

MORE GOOD NEWS FOR RED BREEDERS IN THE AUGUST ABV PROOF RELEASE

“WE ALL NEED TO FOCUS ON WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP AUSTRALIAN DAIRY FARMERS IMPROVE THEIR PROFITS.” Writes John Harle, Genetics Australia

There is no doubt that we are all part of a very tough commercial world. We are all part of a global village.

The philosophy I promote is to focus on the important points – not the trivial issues of the day. In particular we need to focus on important aspects that we have some control or influence over. I accept that what happens in Russia, China, Greece and New Zealand is important – but none of us have any influence on what happens in these countries.

We all need to focus on Australian farm businesses and what we can do to help Australian dairy farmers come out of the present difficult conditions in good shape and without huge debts.

Three areas of obvious importance are breeding, feeding and management. The red breeders that I talk to appear to be making good decisions about feeding and management. Cows that are not performing are being culled and the farm budget is benefitting. I support the principal that to make good decisions we need to study the actual - your cows, pastures, stored feed, etc. as well as the data on a multitude of computer sheets.

MAKING THE BEST USE OF RED SIRES MARKETED BY GENETICS AUSTRALIA IS IMPORTANT

Research has shown that cows of high genetic merit will produce more milk, protein and fat than cows of low genetic merit from the same feed.

THE BREED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS OF GENETICS AUSTRALIA AND GENO IN NORWAY ARE FINDING TOP NEW RED BULLS THAT CAN HELP AUSTRALIAN DAIRY FARMERS IMPROVE PROFITS.

POSSIBLE BREEDING GOALS – IMPROVING PRODUCTION OF PROTEIN IN THE NEXT GENERATION

Payment for protein is a significant factor in most Australian payment systems. When selecting a team of bulls to lift protein production in the next generation, I suggest you check the credentials of:

AUSSIE REDS	ABV Protein Production
ARBDMAX	+23kg
ARBICESTAR	+21kg
ARBBOWDOWN	+21kg
ARBOBAMA	+20kg
ARBLIPPMAN	+19kg

These bulls have proven that their daughters can perform in the rugged Australian conditions.

NORWEGIAN REDS – Genetics Australia staff have selected a team of Norwegian red sires with outstanding proofs. However we all need to be aware that the conditions, feeding systems and the management of dairy cattle in the Scandinavian countries are significantly different to the conditions on Australian dairy farms. These interbull ratings are based on daughters milking in Norway. There may well be some re-ranking of these bulls when they receive ABVs based mainly on data from Australian

daughters. However I believe Geno has a very good progeny testing system, with high emphasis on improving health traits. I encourage all red breeders and cross breeders to include some Norwegian red sires when selecting their next proven red teams.

Code	ABV Protein Production
SKJELVAN 1039	+38kg
ENGEBAKKEN 73	+27kg
EIK 10540	+26kg
TANGVOLL 909	+26kg
SMEDSTAD	+21kg

Please note all present stocks of semen of RAVN 10739 and GOFOLLEN 1078 have been ordered. We may import further stocks of semen of these bulls early next year.

IMPROVING PRODUCTION OF BUTTER FAT IN THE NEXT GENERATION.

AUSSIE REDS – PLEASE CONSIDER

Code	ABV Fat Production
ARBDMAX	+37kg
ARBBONJOVI	+23kg
ARBONICK	+20kg
ARBLIPPMAN	+19kg
ARBICESTAR	+18kg

NORWEGIAN REDS – PLEASE CONSIDER

Code	ABV Fat Production
SKJELVAN 1039	+32kg
SKEI 10617	+24kg
ENGEBAKKEN 73	+19kg
SMEDSTAD	+16kg

PROTEIN AND FAT COMPOSITION – are different traits to Protein and Fat Production. There could be some cows in some herds that feature high total production of milk, protein and fat BUT with very low composition of protein and/or fat.

For these cows rather than aiming for even higher total milk production, which may cause even more stress on the mammary system – I suggest a better alternative may be to search for bulls to lift protein and fat composition – leading to higher production of protein and fat whilst holding milk production at the present level.

For these cows I suggest you check the credentials of;

AUSSIE RED TO IMPROVE PROTEIN COMPOSITION

Code	ABV Rating
ARBDMAX	+0.34%
ARBBOWDOWN	+0.32%
ARBOBAMA	+0.23%
ARBBONJOVI	+0.23%
ARBICESTAR	+0.20%

NORWEGIAN RED TO IMPROVE PROTEIN COMPOSITION

Code	ABV [i] Rating
EIK 10540	+0.32%
TANGVOLL 909	+0.20%
SMEDSTAD	+0.18%
ENGEBAKKEN 73	+0.17%
DAHLE 10801	+0.17%

AUSSIE RED TO IMPROVE FAT COMPOSITION

Code	ABV Rating
ARBDMAX	+0.42%
ARBBONJOVI	+0.34%
ARBJONTY	+0.23%
ARBKOOKA	+0.16%

NORWEGIAN RED TO IMPROVE FAT COMPOSITION

Code	ABV [i] Rating
SKEI 10617	+0.10%

IMPROVING MILK PRODUCTION

There are two situations, when choosing bulls to lift milk production may be highly profitable.

* A processor may put higher emphasis on paying for litres of milk rather than production of protein or fat.

