

RED UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2011

GOOD NEWS FOR AUSTRALIAN DAIRY FARMERS – FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF THE AUGUST 2011 AUSTRALIAN BREEDING VALUES

By John Harle

- **Four Very Important Bulls – ARBBOBDOWN, ARBBONJOVI, ARBLEX and ARBMAWSON, held their proofs.**
- **The proofs of ARBLIPPMAN, ARBLAWRENCE and ARBEROS improved. ARBHARFORD & ARBLINDBERG held their proofs.**
- **ARBMOLONE now has a publishable type proof and he graduated to our PREMIUM team.**

ONE OBVIOUS QUESTION:

How to make the best use of the many highly rated Red Dairy Sires marketed by *Genetics Australia*?

The aim of providing additional information about these bulls is to complement the information in the data panels and ABV update and help you select a team of bulls that meet your needs.

REVIEW SOME TOP AUSSIE RED SIRES

ARBBOBDOWN – LODEN BOB (BOTANS X HUSVEG) - APR 217; REL% 81, ASI 182; REL% 89.

ARBBOBDOWN IS A NATURAL POLL AND IS KNOWN AS THE “PROFIT KING”. He continues to be in high demand.

- ARBBOBDOWN remains *Genetics Australia's* best Red sire for improving profit, production, protein and protein composition. He is an obvious choice to mate to high milk flow, low protein composition cows.
- His high ratings for temperament, farmer likeability and survival are amongst his strengths.
- Other strengths include high ratings for many aspects of the mammary system including udder texture, rear attachment, height and width, centre ligament, front teat placement and teat length. ARBBOBDOWN is a very good choice to mate to cows with short teats.
- In addition we are getting many positive comments from farmers rearing calves and heifers sired by him. HOWEVER, ARBBOBDOWN may not be the best choice to mate to: -
 - Any low volume, high component cows in your herd. For these cows I suggest you check into – AUSSIE RED – ARBMAWSON, ARBMOLONE, ARBCRADDOCK, ARBJIM and ARBLIPPMAN.
 - NORWEGIAN RED – EIK 10540 (new bull – semen due soon), AASHEIM 10183, and SURNFLODT 176.

ARBBONJOVI – BOSGOWAN BONJOVI – (ORRARYD X TORP 882) A2A2 - APR 198, REL % 79; ASI 140; REL% 87.

ARBBONJOVI has a great all round proof. He continues to be in high demand. Currently ARBBONJOVI and ARBBOBDOWN are equal No. 1 in the popularity stakes. Because of his outstanding, well balanced proof, ARBBONJOVI would be a suitable sire to include in a team to mate to the vast majority of the dairy cows in Australia. However, for any low volume high component cows, I would consider other options including: -

- AUSSIE RED – ARBMAWSON, ARBMOLONE, ARBCRADDOCK, ARBJIM and ARBLIPPMAN.
- NORWEGIAN RED – EIK 10540 (new bull – semen due here soon), AASHEIM 10183 and SURNFLODT 176.

ARBLEX – BEAULANDS LORRY (ORRARYD X CHRISTIANSBORG) A2A2 – APR 197; REL % 73; ASI 134: REL % 81.

ARBLEX is the highest rated new graduate from Progeny Test Team 2007. He jumped straight into the top group with an outstanding, well balanced proof. ARBLEX is a MUST USE bull, worthy of being included in the teams of all

red breeders and crossbreeders. He is a suitable sire to include in a team to mate to a wide range of cows other than daughters of his sire Orraryd or his half brothers, ARBBONJOVI, ARBMAWSON and ARBMOLONE.

ARBMAWSON – BOSGOWAN MAWSON (ORRARYD X BJURIST) - APR 180; REL % 74; ASI 114; REL % 83.

ARBMAWSON also held his proof and his place in the top group. ARBMAWSON is a very useful bull. Whilst he is an Orraryd son and a half brother to both ARBBONJOVI and ARBLEX, he has different strengths.

