

Brown Swiss news

October 2022

The European Brown Swiss journal

BGS comments August 2022 run

This August evaluation run is quite historical for French Brown Swiss with the introduction of Single Step methodology, along with the update of the ISU formula with major changes. More information about these changes in a specific article !

4 new genomic bulls

LBB RALICE O Malley x Vigor x Juleng

Born at Gaec Du Bois Brillant, the combination will appeal to breeders looking for production and to amateurs of type. LBB LALICE EX 92 his damr currently in her 5th lactation was intermediate champion Swiss Expo 2018 and grand champion SPACE 2017 and 2019. LBB GENIAL EX 90 his grand dam, also champion of SPACE was part of the France team during the European show in Mende in 2016. The family goes back to the famous Pirouette EX 92 (Denmark). LBB RALICE is the best son of O Malley for milk with a strong profile like his dam who produced in 4th lactation in 305 days 13086 kg at 3.47 %P. He will bring dimensions in the body and the rump, with very good feet and legs. The udder will be very good with a strong ligament and a high rear attachment. He will improve fertility and is BB A2A2.

LBB RALICE is at 1361 GZW in Switzerland with 128 udder and +1025 milk. He is also 977 ITE in Italy with 118 udder and 1187 milk.

Triple A – 423651

SORBET Barca x Puck x Payssli

Born at Gaec des Ormeaux, SORBET is the icon of the family. He is one of the best bulls in the world in rear attachment height and width, with a high level of production. He inherited an impressive maternal line in terms of longevity and above all excellent in exterieur. The dam Puck MOUSSE VG 88, the grand dam Payssli HEINEKEN VG 88 or the great grand dam Jolt VENDANGE EX 91 and behind we have Ace SOBRIETE VG 87 and Zoldo PRUNELLE EX 90, all memorable cows in each generation. The originality of his pedigree, made of bulls that have all confirmed, make this type and components specialist a bull very easy to use. His fat and protein kg are also a major asset for using him on bloodlines with lower contents. BB and A2A2 caseins are the icing on the cake for SORBET. He is 1352 GZW in Switzerland with 132 udder and 127 rear udder width and 124 rear udder height ! The second best Barca son for GZW CH after ROQUEFORT at 1382 GZW. In Italy he is ITE 971 with 122 udder.

Triple A – 2614530

SINEL Opinel x Narcotic x Glarus

Born at Earl la Liegette, SINEL reminds us of the dairy qualities of his sire Opinel (Sinatra x Asterix). He comes from the VERTUE VG 89, SISSIE VG 88, OCEANE EX 93 family, one of the greatest cow family in France. SINEL's grand dam, LBB LOVGRIE VG 86 (Glarus), is also the grand dam of ORIGAN, and goes back to LBB HONGRIE VG 85 (Huxoy) then LBB FIGUE VG 87 (Talc). With an average of 87.5 pts over 6 generations, the type is strongly anchored in this pedigree. He is also one of the best bulls for improving fertility! BB and A2A2 caseins make him a bull of choice for quality milk producers. Its complete profile on all traits makes it easy to use on a large basis, he is free of BIVER and ANIBAL blood too. SINEL is 1416 GZW in Switzerland with 117 Fertility +1034 milk and 119 udder.

Triple A – 243165



Summary

FRANCE	1
ITALY	4
SWITZERLAND	5



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RASTAROKET (O Malley x Sinatra)

He remains the highest available sire in Switzerland at 1494 GZW ! He combines 135 udder, 109 fertility and +1106 milk ! He has an interesting 127 GZW in Germany. One of the best O Malley son for udder quality, milk and fat !

RIESLING (O Malley x Ifeeling)

He is the best foreign sire in the german GZW list ! with 135 he is a logical sire of son and probably the O Malley son with the best milk potential. He sires medium size cows with good udders. He is now available with sexed semen !

RIDLEY (O Malley x Vanpari)

This half brother to Antonov is the ideal bull for crossbreeding and grazing systems ! He is a top bull with GZW CH 1474, making him number 7 and high in US with 183 PPR ! He can improve a large set of traits at once : components, fertility, milking speed, udders and feet and legs, with moderate sized cows. Available sexed.

RULLY (Alpsee x Loustic)

He received his first evaluation in Switzerland and is 1433 GZW, very close to the top of the list ! He is also 198 PPR ! This bull is becoming very popular with his great fitness, components, and very complete and functional type.

ROQUEFORT (Barca x Sinatra)

He is the best Barca son for total merit in Switzerland at 1382, combining production (140 for production) and good udders at 124. He ranks high in Italy too with 995 ITE. He is an ideal partner for O Malley daughters and widely available sexed.

