

MOST POPULAR VIKING RED SIRES IN 2011 in order are

V FOSKE, PETERSLUND, G EDBO, R HASLEV, and R FACET

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Better weather conditions and more optimism generally in the dairy industry, has flowed on to a very positive year for Viking Red sires here in Australia, we had on offer a great mix of top red sires to suit all breeding situations.

Viking has the world's largest breeding programme for reds - testing more than 200 bulls per year and using genomic selection intensively in preselection, we expect rapid gains on top of our already impressive line up of sires.

The most popular sires-

V Foske - wil be available again in 2012, we ran out of stocks twice, he is a lovely type bull and farmers love his calves he really is the all-round sire. High production, good body scores without being extreme in any direction. not a high total udder score but he is strong in key udder areas, ligament, front teat placement, & positive fore.

R Facet- Popular for outcross reasons (as is V Foske) also one for the type enthusiasts , tall and angular with great udders, of course the two most costly health traits, fertility & Mastitis are a real strength for R Facet as well.

R Haslev- Popular for being a good all-round sire as well, his sire Orraryd of course has been a great sire for many years and is a prolific breeder of sons, R Haslev is one of his finest and has a far superior milking speed than his sire and will leave daughters that walk very correct for our conditions.

G Edbo- Popular for those who like the smaller hard working cow, easy born calves, that mature to calve easily themselves. Great producers, free milking and nice temperament, G Edbo will leave the cows that you don't notice!

Peterslund- Still a high demand sire, really do not need to add much, as I guess being the No 1 Sire says it all, he works in all situations, high satisfaction with both red breeders & cross breeders, we have good stocks of this sire as he will continue to get a lot of attention. Peterslund daughters are generally slower to mature, they are noticed more in their second and later lactations.

R David- Very popular as he is a high KG protein sire, I have seen a number of Davids now in milk and I am sure he will go on to be a very good sire. Daughters have nice udders with good teat length and nice udder depth, very nice rump structure with good length from hip to pin and wide rumps. R David daughters have the ability to maintain a good body score whilst producing a lot of milk.

Asmo Tosikko- Still moving good amounts of semen, high production and udder health, another all-rounder but lacks a little in some of the health traits. Not for maiden heifers, leaving larger calves, good outcross opportunities also being a highly rated proven Finnish Ayrshire has some appeal to freshen up bloodlines.

Highly Rated Genomic Sires- For those wanting to make rapid genetic gains make sure you sample our two new sires , **Balfa & Gibson** .(Bangkok & Gunnarstorp sons) full details will be in next year's catalogue.

Gunnarstorp- There is a lot of talk about this sire among avid red breeders. This is because of his outcross pedigree, great udder & leg scores coupled with his great health profile. The down side is his score of 85 for temperament and to a lesser degree milk speed of 93. World demand for this sire is high and last year there was no semen available for Australia, however this looks more promising for next year. If you would like semen of Gunnarstorp contact our Viking office with your order so we can import it for you.

Gunnarstorp will not be a catalogue sire as we do not think he should be a general use sire with a temperament score of 85, however we have had requests for him and will be released on an order only basis to our breeders that want him.

Personally I feel there is a better opportunity to access this sire through his genomic son Gibson who is already here and available and has a temperament rating of 100 & milk/speed 106. And a very similar type , production and health profile to his father.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Anna Norgren & Erik Thompson

