

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST USE OF THESE BULLS IN YOUR BREEDING PROGRAM

THE NEW BULLS

SKJELVAN 1039 (PONNISTUS X ORRARYD) TMI +26,

PRODUCTION ABV(I) APRIL 2015, ASI 199, Pkg 37 P% +0.13, MILK ltr 1130, Fkg 30, F% -0.26, REL 65%

- SKJELVAN is the current team leader in Norway with an outstanding TMI rating of +26.
- He introduces a new sire line into Genetics Australia's Red dairy breeds program. His sire HEISALAN PONNITUS proven in Finland is a son of one of their really famous sires RISTITIEN JOHDE. Of course we all recognise SKJELVAN's famous MGS – ORRARYD. Orraryd continues to sire top daughters as well as top sons and these animals continue to turn up in successful pedigrees in several countries.
- SKJELVAN has a really outstanding Production proof. He is a bull that should fit into the proven teams of all Red breeders and Cross breeders.
- Excellent Norwegian ratings for Temperament, 115.
- Very good rating for Growth Rate (slaughter weight for his sons) of 119. An option for anyone with land that is surplus to their dairy farming needs would be to turn his male calves into steers and rear them. They should grow into money.
- High Norwegian rating for Composite Udder 109, excellent rating for Udder Depth 126, Fore Udder Attachment 114.

HOWEVER WE ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER, ARE SOME OF YOUR COWS BETTER SUITED TO BE MATED TO OTHER TOP SIRES?

Obviously I suggest all Red breeders and Cross breeders should include SKJELVAN in their proven sire team in 2015. However it is equally obvious to say that SKJELVAN is not a suitable choice to mate to cows with short teats. For those cows I would check the credentials of ENGEBAKKEN, EIK, DAHLE, TANGVOLL and GO POLLEN as well as ARBBOBDOWN, ARBOBAMA and ARBBONJOVI.

GO POLLEN 1078 (BRAUT X PETERSLUND) TMI +24,

PRODUCTION ABV(I) APRIL 2015, ASI 41, Pkg 5, P% 0.04, MILK ltr 100, Fkg 9, F% 0.07, REL 65%

- Of the bulls currently producing semen in Norway, GO POLLEN is currently ranked No.3 after SKJELVAN and TANGVOLL.
- With a sire pathway of BRAUT and PETERSLUND it is not surprising that GO POLLEN has a rating of 114 for Calving East – Paternal. I have been told that GO POLLEN is currently the highest rated Norwegian Red sire for this trait.
- Very high Norwegian ratings for Milking Speed 108 and Temperament 119.
- His progeny are "good doers". GO POLLEN has a rating for Growth Rate (slaughter weight for his sons) of 113.
- High Norwegian rating for Daughter Fertility 107.
- High Norwegian rating for Feet and Legs, Foot Angle and Hoof or Claw Health.
- Maybe I have kept the best for last – GO POLLEN has an excellent rating for Composite Mammary +127, Udder Depth 123, Fore Udder Attachment 117, Rear Udder Width 119, Rear Udder Height 121 etc

There is no doubt that once Australian farmers become aware of the strengths of GO POLLEN he will become a high demand popular sire.

SMEDSTAD (BRAUT X OLSTAD) TMI +15,

SMEDSTAD IS A NATURAL POLL

PRODUCTION ABV(I) APRIL 2015, ASI 133, Pkg21, P% 0.18, MILK ltr 439, Fkg 17, F% -0.03, REL 65%

- We liked the rating of SMEDSTAD for Calving Ease (Paternal) 106.
- We also liked his top all round proof for improving production, improving protein composition and for virtual holding Fat Composition.
- Sound ratings for Composite Mammary 105 and really good ratings for Rear Udder Width 122 and Rear Udder Height 120.
- We like his rating for growth rate (slaughter weight for his sons) of 115. The calves sired by SMEDSTAD are good doers.
- High Norwegian ratings for Milking Speed 113 and Temperament 104.
- Good Norwegian ratings for Feet and Legs and Hoof and Claw Health.

The ratings for Hoof or Claw Health are based on information supplied by Hoof Trimmers. The Norwegian Hoof Trimmers are not earning much income from daughters of SMEDSTAD. This is good news for Norwegian farmers.

NORWEGIAN RED SIRES IN TEAM 2014 – STILL WORTHY MEMBERS OF TEAM 2015

DAHLE 10801 (OLSTAD X SALTE) TMI +23,

DAHLE HAS SCURRS – BUT HE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A NATURAL POLL

PRODUCTION ABV(I) APRIL 2015, ASI 102, Pkg 18, P% 0.16, MILK ltr 369, Fkg 6, F % -0.14, REL 65%

DAHLE achieved instant fame last year when Peter Thurn, the Breeding and Genetics Manager at Genetics Australia calculated Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index. DAHLE achieved the highest rating for this index. He was and still is the Mastitis Resistance king. Consequently we quickly sold out of his semen.

