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“OUTSTANDING TEAM OF NORWEGIAN RED SIRES NOW AVAILABLE  
FROM GENETICS AUSTRALIA”

Writes John Harle

Semen from six outstanding Norwegian Red Sires is now available from Genetics Australia.

These bulls are:

TANGVOLL 10909 (OYGARDEN X GUTERUD)  
ENGEBAKKEN 73 (GUTERUD X LILLEBJERKA)  
SKEI 10617 (BRENDEN X BRANDSTADMOEN)  
EIK 10540 (LUIRO X ULSAKER)  
DAHLE 10801 (OLSTAD X SALTE)  
RAVN 10739 (OLSTAD X GALDE)

TANGVOLL 10909 is a natural poll. Currently he is ranked at No 2 in Norway. In Australia his sire OYGARDEN is in the top group and is ranked No 13 (Red Sires) with an APR (April 2014) of 177. In Norway TANGVOLL has a far better proof than his illustrious sire. You can understand why team members of Genetics Australia selected TANGVOLL for our team. It is essential that Australian dairy farmers have access to top sires with diverse pedigrees and many strengths. TANGVOLL is in the elite group at the top.

HIS STRENGTHS – INTERBULL PROOF (APRIL 2014) INCLUDE:-

- High ratings for APR and ASI including a significant improvement in protein production +30kg and in protein composition +0.15%.
- In addition he has a top proof for improving milk production +820L

\*\* PLEASE NOTE. TANGVOLL has only recently been proven in Norway and Interbull have not yet calculated an ABV for daughter fertility.

HIS STRENGTHS - NORWEGIAN PROOF (FEBRUARY 2014)

- Obviously his daughters rate highly for the production of protein, milk and fat. In this proof he improves protein composition (rating 105) and virtually holds fat composition (rating 99).
- High rating of 117 for growth rate. His progeny are obviously “good doers”. This strength should help his daughters to grow, develop and perform in the harsh Australian conditions.
- High rating of 111 for daughter fertility. It is stating the obvious to say that many Australian farmers are looking for an improvement of the fertility of their herds. Clearly TANGVOLL is a must use bull for these farmers.
- High rating of 114 for mastitis resistance. This is an outstanding rating. In the Norwegian system, bulls get ratings for both cell count and mastitis resistance.
- In addition, TANGVOLL offers outcross genetics.

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## SUMMARY:

Several Aussie Red Breeders and Cross Breeders have already ordered semen of TANGVOLL for their autumn cows. TANGVOLL will definitely be a high demand bull in Australia.

ENGEBAKKEN 73 is a natural poll. We originally selected ENGEBAKKEN last year and were able to access only a limited amount of semen. In 2013 ENGEBAKKEN quickly sold out. We are pleased to have his semen back in store once again. Last year ENGEBAKKEN clearly appealed to Australian farmers because of:-

- His good all round proof.
- Significant improvement in the production of both protein and fat.
- High ratings for improving (reducing) cell count.
- High ratings for improving daughter fertility.
- Another strength of ENGEBAKKEN and indeed with the Norwegian Red bulls is that they offer outcross genetics.

Since then, ENGEBAKKEN has held his proof. His current Interbull proof includes high ratings for APR and ASI, improving protein production +25kg and +0.12%. Milk production +698L and fat production +24kg. In addition he achieves high ratings for cell count of 129 and daughter fertility of 107.

## HIS CURRENT NORWEGIAN PROOF (FEBRUARY 2014) INCLUDES HIGH RATINGS FOR:

- Production of protein 122, milk 119 and fat 119. With their system he has milk composition with ratings of 101 for both fat and protein composition.
- High ratings for feet and legs.
- Good ratings for cell count 106 and mastitis resistance 104.
- Good ratings for body traits.
- Good ratings for the mammary system including 106 composite, 104 udder depth, 109 rear udder width and 109 rear udder height. It is pleasing that ENGEBAKKEN sires daughters with teats longer than breed average (115) because so many highly rated modern bulls of all breeds have daughters with short teats.

## SUMMARY:

ENGEBAKKEN was a high demand bull in 2013. He has held his proof. I predict he will also be a high demand bull in 2014. In reality, this is happening, orders are already coming in.

SKEI 10617 is another new bull selected for Australia this year. He comes from a very strong and successful sire line. His sire BRENDEN was proven in Norway and his PGS was the famous Swedish red bull BACKGARD 3082. We selected SKEI for Australia because of his following strengths:

- He has a sound all round proof. This makes him a very suitable sire to mate to some cows in all Australian dairy herds.
- In his Interbull proof he improves production of milk, protein and fat as well as both protein and fat composition. Also, he has good ratings for improving (reducing) cell count (114) and daughter fertility (106).

#### IN HIS CURRENT NORWEGIAN PROOF:

- He has high ratings for improving production and milk composition. This is clearly reflected in his Interbull proof.
- High ratings of 118 for growth rate. His progeny are obviously “good doers”. This strength should help his daughters to grow, develop and perform in the harsh Australian conditions.
- Sound rating of 102 for cell count and an excellent Norwegian rating of 119 for mastitis resistance. This makes SKEI an obvious choice for all farmers planning to reduce mastitis outbreaks in their herds.
- SKEI also rates highly for many aspects of the mammary system. His ratings include 105 composite, 111 udder depth, 112 front teat placement, 116 fore udder attachment, 114 rear udder width and 117 rear udder height. Just remember to make the best use of his genes – do not mate him to cows with short teats.

