

## GENETICS AUSTRALIA – RED UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2014

*More good news for Red Breeders and Cross Breeders writes John Harle*

### TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS OCCURRED IN AUGUST

- The Australian Breeding Values (ABVs) were updated and information was released to the industry
- The development of Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index

Peter Thurn, with the help from industry experts developed a Mastitis Resistance Index that is scientifically correct and useful. This index is shown as the Genetics Australia Mastitis Resistance Index. It has been developed to assist farmers to identify bulls that will sire daughters that will be less susceptible to Clinical Mastitis.

There have been a number of independent studies around the world that have identified several traits that are correlated with Clinical Mastitis. The trait with the strongest relationships is Somatic Cell Count. However the type traits Fore Udder Attachment, Udder Depth, Rear Leg Rear View and Milking Speed (negative correction) all influence Clinical Mastitis. The Genetics Australia Mastitis Resistance Index combines these key traits and weights them to provide farmers with a list of bulls that will contribute to reducing the incidence of Clinical Mastitis cases in their herd.

The table below shows the contribution of the various traits that make up this index:

Cell Count	49%
Milking Speed (negative)	9%
Fore Udder Attachment	24%
Udder Depth	26%
Rear Leg Rear Set	10%

I would like to add two points:

- Many aspects of farm and herd management are still vitally important in reducing the impact of Clinical Mastitis.
- At the same time it is well worthwhile knowing how bulls rate for this trait. Then you can take this information into account when selecting your proven team.

Below is a list of Genetics Australia's 10x highest rated Aussie and Norwegian Red sires

#### **August 2014**

<i>CODE</i>	<i>RATING</i>	<i>RANK</i>
DAHLE 10801	215	1
ARBLEVER	183	2
ARBLONGBOW	172	3
ARBHILLY	155	4
ENGEBAKKEN 73	152	5
ARBREDCHIEF	139	6
SKEI 10617	136	7
ARBFROSTY	132	8
ARBICESTAR	129	9
ARBLIPPMAN	126	10

Please note there was insufficient type data available to calculate a Mastitis Resistance Index for ARBNICK. However ARBNICK has a high rating for Cell Count, 138 (in the top group) so that is a good start.

#### ***Genetics Australia Co-operative Limited***

## **THE UPDATE OF THE AUSTRALIAN BREEDING VALUES – AUGUST 2014**

There is a lot of positive news. As far as the Reds are concerned it is business as usual. There is very little change in the vast majority of the proofs. The bulls which looked good on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August – still looked good on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August. However this is an opportunity to give breeders more information about the bulls and how to benefit from their good genes.

**THE CORE AUSSIE RED BULLS** – Those Aussie Red bulls that were highly rated and in high demand in early 2014 that are still highly rated and in high demand today.

**ARBONJOVI – BOSGOWAN BONJOVI (ORRARYD X TORP882)**

ARBONJOVI is an outstanding sire. He added close to 90x additional second crop daughters and his proof improved.

- He offers a significant improvement in the production of Protein and Fat together with a significant improvement in components.
- In addition he is the Aussie Red Team leader for improving daughter fertility with a rating of 106.
- Good proof for Type, Workability traits and Survival.
- He has a proof of high reliability now based on 447x Australian daughters in 125x herds.

*Summary:* ARBONJOVI remains in high demand. Currently he is our Red Team leader in the popularity stakes. He is an obvious choice to mate to high milk flow/low component cows.

**ARBLEX - BEAULANDS LORRY (ORRARYD X CHRISTIANSBORG)**

ARBLEX is another popular Aussie Red sire.

His strengths include:

- Outstanding type proof with ratings of 114 Overall Type, 106 Mammary System plus 109 Udder Depth, 111 Fore Attachment and 107 Front Teat Placement.
- Team leader for Survival with a rating of 105 – his daughters are staying in herds.
- In the top group for improving daughter fertility with a rating of 105.
- In the top group for the important workability traits of Temperament and Farmer Likeability
- Sound, well balanced production proof improving both production of Milk, Protein and Fat as well as Components.

Recently ARBLEX added nearly 20 second crop daughters and his proof held. That is a good sign. The high demand for his semen will continue – currently he is No. 2 in the popularity stakes.