* In all herds there may be some cows producing very modest amounts of milk – but with high composition for protein and fat. In these situations I suggest you check the credentials of:

<i>AUSSIE RED</i>	ABV Rating
ARBHILLY	+831 L
ARBLIPPMAN	+629 L
ARB NICK	+552 L
ARBWOLVERINE	+453 L
ARBICESTAR	+377 L

<i>NORWEGIAN RED</i>	Code	ABV [i] Rating
	SKJELVAN 1039	+1160 L
	ENGEBAKKEN 73	+686 L
	TANGVOLL 909	+588 L
	SMEDSTAD	+441 L
	SKEI 10617	+393 L

REDUCING CELL COUNTS AND IMPROVING MASTITIS RESISTANCE

I believe these are two separate traits. In my opinion both these traits are important. Please consider:

AUSSIE RED – TO REDUCE CELL COUNTS

Code	ABV
ARB NICK	129
ARBD MAX	124
ARB WOLVERINE	118
ARB KOOKA	115
ARBLIPPMAN	110

NORWEGIAN RED – TO REDUCE CELL COUNTS

Code	ABV [i]
DAHLE 10801	155
ENGEBAKKEN 73	126
SKJELVAN 1039	119
SMEDSTAD	116
EIK 10540	110

MASTITIS RESISTANCE

Ratings are not calculated in Australia but they are calculated in Norway

Code	Norwegian Rating – June 2015
TANGVOLL 909	119
SKEI 10617	107
DAHLE 10801	106
EIK 10540	105

These ratings are mainly based on actual outbreaks of mastitis and treatment by vets and farmers.

IMPROVING DAUGHTER FERTILITY

This trait has received a lot of attention in Norway for many years and is now receiving more attention in Australia.

AUSSIE RED TO IMPROVE DAUGHTER FERTILITY

Code	ABV
ARBICESTAR	106
ARB BONJOVI	104
ARB JONTY	104
ARBLEX	104
ARB BUDDY	103
ARB NICK	103

NORWEGIAN RED TO IMPROVE DAUGHTER FERTILITY

Code	ABV
EIK 10540	106
SKJELVAN 1039	105
ENGEBAKKEN 73	105
SKEI 10617	104
TANGVOLL 909	103

MILKING SPEED

Milking speed is a very important trait in Australia because of large herds and a very small labour force. In reality on farms with large herringbone dairies, slow milking cows are culled. It is not worthwhile to have one slow cow holding up 20 cows. However, several bulls with high ratings for this trait that are suitable for mating to cows with milking speeds just below herd average, are available. These include:-

<i>AUSSIE REDS</i>	Code	ABV Rating
	ARBOBAMA	105
	ARBONJOVI	102
	ARBHILLY	102
	ARBJONTY	102

<i>NORWEGIAN REDS</i>	Code	ABV [i] Rating
	SMEDSTAD	104
	SKEI 10617	103
	EIK 10540	101

TEMPERAMENT AND FARMER LIKEABILITY

In Australia dairy cattle get little handling. Once calves have been weaned – they graze outside throughout the year. Herds are large and there is a small labour force. **COWS MUST HAVE GOOD TEMPERAMENT. FARMER LIKEABILITY** is another important and useful rating in Australia.

AUSSIE RED BULLS – HIGHLY RATED FOR TEMPERAMENT AND FARMER LIKEABILITY INCLUDE

Code	ABV TEMPERAMENT	ABV FARMER LIKEABILITY
ARB NICK	103	105
ARB KOOKA	102	103
ARB DMAX	102	102
ARB HILLY	101	103
ARB BONJOVI	101	102
ARBOBAMA	100	103

NORWEGIAN REDS

In Norway bulls are not assessed for farmer likeability – but they are assessed for temperament. Under the Norwegian TMI (Total Merit Index) system – their best bull for this trait SKEI 10617 has an outstanding rating for this trait of 131. I am very pleased to report that semen of SKEI is usually available here.

Code	ABV [i] Temperament
SKEI 10617	105
SKJELVAN 1039	102
EIK 10540	100
SMEDSTAD	100

CALVING EASE BULLS – SUITABLE TO MATE TO MAIDEN HEIFERS

NORWEGIAN REDS – NORWEGIAN PROOFS

Currently their highly rated bulls for this trait include:

Code	Norwegian Rating
* GOPOLLEN 1078	115
EIK 10540	112
SMEDSTAD	107
SKEI 10617	103

* Please Note – Semen of GOPOLLEN is sold out at present.

AUSTRALIAN SITUATION

Calving ease ratings for reds are not calculated by ADHIS in Australia. However based on pedigree and farmer comments – I would expect the following bulls to be reasonably suitable to mate to maiden heifers.

Code	Pedigree
ARBDMAX	VEST DELTA x KREJSTAD
ARBOBAMA	OBROLIN x BOTANS
ARBLIPPMAN	TMOBERG x STENSJO
ARBICESTAR	ANDERSTA x CHRISTIANSBORG
ARBBUDDY	ANDERSTA x ARBBOBDOWN
ARBKOOKA	ARBLORIKEET x HANSMOEN

FINAL SUMMARY

I hope this information helps you to achieve your breeding goals. As always if there is anything that anyone would like to discuss with me – please give me a call on 07 3818 0564.

I wish all Australian dairy farmers a very successful year.

John Harle
Red Breed Specialist