

2010 Australian Red Dairy Breeds Presidents Report

2010 has proven to be a fantastic season for our Aussie Red Breed. With the top 3 Red Breed sires on APR being Aussie Red sires, ARBBobdown, ARBMawson and ARBBonjovi. 6 of the top 10 are Aussie Red sires and now with Genetics Australia submitting a record 8 young progeny test bulls for linear trait assessments. The Aussie Red can now proudly lay claim to breeding some of the world's best Red Genetics.

The 2010 ADHIS proof runs clearly show that the Aussie Red is now the most dominant and profitable Red Breed in Australia. This is something that we all should be very proud of.

We must thank the team at Genetics Australia for their continued belief, work and support to the ARDB in developing the Aussie Red into the breed it is today.

We must also thank the other companies, ABS and Semex that are now Progeny Testing Aussie Red bulls.

Once again I would especially like to thank Sam Graham for his fantastic help with running the ARDB web site and his work on the Progeny Test Selection Committee.

Also, thank you to, Joy Waltham, Deb Hales and Graeme Hamilton for their valued input.

This year, much work has been done by the classification committee on the new optimums and weights for the Aussie Red Breed. We greatly appreciated Thure Bjerkentorp, a classifier from Viking Genetics, visit in July and his expert input at our classification workshop. Also, the very professional advice and assistance, from HFAA classifiers, Andrea Henry and Richard Anderson.

The final draft and acceptance of the new optimums and weights will prove to be very beneficial to the Aussie Red Breed, Aussie Red breeders and commercial dairy producers wanting to breed profitable, highly functional dairy cows.

This year has also seen a change in the Australian Profit Ranking weightings within the APR.

These changes now see the APR to be very close to the weightings placed on each trait that the ARDB has been seeking for many years.

ADHIS must be congratulated for making these changes and continuing to move the APR forward and also in keeping the APR strongly focused on the needs of the commercial dairy producer.

2010 saw the inaugural James Hill Award sponsored by Genetics Australia for breeding the highest rated progeny test bull of the season awarded to Michael Riggs for ARBBobdown for the 2009 season.

Much thanks to Genetics Australia for sponsoring this award and the perpetual shield that they designed.

The 2010 winner was John Williams with ARBMawson. ARBMawson is currently the No.2 sire on APR.

Two very worthy people have been nominated for Life Memberships of the Australian Red Dairy Breed. John Williams for his valued input into the ARDB for many years, as both a very successful breeder and valued member of the ARDB executive in roles as ARDB President and CEO. Also John Harle for his many years of assistance in developing the Aussie Red Breed and his input into the very successful progeny test program at Genetics Australia. Without the dedication of these two people, the Aussie Red would not be the successful breed it is today.

The Aussie Red Breed has been developed by a dedicated group of people with much passion and vision since it's beginnings in 1986. Though this passion and vision the Aussie Red Breed is now clearly producing some of the world's best Red genetics. With changes that are occurring within the industry here in Australia and the ramifications of those changes internationally, the window of opportunity has never been wider to expand the Aussie Red both here and internationally.

If that same passion and vision of our forebears is embraced by both current and future breeders and also by those who are currently in positions to expand the sales of Aussie Red semen both here and internationally, then the future for the Aussie Red is very bright.

For the Aussie Red Breed, the major challenge will be continuing to increase the number of seed stock producers that are willing to breed the high genetic merit progeny test sires for future.

With the Aussie Red Breeds primary focus being profit and the show ring being of little interest to the majority of breeders, attracting new breeders will always be a challenge. Due to this we all need to play an active role in trying to attract new breeders.

The inception of a breed development committee will hopefully help with this role.

I wish everyone the best for the 2011 season and hopefully I can get to meet most members during the season.

Regards

Steve Snowdon

ARDB President