The strengths of ARBMAWSON include high production of milk, protein and fat, high ratings for survival, cell counts and high type ratings. ARBMAWSON has high ratings for most traits of the mammary system including centre ligament, front teat placement, udder depth, udder texture, fore attachment and rear udder height. These strengths make him an obvious choice to mate to low volume/high component cows. His high ratings for cell counts, type and survival are a bonus.

ARBMOLONE – BOSGOWAN MOLONEY (ORRARYD X HUSVEG) – APR 153; REL % 73; ASI 100; REL % 85.

ARBMOLONE obtained a publishable type proof and he is now where he belongs, in the Premium Team. He is yet another successful bull to graduate from the Bosgowan Primula cow family. His MGD, Primula 203 Excellent, was the dam of ARBLAWRENCE.

The strengths of ARBMOLONE include: -

- High production, protein and milk
- Good workability proof including 104 for temperament and 104 for farmer likeability
- Good ratings for cell count
- Above breed average for survival and daughter fertility
- Good all round type proof. With a rating of 104 overall type and 102 mammary system, he is clearly NOT the team leader, but there are no poor ratings or weak links in his proof.

WITH THESE STRENGTHS, ARBMOLONE and his half brother ARBMAWSON are both very good choices to mate to low volume/high component cows. I consider that ARBMOLONE has a lot to offer and I encourage all breeders to include him in their proven team. Obviously, to gain the most from their strengths, don't mate ARBMOLONE or ARBMAWSON to low fat composition cows. For these cows check the credentials of ARBBONJOVI, ARBRALPH, ARBPOTSIE, ARBHARFORD, ARBBLAIR, ARBKOOKA and ARBLINDBERG.

ARBLIPPMAN – BOSGOWAN LIPPMAN (TMOBERG X STENSJO) – APR 172; REL % 71; ASI 118; REL % 81.

I suggest everyone studies the proof of ARBLIPPMAN. He is another successful graduate of Progeny Test Team 2007. With the release of the April ABVs ARBLIPPMAN had a sound, well balanced production proof plus high ratings for type, cell counts and survival with the release of the April ABVs.

His August proof is far higher and includes information from more daughters. This new proof indicates that his daughters are persisting very well in lactation. I am already looking forward to studying his next proof due in April 2012!! Right now ARBLIPPMAN offers high production of protein, milk and fat, plus a modest improvement in composition. He still has a high type proof and high ratings for cell counts and survival. There is a lot of good breeding behind ARBLIPPMAN. He comes from the famous Bosgowan Primula cow family. His grand dam Primula 203 EX was the dam of ARBLAWRENCE. The dam of TMOberg was a full sister to FYNAKS. FYNAKS is still a successful, highly rated sire in both Australia and Denmark. If you are looking for an additional bull with a good all round proof to add to your team, ARBLIPPMAN is a strong candidate to fill the vacancy.

ARBHARFORD – BOSGOWAN BERNARD (SKOLE X TALEBO 1115) – APR 168; REL % 69; ASI 95; REL 76.

ARBHARFORD is another successful graduate from Progeny Test Team 2007. ARBHARFORD is one of the better choices to mate to high volume, low fat composition cows.

His strengths include: -

- Team Leader for workability traits. He has outstanding ratings of 105 milking speed, 104 temperament and 105 farmer likeability.
- High ratings for cell counts and survival.

- Good type proof. High ratings body traits and feet and legs. Sound ratings for the mammary system. He has an outstanding rating of 106 for udder depth and is one of the best bulls for improving this trait.
- Good production proof including a significant improvement in fat production and composition.

REVIEW NORWEGIAN RED SIRE

A data panel consisting of their Interbull or ABV(i) proofs was included in the Red Breeds ABV update, August 2011. Another data panel consisting of their June Norwegian Proofs is included with this mailout. It is very obvious that many bulls rank quite differently with both these data panels and indices. This is because whilst the APR system used in Australia and the Merit Breeding Value system used in Norway are both Total Merit Index (TMI) systems, the allocation of points is quite different.

