

SUPERBROWN INTERNATIONAL – 2010 ITALIAN TOUR

By Mike Huth

June 2010 saw the opportunity to tour Italy with the SUPERBROWN INTERNATIONAL personnel. Gaining firsthand knowledge of the local cow population and a complete understanding of one of the world's largest Brown Swiss breeding programs.

The Consortium of Superbrown International in Trento & Bozen, is a collaboration between the 2 mountain AI Federations, who had experienced many years of common selection of Brown Swiss that are adapted to the local mountain region. Approximately 140,000 Milk Tested Brown Swiss animals are living within herds in the mountainous Alps region of Italy. Some 80% of the total populations of Italian Brown Swiss live in the Alps region of Italy, making animal selection a critical element of the region.

Italian Brown Swiss herds are averaging up to 10,000 Litres per cow at 4.6% fat & 3.8% protein. These are quite outstanding results considering the limitations of the quality of inputs going into the cows. Processors place strict regulations on producers, in regard to feeding & farming in the mountainous regions. Local milk production around the region is centered on the manufacture of Parmesan cheese, the region is internationally renowned for high quality product. Cows are fed only dry rations consisting of Alfalfa Hay, Concentrates & Pasture Hay. No silage is fed as the resultant milk is tainted & unusable for Parmesan cheese production. The Natural Grass Pasture hay is made on the local mountain side, however the Italian government restricts the improvement of local pasture, maintaining local flora for the influx of International visitors during the summer months. This provides some interesting challenges in producing high quality milk from limited inputs, but also some exciting opportunities for improvement of overall type & components through a strict selection criterion.

During 20 years of activity, SUPERBROWN have progeny tested nearly 600 young bulls, making the SUPERBROWN breeding program a major contributor to the world wide Brown Swiss genetics base. Less than 10% of these 600 bulls came from foreign countries, with the remainder born from strong Italian cow families. Some 15 or more of these bulls have Italian genetic evaluations on more than 1000 daughters; these include Australian favorite's JACKPOT, AMARANTO & MOIADO. SUPERBROWN, thru critical research is able to provide performance data for proof evaluations on Milking Speed, Somatic Cell Counts, Longevity, Overall Type, Milk Test Performance & Body Condition Scoring.

Second Crop Standout Sires include:

SUPERBROWN **MOIADO**, he stands as one of the true champions among the many mature cow groups. This Gordon son remains in the top 5 Italian Brown Swiss sire on the August 2010 Italian Evaluations. Now with over 6000 daughters worldwide, MOIADO will live on thru the numerous son's receiving proofs over the next couple of years. MOIADO daughters are medium statured, robust dairy cows, they have exceptional dairy strength, exhibit super depth & openness of rib, and lovely width thru from the muzzle to the rear end. MOIADO daughters have great width thru their udders, with super texture & excellent veining throughout the entire mammary system; they do however tend to lack a little rear

udder height. MOIADO remains an excellent source of components, being positive for both fat & protein percentage's, with moderate to above milk flow.

SUPERBROWN **JACKPOT** has to be included in the list of most amazing mature cows I have seen in the Brown Swiss breed. JACKPOT daughters display plenty of height at the shoulders, a beautiful sweep to rib & excellent angular dairy bone. From herd to herd we viewed numerous groups of mature daughters all displaying the same strength, dairyness & exceptional mammary systems. There udders offer super height & width or rear attachment, lovely deep ligaments & firm, snugly attached fore attachments. JACKPOT is no longer available, however his No 1 son DONJACK is now available.

The highly regarded Italian Second Crop Sire, SUPERBROWN **ZASTER** has become the talk of the Brown Swiss industry. Now with over 700 daughters in his home country, ZASTER has become the production & type legend. This internationally used bull is now +144 for Mammary System, +133 for Type and over +900 Kg Milk. First thing that comes to mind when you see his daughters is WOW; this guy can really make a cow as quick as look at them. ZASTER daughters have a unique ability to combine highly sought-after feminity with much needed strength to perfection, they have a lovely balance from head to toe, in a medium statured complete package. Daughters have a beautiful muzzle width, long clean necks, and exceptional bone thru the shoulder with deep expanding open dairy rib. ZASTER daughters have hard, deep loins with extra wide rumps and an adequate slope from hip to pin. To finish them off, they have the most amazing rear udder height & width that is highly sought after in the Brown Swiss breed. SUPERBROWN **ZASTER** also receives his first proof in Switzerland with 113 daughters, he has an outstanding udder rating of +2.00, General Appearance +1.41 and +768 kg of Milk Index! This places him in a class on his own and now widely acclaimed as the best bull in recent years! His semen is still available but ALWAYS LIMITED.

First Crop Standout Sires include:

SUPERBROWN **INDIANO**, has stamped himself as the premier Ace son in the industry, excellent production, milking speed & longevity traits. INDIANO daughters exhibit exceptional length & width, from their muzzle's to their hard wide flat rumps. INDIANO comes from a popular bull producing cow family, with both INDIANO & PLACIDO tracing back to the same Prophet granddam.

SUPERBROWN **DONJACK**, comes as the leading SMA FREE Jackpot son available, DONJACK himself is a seriously impressive individual, displaying an excellent open frame, exceptional length of body & a long, hard, wide rump. His daughters display these same excellent characteristics, long feminine frames, hard loins, outstanding udders & lovely feet and legs. Expect quality udders from DONJACK, they display high, wide rear udders, an excellent ligament, and squarely placed teats.

For additional information, check out www.bostrading.com.au or call Mike Huth on 0409 555 042