PARADOR (Bays x Amor)

He confirms the high components and will sire cows with a lot of strength, great top lines and feet, and ideal teat length. Available sexed

ROCKY (Canyon x Blooming)

He is a big winner of the new system and ISU formula. This popular production bull can also improve fertility, milking speed, and correct teat size. He still has a stunning 1102 ITE in Italy. Available sexed

RAMSES (Antonov x Hugor FBS)

He is only a winner of this new run : his profile with loads of protein and fat kg, high fertility is very appealing. He sires also a pleasant complete type with strong top lines, body capacity, super feet and legs and strong ligament. It is another bull with optimal teat size. Available sexed

More information :

<http://www.evolution-int.com/en/catalog/21/isu>



Picture : LBB LALICE, dam of LBB RALICE

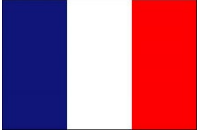
SKY FALL Optimal x Loustic x Anibal

Born at Gaec de la Bellerie, he comes from a family imported from Switzerland which has already produced the bull FUN ABF. The head of the line Zeus CH ZEA EX 94 produced 117,943 kg in his career at 4.68 %F and 3.62 %P ! Skyfall's dam has a VG 85 and shows a lot of strength just like her family. Via a G+82 Anibal then a VG 87 Jongleur and a VG 85 Glenn, we find ZEA dam of Fun ABF. This first son of Optimal proves to be a perfect mating on this maternal line, to consolidate the milk potential and obtain a very complete bull on all traits. Fertility and longevity improver, he will also bring excellent top lines and feet and legs. The udders will be high and very well attached. He also has an interesting positive score of muscularity and offers the sought-after BB and A2A2 caseins. SKYFALL is 1491 GZW CH, very close to RASTAROKET ! With 124 udder 1292 milk and 110 fertility, and positive content.

Triple A – in waiting



OCEANE, dam of RASTAROKET



For about ten years, we have not experienced any change in either genomic indexing or the ISU. With the August 2022 run, our breed is going through a very important moment with the arrival of the Single Step and the redefinition of its ISU to always better meet your expectations as breeders, prepare for the future and shape the Brown Swiss of tomorrow.

FOCUS ON THE NEW ISU

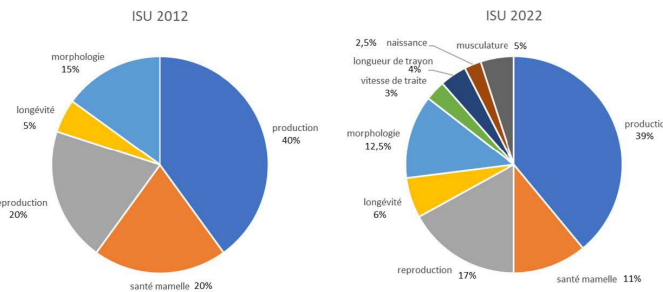
A long phase of reflection and studies

The reflection was initially based on OSIRIS economic modeling in partnership with IDELE, using real data from 3 typical farm cases which represent the diversity of systems encountered in France. These first results made it possible to obtain recommendations of economic weights to be given to each trait in the ISU to maximize income.

Secondly, the BGS Board of Directors took into account the expectations of breeders in terms of animal functionality as well as the objectives that the breed has set for itself by 2030. This is how new traits are entering the ISU: Calving Ease, Milking Speed, Teat Length and Muscularity.

Finally, in a third step, the responses to selection were studied to optimize the ISU in order to obtain the most harmonious genetic progress possible between all the traits, while maintaining the economic objective.

What changes in the new ISU ?



The main lessons are:

1- Production occupies the same place with 39%

It plays a very important role in profitability. The new production summary replaces the INEL, to give more weight to kg Fat and Protein and less to components. This will result in greater genetic progress on the quantity of milk and a little less on the components, an area where the Brown Swiss is the one that has made the most progress in the last 10 years in France.

2- Udder health synthesis will weigh less than before

It goes from 20% to 11% in the ISU because the progress made since 2011 is very clear and even at 11% it remains a high level in the ISU which ensures a very good response to selection.

3- Reproduction synthesis gives more weight to heifer fertility

The FER Heifer index will have more weight to improve the response to selection on this position in the Brown Swiss breed, which is not completely correlated with FER Cow. 17% REPRO synthesis remains very important in the new ISU

4- The Morphology (Extérieur) synthesis index increases to 12.5%

This index leaves room to introduce other functionality characters

5- Teat Length enters the ISU at 4%

Animals with extreme negative values in TL will therefore be penalized in the ISU. The goal is to reverse the trend of teats becoming too short. This will also go through genetic creation to offer bulls that are neutral or positive on this important function point at milking.