The aim in Norway is to provide for Food Security (sufficient dairy produce for their population) plus a small buffer supply of milk which is made into Jarlsberg cheese and exported. Their farmers have quotas or entitlements and receive high payments for their Tier 1 milk. Payment for overproduction or Tier 2 milk is very low. The aim of their Merit Index is to help farmers reduce their costs by giving high emphasis to health traits. In the last 2-3 years Geno has made a lot of improvements to their system and this has resulted in re-ranking of some bulls.

POSITIVE NEWS FROM GENO - NORWAY

- **EIK 10540** (LUIRO [FA] X ULSAKER), a top new bull. He is currently ranked No. 4 in Norway. With an Interbull APR(i) of 222, he ranks highly here as well. He has a top proof and also offers outcross genetics. We expect his semen to arrive here shortly. Once it arrives we will certainly notify our sales team and semen retailers and promote him. EIK 10540 will be a MUST USE bull. We plan to include some of his sons in *Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test* program as soon as possible.
- FOLLOWING THE CHANGES TO THE NORWEGIAN SYSTEM the rankings of some of our other Norwegian Reds have improved. This is great news. We have always searched for bulls offering sound production and type, sound workability ratings plus good ratings for health traits.

HAGA 10278	-	Now Ranks No. 3
EIK 10540	-	Discussed above, ranks No. 4
BRAUT 10177	-	Now Ranks No. 5
AASHEIM 10183-		Now Ranks No. 8.

I have always encouraged farmers to include at least one Norwegian Red in their proven teams. From now on I will be encouraging everyone to include EIK plus one other Norwegian bull in their teams.

HAGA 10278 (ULSAKER X RISTITIEN JOHDE [FA])

HAGA receives a low Interbull Proof because of only modest production of both milk and fat. However, with the Norwegian Merit Index he receives high marks for growth rate 116, milking speed 120, temperament 106, fertility – an outstanding rating of 120 and 117 for the mammary system composite. These high ratings help him achieve a rating of +26 and his ranking of No. 3 in the breed (bulls with semen available).

BRAUT 10177 (KREJSTAD 3823 [SRB] X KJAER)

His second crop daughters appear to be milking very well in Norway. BRAUT now has a sound Interbull proof based on his 539 Norwegian daughters. He should be suitable to be used as a calving ease bull. For his Norwegian Merit Index he receives high points for growth rate 126, milking speed 112, temperament 120, calving ease 108, feet and legs 117, mammary system 116, plus 113 for production. These high ratings contribute to +23 for his Norwegian Merit Index and his rank of No. 5.

AASHEIM 10183 – (KREJSTAD 3823 X NYLOKKEN)

AASHEIM IS A POLLED BULL.

There are now nearly 780 Norwegian daughters contributing to his proof. His second crop daughters must be performing very well as his Interbull proof has improved considerably. Just remember that to benefit the most from

his good genes, mate him to quick milking cows. Used in this way he should breed high profit daughters. Contributing to his Norwegian Merit Index of +22 and rank of No. 8 in the breed are ratings of 121 for production, 116 for growth rate, 111 for temperament, 114 for fertility, 111 for composite feet and legs and 118 for the composite mammary system.

SURNFLODT 176 (FENNEFOS X LARSGARD)

SURNFLODT is a grandson of Torland 4075 through his sire, Fennefos. The proof of Surnflodt is still based on his original 209 daughters. He has always had a high Interbull Production Proof. Currently it is 119 ASI, 18 protein, 548 milk (L) and 25 fat. However, he gains few points from anywhere else and has an APR rating of 91!!

Surnflodt has a high Norwegian Merit Index of +22. Contributions include production 111, milking speed 116, fertility an outstanding 121 and mastitis 105. An unusual aspect of his proof is the rating on his Interbull proof of 78 for cell counts, yet he has a Norwegian rating for mastitis resistance of 105. One can only assume that some daughters do have high cell counts but that this does not lead to outbreaks of mastitis in most situations.

