



AUSTRALIAN RED DAIRY BREED

ARDB NEWS - September 2007



Unfortunately many areas of Australia are once again facing the increasing impact of drought. It is almost unthinkable that this year could be worse than 2006, but this is indeed the scenario developing in many areas. As a small organisation it is very difficult for the ARDB to provide any tangible support, other than to reassure members that the demand for our genetics is continuing to increase despite the climatic conditions.

ARDB semen sales are continuing very satisfactorily and there is still good demand for stock for those who have them to sell. Recently a small shipment of ARDB heifers was exported to Kuwait and there is further enquiry from this market, but there is a very limited availability of stock to service this demand. All of this reconfirms that we need more seedstock producers for the ARDB.

The recent IRCC Conference in Malmo Sweden, was a great success with around 120 delegates from 20 countries attending. The presentations were of an extremely high standard, with several world renowned scientists presenting their findings. This was balanced by some excellent presentations from more hands on users of Red Dairy Genetics. The challenge for the IRCC still remains to be more active between conferences and address the numerous issues which are raised during the business sessions. Some positive steps to achieve this were taken in Malmo.

One of the informal discussions which took place during the conference, centred around the possibility of countries with smaller Progeny Test programs, cooperating to exchange semen to help provide more data linkages for the Red Breeds in the Interbull evaluations. In the longer term this may also enable the testing of greater numbers of bulls in some of these countries.

The pre and post conference tours were also well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by many conference delegates. Thank you to all who gave their time to organising such a successful series of events. The next conference will be held in New Zealand in March 2010.



Les Hansen visits Jan Raleigh's property in Timboon, Victoria. LtoR: Steve Snowdon, Les Hansen, Jan Raleigh and John Harle of Genetics Australia.

Steve Snowdon showing field day participants his cross bred herd.

We are fortunate to again host Professor Les Hansen to a series of meetings in Victoria during the week beginning the 22nd October. Les will provide an update on the cross breeding trials being undertaken in the Californian herds, as well as being available to address any other breeding issues. There is a growing awareness and acceptance, by Australian dairy businesses of the value of crossbreeding. This situation is driving the increased use of Red Genetics and this visit by Les, will be very timely in terms of raising this awareness even further.

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge the passing of John Williams Senior. John can truly be described as one of nature's gentlemen. He is also remembered as a true pioneer of internationalising the breeding of Red Dairy cattle. Despite developing one of the best Illawarra herds in Australia, John had the vision to realise the value of utilising the best genetics from around the world. His travels with Bill Thompson accompanied by their wives, Josie and Ena led to the original imports of Scandinavian genetics to Australia in the mid 1980's. I am sure I speak on behalf of all people associated with the world's Red Breeds when I extend our condolences to all of John's family.

James Hill
Executive Officer
Australian Red Dairy Breed. ■



Steve Snowdon showing herd.



Cross bred calves.