- The good news – DAHLE is available once again.
- DAHLE is currently ranked No. 4 in Norway after GO POLLEN. He is a good bull and is worth his place in the teams of all Red breeders and Cross breeders.
- He still has outstanding Norwegian ratings for the mammary system – Composite 123, Udder Depth 121, Fore Udder Attachment 115, Rear Udder Width 111, Rear Udder Height 118, Ligament 110 etc.
- High Norwegian ratings for Mastitis Resistance 107.

HOWEVER WE ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER ARE SOME OF YOUR COWS BETTER SUITED TO BE MATED TO OTHER TOP SIRES?

DAHLE and several other Norwegian sires including SKJELVAN, TANGVOLL, SKEI, ENGEBAKKEND and RAVN are not Calving Ease bulls. For mating to maiden heifers I would focus on the big three – EIK, GO POLLEN and SMEDSTAD. However very few problems have ever been reported following matings of our Norwegian Red sires to cows in Australian farms.

EIK 10540 (LUIRO X ULSAKER) TMI 15,

PRODUCTION ABV(I), APRIL 2015, ASI 150, Pkg 25, P% 0.30, MILK ltr 340, FAT kg 6, F% -0.12, REL 67%

EIK needs little introduction. He continues to be in high demand and was again a sell out bull in 2014. Obviously we are very pleased to have semen back in stock again.

- One reason for the high demand for semen of EIK has always been his high Norwegian rating for Calving Ease. Currently this is 112. EIK has been widely used as a Calving Ease sire in Australia with few reported problems.

- Another part in EIK's favour has been the strong performance of his second crop daughters in Norway. His production proof is now based on close to 6000x daughters and he has held his proof. He offers a significant improvement in the production of Protein, Protein Composition and Milk.
- In addition EIK has maintained a good Norwegian rating for Milking Speed 103 and Temperament 103.
- Sound rating for Composite Mammary 106 and the ratings for the vast majority of traits of the mammary system are over 100.
- Good rating of 109 for Hoof or Claw Health.

HOWEVER WE ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER ARE SOME OF YOUR COWS BETTER SUITED TO BE MATED TO OTHER TOP SIRES?

I suggest we need to focus on Feet and Legs. His ratings for Rear Leg Side View have always shown his daughters to have sickled legs. His rating for Foot Angle have always shown daughters to have flat feet.

If you have maiden heifers with sickled legs and flat feet I suggest GO POLLEN would be a better choice. If you have cows with similar traits I would check into SKJELVAN, ENGEBAKKEN and SKEI as well as GO POLLEN.

ENGEBAKKEN 73 (GUTERUD X LILLEBJERKA) TMI 14,

ENGEBAKKEN IS A NATURAL POLL

PRODUCTION ABV(I), APRIL 2015, ASI 149, Pkg 26, P%0.16, MILK ltr 648, Fkg 19, F%-0.12, REL 64%

ENGEBAKKEN has always been a high demand sire in Australia. I anticipate the high demand for his semen will continue.

- He offers a significant improvement in the production of Milk, Protein and Protein Composition.
- When Peter Thurn designed Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index last year ENGEBAKKEN was in the top group.
- He has high Norwegian ratings for improving Feet and Legs.
- Good ratings for the mammary system. Composite Mammary 104 and most ratings are over 100.
- Both ENGEBAKKEN and EIK sire daughters with longer teats, making them very good choices to mate to cows with short teats.

RAVN 10739 (OLSTAD X GALDE) TMI 17,

RAVN IS A NATURAL POLL

PRODUCTION ABV(I), APRIL 2015, ASI 144, Pkg 24, P%0.26, MILK ltr 368, Fkg 8, F% -0.10, REL 65%

- When we first selected RAVN he was ranked NO. 2 in the breed. He is still in the top group. We are looking forward to his second crop Norwegian daughters, calving and contributing to his proof.
- RAVN continues to offer a significant increase in the production of Protein, Protein Composition and Milk production.
- He has a high rating of 119 for growth rate (slaughter weight for his sons). This rating is based on information from close to 1760 sons slaughtered and processed in Norwegian meat works.
- Good Norwegian ratings for Feet and Legs and Hoof or Claw Health – Daughters of RAVN are not creating work for Norwegian hoof trimmers. This helps Norwegian farmers to keep their costs down.
- Good ratings for Composite Mammary and most traits of the Mammary system.

HOWEVER WE ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER ARE SOME OF YOUR COWS BETTER SUITED TO BE MATED TO OTHER TOP SIRES?

Teat length – teats of his daughters are shorter than average. For mating options for cows in your herd with short teats I would check the credentials of EIK, ENGEBAKKEN, TANGVOLL, DAHLE and GO POLLEN.