SAND 10232 (GALDE X NYLOKKEN)

The proof of Sand is still based on his original 273 Norwegian daughters. He has a sound, well balanced Interbull proof. In Norway he has a Merit Index of +13, the main contributors to it include ratings of 115 milking speed, 118 temperament, 109 mastitis resistance and 106 production. I await with interest the contribution of his second crop Norwegian daughters.

NOTTESTAD 108 (BACKGARD X J HUSVEG 4502)

There are now 2538 Norwegian daughters contributing to his proof. He has a sound, well balanced Interbull proof. Based on his Norwegian proof he should be a calving ease bull. NOTTESTAD has a Norwegian Merit Index of +12. Contributing to this are ratings of 114 production, 108 milking speed, 116 temperament, 108 calving ease, 108 mammary system!!!

REVIEW MONTBELIARDE SIRES

MORE POSITIVE NEWS

- **FIRST OF ALL – CONTINUED HIGH DEMAND FOR JBVALFIN.** The first shipment this year quickly sold out. Following the release of the French June Proofs JBVALFIN is now the team leader in France and in the world. That is great news, however, demand for his semen has significantly increased in a number of countries and our buying price also increased. Reluctantly we have increased his RRP TO \$35.00 + GST, but you can still access him at \$32.00 by buying a 30 straw pack. JBVALFIN still offers outstanding value.
- **NEXT – POSSIBLY THIS SHOULD HAVE COME FIRST – DEMAND FOR MONTBELIARDE SEMEN IS INCREASING.** Since the start of the year, demand for Montbeliarde semen has definitely increased. There is now higher demand for JBSOCRATE, JBSALAN and JBTILLEUL. However, don't overlook JBROBOT – he also has many strengths. I always encourage farmers to include in their teams, semen from several Montbeliarde bulls. The reason for this advice is that it is impossible to predict how bulls will perform and possibly re-rank in Australia compared to their original proofs in France.
- **GENOMIC BULLS.** I believe all these bulls offer outstanding value at \$18.00 RRP and \$15.00 in a 30 straw pack. However, I would like to include a few words about JBBOGORO (RAPALLO X MICMAC). On the French website he is still shown as having a Genomic Proof but is now rated at 76% Reliability, and it includes part lactation data from 19 daughters in 17 herds. This is a great start. He could become one of the top Montbeliarde sires of the future.

REVIEW NORMANDE BULLS

It is fair to say that the Montbeliardes are continuing to be in the limelight and the Normandes continue to be the quiet achievers. Granted the Montbeliardes are performing very well in California as well as in France. No one can take that away from them. However, the Normandes have the reputation of being very hardy cattle, of being very

quiet and having good eye pigmentation. They also have the reputation of performing very well under tough conditions in many parts of the world. We selected three highly rated bulls with different strengths.

SUPPLEANT - PRODUCTION
TARPAULIN - TYPE
TRANQUITAL - CALVING EASE

I encourage everyone using Montbeliarde semen to use some Normande semen as well. By doing this you will have more information about how both breeds perform under your conditions and what they can contribute to farm profits.

BUYING TOP RED GENETICS AT THE RIGHT PRICE – INVEST AND SAVE!

- I always encourage farmers to herd record and support *Genetics Australia's* Progeny Test programs in a meaningful way. One of the advantages of supporting our Progeny Test programs is that you can access our Top Proven Bulls (Aussie Reds, Jerseys and Holsteins) at even better buying prices (Genetic Check Concept 1/1- Progeny Test and Proven semen basis).
- An additional option is to invest in one or more of *Genetics Australia's* semen packs. Included in this mail out are flyers with details of our Red Breeds Premium Pack, Red Breeds Value Pack and Overseas Red Packs. Once again, savings can be significant and you are including in your mating program semen from highly rated, successful sires.
- I believe it is important to use sufficient semen from both our Proven and Progeny Test Sires to give you the chance of breeding sufficient high quality replacement heifers for the future development of your herd.

SUMMARY

I wish all dairy farmers a successful year. As always, 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.

Best wishes,

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