6- The milking speed enters the ISU at 3%

This criterion is becoming more and more important to optimize milking time, and the objective is to improve genetic progress on this item with the new ISU

7- Calving ease enters the ISU at 2.5%

This strong point of the breed must remain so and its inclusion in the new formula ensures positive genetic progress.

8- Musculature enters the ISU at 5%

Brown Swiss is officially registered as a dual purpose breed. A predominantly dairy breed for whom this positioning is important and to display its difference with specialized dairy breeds Holstein and Jersey. The introduction of this new muscularity index in the ISU aims to obtain a productive but also robust animal

Table 1 - percentage of each trait in the new ISU:

		ISU 2012	ISU 2022	Variation
PROD	Prot kg	28,8	25,4	-3,4
	Fat kg	7,5	12,2	4,7
	%P	1,9	0,9	-1,0
	%F	1,8	0,5	-1,3
STMA	SCS	12,0	6,6	-5,4
	Mastitis	8,0	4,4	-3,6
REPRO	FER cow	10,0	5,4	-4,6
	FER heifer	5,0	8,8	3,8
	Calving-1st AI	5,0	2,7	-2,3
LONG	Longevity	5,0	6,0	1,0
MORPHO	EXT	15,0	12,5	-2,5
	Calving ease		2,5	2,5
	Milking speed		3,0	3,0
	Teat length		4,0	4,0
	Muscularity		5,0	5,0



FOCUS ON THE SINGLE STEP

Correcting the pre-selection bias

Although our genomic indexing has already shown its effectiveness, studies show that we have a selection bias that sets in year after year since we pre-select young animals on genomic value. This leads to an underestimation of the indices of the most recent generations. After 10 years of genomic selection, it became urgent to correct the situation!

Indexes upgraded

The new indexes obtained with the Single Step have a wider variation range! The correction of the bias leads to a positive revaluation of the indices. This will change our benchmarks because there will be more bulls beyond +1000 kg milk than before! Table 2 compares the old and new indexes. Our level of requirement must adapt!

Table 2 - Level of Top 100

	ISU	%P	Milk	Udd Health	REPRO	Long	Udder	EXT
old	166	+3.1	1690	+2.0	+1.7	+1.9	+1.8	+2.0
Single Step	172	+3.5	1795	+2.4	+2.7	+2.7	+2.3	+2.5
variation	+6	+0.4	+105	+0,4	+1.0	+0.8	+0.5	+0.5

Number 1

	ISU	%P	Milk	Udd Heal th	REP RO	Long .	Udd er	EXT
old	190	+4.7	2257	+3.4	+2.5	+2.7	+2.5	+2.8
Single Step	205	+5.1	2656	+3.7	+3.5	+4.0	+3.0	+3.4

Genotyped females enter the reference population

With the development of the Single Step method, our 4500 french Brown Swiss females genotyped with lactations are now taken into account in the reference population! This provides a gain in index accuracy, with some REL points gained, and refines genomic predictions.

A slightly shaken hierarchy, more relevant indexes

With this new methodology and all these changes, the indexes vary significantly, which is not surprising. The hierarchy of the best bulls or females is shaken up. Added to this a change in the ISU formula, there are always losers and winners with every change! It should be kept in mind that these new indexes offer better relevance. They will allow you to achieve more genetic progress.



INNOVAL, EVOLUTION International and MASTERRIND create SYNETICS.

The boards and management of MASTERRIND and EVOLUTION International shareholders (INNOVAL, AURIVA, BGS, CAPGENES, CHAROLAIS UNIVERS and UALC) are pleased to announce the merger of their international activities. The name of the new company will be SYNETICS. Furthermore, MASTERRIND and INNOVAL have the intention to merge their genetic development in a new European cooperative.

We share the same views and vision for the dairy and beef industry. Jörg Stubbemann, Chairman of MASTERRIND comments: “Realizing that our customers are continuously demanding high-quality genetics, our expertise is to support worldwide farmers with innovative genetic solutions to achieve their business goals, farm sustainability and to enjoy their work and life.”

The group will sell around 8 million units of semen worldwide and will be one of the leading cooperatives in Europe. By combining the activities of both organisations, we keep our genetic programs very competitive and increase our opportunities in the international markets.