**ARBLONGBOW – LOUVIC LIBBA (BOTANS X KREJSTAD)**

ARBLONGBOW has received his first rating for Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index. Together with his full brother ARBLEVER and the Norwegian Red bull DAHLE 10801, ARBLONGBOW is in the top group. I believe this will lead to higher demand for his semen in 2014/2015.

His strengths include:

- High Production Proof, including a significant improvement in the production of Milk, Protein and Fat.
- In the top group for Survival with a rating of 104, his daughters are staying in herds.
- In the top group for both Cell Count and Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index.
- High ratings for Front Teat Placement 114, Fore Udder Attachment 109, Udder Depth 103 and teats are longer than Breed Average 103.
- With a Sire Pathway of Botans x Krejstad – ARBLONGBOW should be a Calving Ease bull.

#### **ARBFROSTY – MERIBEN PARK JACK FROST**

ARBFROSTY is The Aussie Red team leader for improving the Temperament of daughters with a rating of 103. This makes him an obvious choice for cross breeding programs. His strengths include:

- He has a very sound all round proof.
- Good ratings for Cell Count and he features in the recent list of Top Ten Red sires with Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index.
- Sound Production Proof improving production of Protein, Milk and Protein Composition.
- Good rating of 103 for Survival – his daughters are staying in herds.
- Good ratings for many traits of the Mammary System including 104 composite, 106 Centre Ligament, 105 Front Teat Placement, 105 Fore Attachment and 104 Rear Udder Width.
- With a Sire Pathway of Botans x Skole, ARBFROSTY should be a Calving Ease bull.
- Good ratings for the Workability Traits, Milking Speed, Temperament and Farmer Likeability.

#### **ARBLIPPMAN – BOSGOWAN LIPPMAN (TMOBERG X STENSJO)**

ARBLIPPMAN is one of Australia's best Red sires and he comes from the famous BOSGOWAN PRIMULA cow family. His strengths include:

- Top Production Proof. He offers a significant improvement of Protein, Milk and Fat plus he holds Milk Composition.
- Good ratings for Survival – 103. Daughters are staying in herds.
- Good ratings for Cell Count and he features in the Top 10 list of Red bulls with Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index.
- Good type proof, 106 Overall Type, 107 Composite Mammary plus 110 Front Teat Placement, 107 Udder Texture, 107 Udder Depth, 106 Fore Attachment and 107 Centre Ligament.

#### **THE NEW AUSSIE RED GRADUATES – CLASS OF 2014**

These bulls include ARBNICK, ARBICESTAR, ARBOBAMA and ARBHILLY. We wrote a lot about them after they achieved their initial proofs in April. It is time to review their progress to date.

#### **ARBNICK – ORANA NICK (JUBY 1617 X ORRARYD)**

Bred by Toby Leppin at Bena in Gippsland. Since April ARBNICK has added more daughters to his proof and his proof has improved.

His strengths include:

- He offers an outstanding proof for Production. It includes a significant increase in the production of Milk, Protein and Fat and he holds Milk Composition.
- An excellent proof for Cell Count. We could not calculate a rating for Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index because of insufficient type data.
- Good Proof for the Workability Traits, Temperament and Farmer Likeability
- Good initial Proof for Daughter Fertility and Survival.

However please remember:

- This proof looks great. Hopefully ARBNICK will become one of the big Red stars on the world stage. However it is still based on data from only a limited number of daughters. We have not yet been able to get any daughters classified. This type of proof is vulnerable to possible change in any direction. Thankfully since his April Proof Release, more data has come in and his proof is continuing to improve.

#### ARBICESTAR – BEAULANDS SATELLITE (ANDERSTA X CHRISTIANSBORG)

It is pleasing to report that ARBICESTAR now has a higher proof than that of his illustrious sire ANDERSTA 1967 – that is always a good sign. His strengths include:

- Top All-Round Production Proof including a significant improvement in the production of Milk, Protein and Fat and Milk Composition.
- High rating for Daughter Fertility 105.
- High rating for Cell Count and he is in the Top 10 group of Red bulls with the new Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index
- As an ANDERSTA son – ARBICESTAR should be a Calving Ease sire.

*Summary:* ARBICESTAR is a very worthy addition to the team. We plan to get more daughters classified in the coming months.

