trait will be over 100.

SUMMARY

Genetics Australia is marketing a team of top Red and Red/White sires with very good proofs. If you would like any further 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.



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Encl

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