FINALLY – SKEI has an outstanding Norwegian rating of 126 for the temperament of his daughters. On a different scale, Interbull gave him a rating of 105. These are both very high ratings. In some crossbreeding situations both Reds and Montbeliardes have been blamed, possibly wrongly for some temperament problems. When selecting bulls for crossbreeding programs, with his outstanding ratings for temperament, SKEI should be an obvious choice.

#### SUMMARY:

SKEI will fit in and help both red breeders and cross breeders breed profitable, highly productive cows.

EIK 10540 IS CONTINUING TO PERFORM IN NORWAY AND IS CONTINUING TO BE IN HIGH DEMAND IN AUSTRALIA. IN NORWAY HE ADDED ABOUT 1200 SECOND CROP DAUGHTERS TO HIS PROOF AND IT HELD. THAT IS A GOOD SIGN.

THE STRENGTHS OF EIK HAVE NOT CHANGED AND INCLUDE:

- High ratings for APR and ASI.
- Significant improvement in production of milk (395L), protein 26kg and protein composition +0.29%
- Included in his Interbull proof are high ratings for cell count 113 and for daughter fertility 108.

IN HIS NORWEGIAN PROOF EIK CONTINUES TO SCORE HIGH RATINGS FOR:

- Production, milk, protein and fat.
- He is achieving a significant improvement in protein composition and he holds fat composition
- High ratings for both milking speed (104) and temperament (105).
- Outstanding rating for calving ease 112. For anyone looking for a calving ease sire to mate to maiden heifers, EIK is an obvious choice.
- High ratings for composite mammary 112 and good ratings for fore udder attachment 109, rear udder height 108, rear udder width 109, ligament 107. With a rating for teat length of 113, teats are longer than breed average.

SUMMARY:

I realise many breeders have used EIK fairly heavily and I suggest they now move on and check the credentials of TANGVOLL, ENGEBAKKEN and SKEI. For those breeders yet to use EIK, I would certainly put him on a short list when considering your bull team for 2014. Finally, remember EIK has a high rating in Norway and a good reputation in Australia as a calving ease bull.

DAHLE 10801 IS CLASSIFIED AS A NATURAL POLL. Actually he has scurrs but bulls with scurrs still have 50% of their calves as natural polls. It is fair to say that both DAHLE and RAVN to date have been in the shadow of EIK. I accept that EIK is well known, a successful sire and is a great calving ease bull, however both DAHLE and RAVN have their strengths and are well worth a place in teams of both red breeders and cross breeders.

STRENGTHS OF DAHLE IN HIS INTERBULL PROOF:

- High ratings for APR and ASI.
- Offers significant improvement in production of milk, protein and protein composition.

- He has an outstanding rating for reducing cell count 161. This is the best rating of any proven red sire currently marketed by Genetics Australia. If you plan to reduce cell counts – include DAHLE in your team.
- He achieved high scores for both daughter fertility and survival.

A STUDY OF HIS NORWEGIAN PROOF SHOWS:

- Sound production milk, protein and fat.
- A sound rating of 102 for mastitis resistance and an outstanding rating of 120 for cell count.
- High ratings for the mammary system. Composite 115, udder depth 121, fore udder attachment 117, rear udder width 111, rear udder height 119, ligaments 109, and teat length 104.

SUMMARY:

When you study the proofs both Interbull and Norwegian of DAHLE, recognising his strengths of:

- PRODUCTION
- REDUCING CELL COUNT
- IMPROVING UDDERS

He deserves to be widely used by red breeders and cross breeders in Australia in 2014.

RAVN 10739 IS A NATURAL POLL.

RAVN is another Norwegian red bull that deserves to be widely used by both red breeders and cross breeders in 2014.

CONSIDER THE STRENGTHS OF HIS INTERBULL PROOF:

- High ratings for the production of milk 483L, protein 25kg and protein composition 0.22%
- High ratings for both cell count 109 and daughter fertility 105.

A STUDY OF HIS CURRENT NORWEGIAN PROOF SHOWS:

- High production milk, protein and fat.
- He improves protein composition, rating of 111 and holds fat composition rating 102.
- Good rating for growth rate 104
- He is not a calving ease bull but his daughters calve easily.

- Good rating for mastitis resistance 104. Breed average for cell count 98.
- Good proof for feet and legs.
- High rating for hoof quality (109)
- High ratings for many traits of the mammary system. 110 udder depth 104, front teat placement 110, fore udder attachment 103, rear udder width 109, udder height 114, ligaments 110. Just remember to make the best use of his genes. Do not mate him to cows with short teats.

#### GENERAL SUMMARY:

Genetics Australia is offering Australian farmers access to an outstanding team of Norwegian Red Sires.

#### AS A TEAM – THEIR STRENGTHS INCLUDE:-

- High production of milk and protein and an improvement in protein composition.
- Significant improvement in health traits including daughter fertility, mastitis resistance and improving (reducing) cell count. In Norway, GENO have put high emphasis on improving these traits for many years.
- Offering outcross genetics
- Several of these bulls are natural polls. These include TANGVOLL, ENGEBAKKEN, DAHLE and RAVN. I believe it is in the interest of all of us that Australian farmers start converting their herds from horned cattle to polled cattle.
- These bulls deserve widespread usage by Australian Red Breeders and Cross Breeders
- As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss with me, please give me a call on 07 3818 0564.

I wish everyone a happy, successful year in 2014.

*John Harle.*

John Harle

Red Breed Specialist