#### ARBOBAMA – BEAULANDS OBAMA (OBROLIN X BOTANS)

ARBOBAMA has been a very popular bull in recent months. However more daughters have been added to his proof since the April proof release and his proof has dropped.

*Comment:* In a few words, proceed with caution. Any proof of low reliability is vulnerable to possible change – in any direction.

However he still has a good proof that is similar in many ways to that of ARBBONJOVI.

His strengths include:

- Increased production of Protein and Fat and Milk Components.
- High initial proof for Daughter Fertility and Survival.
- With a sire pathway of OBROLIN X BOTANS – ARBOBAMA should be a Calving Ease bull.
- Excellent Workability proof of 104 Milking Speed, 102 Temperament and 102 Farmer Likeability. ARBOBAMA is an obvious choice to mate to slow milking cows.

*Finally:* We plan to get more daughters classified in the coming season and we look forward to a proof of higher reliability next April.

#### ARBHILLY – BEAULANDS HILLY (VEST DELTA X FYNAKS)

In a few words ARBHILLY is looking good – candidly very good. I was cautious about him. We have tested several sons of VEST DELTA, a top proven Danish Red sire. The other sons started off looking like champions but along the way they dropped back and never made it. Since the release of his initial ABV in April, data from more daughters have been included in his proof and it has improved. Maybe it is the good genes of his dam BEAULANDS AKS KATIE EX 92 that are making all the difference. AKS KATIE is currently the Aussie Red cow of the year.

His strengths include:

- ARBHILLY has a top well balanced all-round proof.
- Top Production proof, improving production of Milk, Protein and Fat and Components.
- Top Workability proofs. He has a high rating of 103 for farmer likeability – that is a good start.
- Good proof for Cell Count 132 – he is in the top group. He is ranked No.4 with a rating of 155 in the Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index.
- Good Type proof 108 Overall Type, 107 Composite Mammary plus 104 Fore Attachment, 113 Rear Udder Height, 106 Rear Udder Width, 106 Front Teat Placement and 103 Teat Length.

*Summary:* Everything looks really promising. ARBHILLY looks like a winner. I hope he will become one of the best Red bulls on the world stage. Personally I hope that we can export his semen to Denmark, the land that his sire came from.

However just one word of caution – his proof is still based on data from a limited number of daughters. It is still vulnerable to possible change but it has moved in the right direction (improved) since his first proof in April.

#### **AUSSIE RED PROGENY TEST TEAM 2014:**

We are really pleased with the proofs of several highly rated new graduates from previous teams. Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test Program is continuing to prove high profit, successful sires for the benefit of Australian farmers.

I encourage all Red Breeders and Cross Breeders to herd record and include semen from Genetics Australia's Aussie Red PT sires in their program. It is very important for the benefit of the entire Australian Dairy industry that dairy bulls are progeny tested under our local conditions. Remember AB centres by themselves cannot prove bulls. It is a team effort involving Aussie Red bull breeders, Genetics Australia and farmers using progeny test semen that proves bulls. To prove a bull we need to distribute 1000 doses of progeny test semen. To achieve this we need the support of a significant number of Australian Dairy farmers. We appreciate your support.

## **THE NORWEGIAN REDS**

### **THERE IS POSITIVE NEWS TO REPORT**

- Our Norwegian Reds held their proofs when these were updated in Norway in June.
- They also held their proofs when they were updated by Interbull and ADHIS in August.
- Norwegian Reds are now being well accepted in Australia by both Red Breeders and Cross Breeders.
- DAHLE 10801 with an impressive rating of 215, is now the highest rated Red bull with the new Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index.
- Due to increasing demand. I now anticipate that several of these bulls will sell out later this year. My advice to farmers is don't leave orders until the last minute.

### **EIK 10540 (LUIRO X ULSAKER)**

The latest news is that EIK now has over 2000 daughters contributing data to his Norwegian Proof. That proof is holding – that is a good sign. The other good news is that EIK is still a high demand sire in Australia. His strengths include:

- Outstanding proof for improving the production of Protein and Milk and Protein Composition.
- Good Australian rating for Cell Count 111 and a good rating of 119 in the new Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index.
- In Norway EIK has an outstanding rating for Calving Ease 111. He has been widely used as a Calving Ease sire in Australia with few reported problems.
- In Norway EIK has a rating of 118 for other Disease – that is a very high rating.
- In Norway he has a high rating of 110 for the Composite Mammary and positive ratings for the most traits that contribute to his index. His rating of 112 for Teat Length indicates that teats of his daughter are longer than breed average – that is also a positive.

