

# **GENETICS AUSTRALIA'S AUSSIE RED REPORT - DECEMBER 2011**

## **'THE FOUR RED KINGS'**

*By John Harle*

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Four Aussie Red Sires were dominant in 2011. These bulls are: -

ARBBOBDOWN – LODEN BOB  
ARBBONJOVI – BOSGOWAN BONJOVI  
ARBLEX – BEAULANDS LORRY  
ARBMAWSON – BOSGOWAN MAWSON

It is very pleasing to report that ARBBOBDOWN, ARBBONJOVI and ARBMAWSON held their proofs first in April and then later on in August. It is also pleasing to report that ARBLEX, the highest rated bull to graduate from Genetics Australia's Aussie Red Progeny Test Team 2007 obtained an outstanding proof and joined this elite group at the top.

### **ACHIEVING HIGHER PROFITS PLUS OPERATING DAIRY FARMS ON A SUSTAINABLE BASIS**

When I write about the Red Dairy Genetics marketed by Genetics Australia, I always stress the importance of helping Australian dairy farmers to achieve higher profits and at the same time helping them to operate their businesses on a sustainable basis.

As regards our four Red Kings, two aspects are important: -

First – they all have top proofs with the emphasis on improving both production and profit. Secondly – these four bulls are high demand bulls. Australian farmers are making good use of their genetics.

ARBBOBDOWN, proven in Genetics Australia's Aussie Red team of 2005 now holds the record for highest lifetime sales of semen for any red bull proven in Australia. The previous holder of the record was ARBLAWRENCE, Bosgowan Lawrence, proven in Team '99. ARBLAWRENCE developed into a real stayer and he is still a member of Genetics Australia's Premium Aussie Red Team. However, "the baton" has now passed on to ARBBOBDOWN – HIGHEST DEMAND RED SIRE TO DATE – LIFETIME SALES OF SEMEN.

### **ONE QUESTION FREQUENTLY ASKED IS HOW CAN FARMERS ACHIEVE THE MOST BENEFITS FROM USING SEMEN OF THESE FOUR HIGHLY RATED SUCCESSFUL SIRES?**

This is an important question. There are two aspects common to all breeding programs: -

- ◆ First, which AI proven sires do you select?
- ◆ Then how do you use the semen? Selection of suitable cows to mate to specific bulls.

Both these questions are important.

- ◆ Initially I suggest everyone studies their individual cows, information on their herd recording sheets and on Gene Screen Reports. This should indicate points you need to focus on when breeding the next generation of heifers to enter your herd.

There could be quite a number of key factors for different groups of cows. Generally, with most factory payment systems, improving protein production is an obvious way to improve farm profits. However, some other factors including improving milking speed, temperament, having lower cell counts and better udders, may be important as well. It may be worthwhile checking the reasons why cows have been culled in the previous 2-3 years. This information could be very helpful in selecting some traits that may still need to be improved when planning for the future. I have always supported the philosophy that cows need to be productive but they need to stay in their herds a long time as well. For me, ABVs for survival are very important.

#### HOW CAN KNOWLEDGE OF THESE TOP PROVEN BULLS HELP YOU?

You know your own cows far better than I ever will. So I will concentrate on analysing and discussing some traits that the Fab Four, ARBBOBDOWN, ARBBONJOVI, ARBLEX and ARBMAWSON can improve.

- ◆ POINT NUMBER ONE – It is very important to avoid inbreeding. Always check the sire of your cows and the sires of all the bulls that are candidates for your next breeding program and then avoid close inbreeding.
- ◆ POINT NUMBER TWO – Always start by considering those bulls with high ABV and ABV(i) proofs. In other words, start at the top and select from those bulls at or close to the top for the traits of interest to you.

- ◆ POINT NUMBER THREE – Consider these bulls:

**ARBBOBDOWN** – LODEN BOB (BOTANS X HUSVEG) APR 217, REL 81%

His strengths include: -

- Significant improvement in protein production
- Significant improvement in protein composition
- Worthwhile improvement in fat production
- Worthwhile improvement in fat composition
- In the top group for temperament and farmer likeability
- In the top group for survival
- High type ratings – 110 overall type, 104 mammary system
  - Sires taller cattle with wide pins
  - Improves front teat placement, teat length (longer), udder texture, centre ligament and rear udder height and width.

**ARBBONJOVI** – BOSGOWAN BON JOVI (ORRARYD X TORP 882) APR 198, REL 79%

His strengths include: -

- Significant improvement in fat production
- Significant improvement in fat composition
- Worthwhile improvement in protein production
- Worthwhile improvement in protein composition
- Sound workability proof – milking speed, temperament and farmer likeability
- Improves cell counts
- Improves daughter fertility
- Sound proof for survival
- High type ratings – 111 overall type, 104 mammary system
  - Improves muzzle width and chest width
  - All traits of the mammary system rated at 100 or higher

- High rating for centre ligament and udder texture.

**ARBLEX** – BEAULANDS LORRY (ORRARYD X CHRISTIANSBORG) APR 197, REL 73%

His strengths include: -

- Top all round production  
Improves production of protein, milk and fat  
Plus a worthwhile improvement in protein and fat composition
- In the top group for temperament and farmer likeability
- In the top group for survival
- Improves daughter fertility
- Outstanding type proof – 118 overall type, 108 mammary system
  - Sires taller cattle
  - All body traits rated at over 100
  - Outstanding proof for the mammary system, except for teat length all ratings are over 100
  - Best Aussie Red to improve fore attachment and udder depth
  - Good ratings for centre ligament, front teat placement and height of rear attachment.

**ARBMAWSON** – BOSGOWAN MAWSON (ORRARYD X BJURIST) APR 180, REL 74%

His strengths include: -

- Outstanding milk production. ARBMAWSON is Team Leader for this trait.
- High production protein and fat
- In the top group for improving cell counts
- Sound proof for survival
- High type ratings – 111 overall type, 109 mammary system
  - Team leader for improving centre ligament and front teat placement
  - High ratings udder texture, udder depth and rear attachment height
- Of our 4 stars, ARBMAWSON is probably the best choice to mate to maiden heifers.