SKEI 10617 (BRENDEN X BRANDSTADMOEN) TMI 19,

PRODUCTION ABV(I) APRIL 2015, ASI 113, Pkg 16, P% 0.11, MILK ltr 374, Fkg 23, F% 0.10, REL 66%

The team at Genetics Australia realised that SKEI was a bull with many strengths and he was a very worthy addition to Team 2014. Subsequently he quickly sold out – we should have imported far more of his semen.

The good news is that SKEI has added 600 second crop Norwegian daughters and his proof has held. The other positive news is that his semen is available in Australia once again.

Because of his many strengths SKEI should find a place in the team of all Red breeders and Cross breeders.

- Outstanding Norwegian rating for Temperament 135. This is the highest rating for Temperament that I have ever seen for a Norwegian Red sire.
- Outstanding well balanced production proof. Today many Red bulls improve Protein production and Composition. SKEI is one of the few Red bulls to improve the production of Milk, Protein, Protein Composition and Fat and Fat Composition.
- Outstanding rating for Growth Rate (slaughter weight for his sons). Data from nearly 2700x sons processed at Norwegian meatworks contributes to his rating of 116.
- Outstanding ratings for Norwegian Mastitis Resistance 111. SKEI was also in the top group when Genetics Australia's Mastitis Resistance Index was calculated last year.
- High rating for Composite Mammary 112, Udder Depth 112, Front Teat Placement 112, Fore Udder Attachment 113, Rear Udder Width 111, Rear Udder 116 etc.

After studying the above it is not surprising that SKEI was a high demand bull in 2014. I anticipate demand for his semen will continue this year.

HOWEVER WE ALSO NEED TO CONSIDER ARE SOME OF YOUR COWS BETTER SUITED TO BE MATED TO OTHER TOP SIRES?

- Short teats – teats of daughters of SKEI are shorter than breed average. Clearly SKEI is not the best choice to mate to cows with short teats. For these cows I would check the credentials of EIK, ENGEBAKKEN, DAHLE, TANGVOLL, GO POLLEN, ARBBOBDOWN, ARBOBAMA and ARBBONJOVI.
- Hoof or Claw Health – SKEI is one of the few bulls whose daughters are contributing to the income of Norwegian hoof trimmers. If you have some cows with walking problems, poor feet and legs I would check the credentials of SMEDSTAD, GO POLLEN, ENGEBAKKEN, SKJELVAN and RAVN.

TANGVOLL 909 (OYGARDEN X GUTERUD) TMI 24,
PRODUCTION ABV(I) APRIL 2015, ASI 146, Pkg 27, P% 0.19, MILK ltr 621, Fkg 12, F% -0.20, REL 66%

TANGVOLL is currently ranked No.2 in Norway for those bulls in semen production. His sire OYGARDEN performed well in Australia and is now ranked in the top 40. In Norway TANGVOLL has a far better proof than that of his illustrious sire. Based on this information TANGVOLL should be in the top group in Australia when his daughters are in production here.

However I have always assessed TANGVOLL as one of these bulls with both strengths and weakness. I have always believed the breeders who will benefit the most from his genes are those who do their homework, study his Norwegian proof and then mate him to suitable cows.

His strengths include:

- He significantly improves production of Protein, Protein Composition and Milk.
- Excellent Norwegian rating of 117 for Growth Rate (slaughter weight of his sons). His progeny are clearly good doers.
- Sound Norwegian rating of 104 for Fertility.
- Whilst TANGVOLL is not a calving ease bull his daughters calve easily which is what we all want.
- Mastitis Resistance – outstanding Norwegian rating of 119. His daughters don't have great udders, some of them have high Cell Counts but they don't get mastitis.

- Other diseases – high Norwegian rating of 114. One presumes his daughters are good hardy animals that keep out of trouble.

His weaknesses:

- Composite Mammary – his sire OYGARDEN currently has a rating of 83 for Composite Mammary. Yet he was a very successful sire in both Norway and Australia. Currently over 8000 Norwegian daughters are contributing to his proof. TANGVOLL has a rating of 93 for Composite Mammary so clearly udders of his daughters are far better than the udders of his sire's daughters.
- Calving Ease – TANGVOLL is not a calving ease bull. My suggestions when planning matings for maiden heifers, small cows etc is to stay with the Big 3 – EIK, GO POLLEN and SMEDSTAD.
- Feet and Legs – not one of the strengths of his sire. OYGARDEN had a rating of 81 for Composite Feet and Legs. The rating of TANGVOLL is far better with a rating of 95, so once again he is far better than his sire for this trait.

SUMMARY. I am very proud of the current team of highly rated, successful Norwegian Red sires being marketed by Genetics Australia. These bulls should help all Australian Red breeders and Cross breeders to improve production and profit. I hope my comments and suggestions help breeders to make the best use of these top proven sires.