*Finally:* Another important point is that EIK is providing high quality outcross genetics. The semen of his sire LUIRO and his Maternal Grand Sire ULSAKER never came to Australia. LUIRO was a top Finnish Ayrshire and he has an outstanding proof. He actually sired few top sons and EIK is definitely one of the best ones. We have already selected 3x sons of EIK for Genetics Australias Aussie Red Progeny Test Program for 2014/ 2015.

### **ENGEBAKKEN 73 (GUTERUD X LILLEBJERKA)**

ENGEBAKKEN is a Natural Poll. He was a high demand sell out bull in 2013. He is now ranked No.5 in the Red section of Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index. The high demand for his semen will continue. His strengths include:

- He offers a significant improvement in the production of Milk, Protein and Fat and improves Protein Composition.
- Good ratings for improving Daughter Fertility.
- High Australian rating for Cell Count 130 and is ranked No.5 Red bull in the new Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index with a rating of 152.
- In Norway he has a rating of 105 for the Mammary System. Most traits contributing to this index have positive ratings. He has a rating of 114 for Teat Length – Teats are longer than breed average. This is definitely a positive.

*Finally:* ENGEBAKKEN also offers high quality outcross genetics.

### TANGVOLL 909 (OYGARDEN X GUTERUD)

He is a Natural Poll. Currently he is ranked No.2 in Norway. In Australia his sire OYGARDEN is now ranked No.15 with an APR (August 2014) of 174. In Norway TANGVOLL has a far better proof than that of his illustrious sire. His strengths include:

- High production Protein, Milk and Fat together with a significant improvement in Protein Composition.
- High ratings for Growth Rate. His progeny should grow well and perform well in the harsh Australian climate.
- High ratings for improving Daughter Fertility.
- High ratings of 114 for other Disease in Norway.
- Has a good rating of 103 for Calving Ease in Norway. His sire OYGARDEN also had a good rating for Calving Ease in Norway.

*Discussion Point:* We need to discuss the ratings of TANGVOLL and his sire OYGARDEN for Cell Count and Mastitis Resistance. Both bulls have always had ratings that are below breed average for Cell Count. In Australia they both currently have a rating of 94 for this trait.

TANGVOLL does not rate highly in Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index. This is because he is rated below average for Cell Count, Fore Udder Attachment and Udder Depth. Consequently TANGVOLL can not rate highly with this index.

However back in Norway TANGVOLL has a high rating of 116 – in the top group under their Mastitis Resistance Index. This is because with their index, there is far more emphasis on information from both vets and farmers detailing treatments of Clinical Mastitis. Under their conditions where cows are out grazing for a short Summer and then in barns for a long cold Winter despite having poor ratings for Cell Count, Fore Udder Attachment and Udder Depth, the vast majority of his daughters are not being treated for Clinical Mastitis.

### DAHLE 10861 (OLSTAD X SALTE)

DAHLE is also a Natural Poll. The aim of Geno (Genetics Norway) is to convert their breed from being a horned breed to being a Polled breed.

Unlike TANGVOLL, DAHLE is *THE* star performer with Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index. He has good ratings for Cell Count, Fore Udder Attachment and Udder Depth. Consequently he is our Red team leader for this trait with a rating of 215.

Unfortunately stocks of his semen are in limited supply in Australia – so all I can suggest is order early. His strengths include:

- As noted above DAHLE has a top proof for Cell Count, Udder Depth, Fore Udder Attachment and he is now the Red team leader of Genetics Australias Mastitis Resistance Index with a rating of 215.
- Significant improvement in production of Milk and Protein plus a significant improvement in protein Composites.
- High ratings for Daughter Fertility.
- High Norwegian ratings for most traits in the Mammary System. Composite Mammary 114, Udder Depth 122, Fore Udder Attachment 116, Rear Udder Width 111, Rear Udder Height 119, Ligament 109, Udder Shape 120, Teat Length 104.

*Finally:* Up till now I believe DAHLE has been overshadowed by EIK. EIK is a top sire and a worthy sire of sons for Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test Program. However he is not the only Norwegian Red bull worth using.

I hope becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> Red team leader for Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index will focus more attention on DAHLE. He has a lot of strengths. He is definitely a worthy member of a proven bull team. Just remember semen supply is currently limited – get orders in early.

#### RAVN 10739 (OLSTAD X GALDE)

RAVN is also a Natural Poll. We selected RAVN and DAHLE for Australia because they were (and still are) top proven sons of OLSTAD, a NYLOKKEN son. OLSTAD was a top bull in his day but very little semen came to Australia.

The strengths of RAVN include;

- Top proof for improving the production of Protein and Milk as well as Protein Composition.
- Good ratings for Daughter Fertility.
- Sound Australian proof for Cell Count 105 and a good rating for Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index of 118.
- Although he is not a Calving Ease bull his Norwegian daughters have calved easily.
- Good Norwegian ratings for Feet and Legs.
- Good Norwegian ratings for many traits of the Mammary System – Composite 110, Udder Depth 104, Front Teat Placement 110, Fore Udder Attachment 103, Rear Udder Width 109, Rear Udder Height 114, Ligaments 109 and Udder Shape 108.

*Finally:* RAVN has a lot to offer. At one stage he was ranked NO.2 in the breed in Norway. I am looking forward to the day when data from his second crop daughters contribute to his proof. However breeders need to be aware that the teats of his Norwegian daughters are shorter than breed average. To benefit from his many good genes don't mate him to cows with short teats.

#### SKEI 10617 (BRENDEN X BRANDSTAD MOEN)

Sometimes a bull has one obvious strength and it is easy to focus on it. SKEI does not fit into this category. He has many strengths and he is a very suitable choice to mate to many cows in many herds.

So I am using a different approach. The perfect bull is yet to be born. Consequently how about we consider his faults? SKEI has one obvious fault – his Norwegian daughters have teats that are shorter than breed average so when you are planning your breeding program SKEI is a good choice to mate to many cows but NOT those with short teats. His strengths include:

- TEMPERAMENT. He is rated by Interbull/ADHIS at 105. He is rated by the Authorities in Norway at 125. That is the highest rating I have ever seen for a Norwegian Red bull. His first 225 Norwegian daughters must be very quiet. This one rating alone makes SKEI an obvious choice for all Cross Breeders.
- CELL COUNT/MASTITIS RESISTANCE. His Australian/Norwegian ratings of 102/103 are just above breed average. However with the new Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index he has a high rating of 136 and is ranked No.7 in the Red section. In Norway he is in their top group for their index with a rating of 116.



- HIS PRODUCTION PROOF. SKEI is the only Norwegian Red bull in the team to improve the production of Milk, Protein and Fat plus the Composition of BOTH Protein and Fat. This by itself makes SKEI a very good choice to mate to many cows.
- Good Norwegian ratings for Growth Rate – his progeny should do well in the hard Australian climate.
- Good ratings for improving Daughter Fertility.
- Norwegian daughters have a steep foot angle.
- TYPE – IMPROVEMENTS TO THE MAMMARY SYSTEM IN NORWAY. Rated at 104 for Composite Mammary, 111 Udder Depth, 112 Front Teat Placement, 114 Fore Udder Attachment, 114 Rear Udder Width, 117 Rear Udder Height.

*Finally:* SKEI is a bull with many strengths suitable to mate to many cows other than those with short teats.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM 2014:**

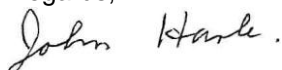
We encourage farmers to herd test. For those farmers planning to Herd Test in 2014, I suggest that you include a significant amount (possibly 30% - 40% of your total semen needs) of Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test semen in your program. When selecting your team of highly rated proven sires, I suggest that you study the proofs of the bulls in the "Core Team", New Graduate Team and the Norwegian Red Team and select some bulls from all 3 teams that best meet your needs.

For those farmers not planning to herd test in 2014 I suggest a strategy of checking the bulls in the "Core Team" New Graduate Team and Norwegian Red Team and again select highly rated teams of bulls that meets your needs.

**SUMMARY:**

Genetics Australia is marketing a team of top red sires. 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 would like to take this opportunity to wish all dairy farmers a happy and successful year.

Regards,



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