This ambitious project means that:

- EVOLUTION International and MASTERRIND have created a common company for international sales called SYNETICS SAS. EVOLUTION International’s current shareholders are still involved in the new organisation.
- Partners and customers will have access to a wider portfolio of dairy and beef breeds, goat genetics and associated services. Holstein customers will benefit from a better sire line-up with more variety.
- The dedicated SYNETICS team will work to elaborate a combined offer and give our customers the advantage of this great opportunity.

In addition, MASTERRIND and INNOVAL intend to integrate their genetic development in a new cooperative SYNETICS e.G. which will handle Research & Development, Breeding Programs, Semen and Embryo Production. For sourcing of genetics from North America, the partners have extended the existing INNOVAL partnership with Peak.

This exciting new project is supported by very skilled and motivated teams in the countries we are active. Patrice Guiguan, Chairman of INNOVAL, states: “We are very proud about this major step to develop and promote, together with our partners and distributors, European breeding on the international scene.”

The new total organisation will be operational in January 2023. Boards and employees are enthusiastic about this great development for both our organisations and look forward to this great opportunity. Info@synetics.world

Lombardy Brown breed regional meeting

The Lombardy Brown Breed regional meeting was held on August 24th, organized by the Brown Breed section of ARA Lombardia (Breeders Association of Lombardy region) with the technical support of ANARB (Italian Brown Cattle Breeders Association).

The event proved very successful, involving and thrilling several Lombardy breeders and technicians in the sector.

Pizzo Scalino Company, owned by Leonardo Nani & Sons, assisted by Maurizio Negrini Company, hosted the event at its mountain pastures, making available their Brown cattle heads.

The President of ARA Lombardia M. Berticelli and its Deputy Director G. Tramanzoli did the honors together with the President of ANARB Silvano Turato and its Director Enrico Santus.

After being offered some technical insights on the selective objectives and the morphological evaluation of the Brown breed cattle, the breeders were invited to join a sort of "evaluation test". Into a group of 10 heads to be evaluated, two categories had to be distinguished during the test: primiparous and pluriparous cows. After the test was completed, the breeders could compare their choices with those of Judge D. Galbardi, taking the opportunity to deepen the morphological evaluation criteria.



Ranking list

Bulls

There are a lot of new entries among the proven sires and the young genomic sires. A high number of sires upgraded from young genomic sires to proven sires. In addition, the distribution of the semen of a fair number of young sires has started recently.

The Italian ranking includes three new sires in the group of sires with more than 1,000 kg milk ITE: one is Italian and two are German.

52 sires included in the group of 90 proven sires with at least Rank 95 which are available worldwide are Italian. The import of semen for all but one of the remaining sires has been authorized. This is proof of how Italian breeders have been using all the best genetics available in the world. In addition, almost all of these sires have at least one B-allele for k-casein and 77% of them have BB-genotype.

Finally, there are new First Run Sires, that have reached the minimum of 25 daughters with 5 controls.



Aperol, son of Ash, a young bull owned by Polar, raised by Società Agricola Piazza Lucio and Carlo S.S. (Belluno)

Cows and heifers

The latest Ranking lists of cows and heifers show several new names thanks to a summer evaluation full of excellent First Run animals. To our satisfaction, many of them come from Italian genetics. Both for cows and heifers, the sires with the highest number of Rank 99 First Run daughters are Italian. Duplago, a First Run Sire in this evaluation run, has got 14 daughters in the best percentile of the Brown population while Lover, a young genomic sire, is the best among rank 99 heifers with 49 daughters.

The live cows in the population are just under 48,000 and 494 of them are rank 99, including as many as 91 are in First Run heifers.



Bender Beverly, a daughter of Bender, owned by Bettoni Claudio (Bergamo)



Sinatra, Visor P und Simbaboy remain the leading trio by the swiss total merit index (GZW). Type specialist Pete has increased in production. The newly promoted bulls Defender and Doboy as well as the Original Braunvieh bull Orbiter had a promising debut.

The August proof has been awaited eagerly by Pete. The type specialist almost doubled the number of daughters compared to April. Having more security Pete has improved in production and also slightly in fitness. With now 65 daughters with type evaluation, he even improved his already fabulous udder index a little to 144. Needless to say, he remains unchallenged leader for overall type and udder composite.



Rechsteiner's Pete RICOLA

CH 120.1453.7211.3 / LBE 87-88-81/86-82 VG85

1. L. 2.04 7'434 kg 4.1 % Fett 4.1 % Eiweiss (proj.)

O: GG Elmer, 8726 Ricken SG / B: Jakob Rechsteiner, 9107 Urnäsch

Photo: Keleki

Consistent proven bulls

At the summit of the proven bulls Sinatra defends his leading position with GZW 1412. The outcross bull – from a Swiss perspective – has now over 200 daughters and confirms as an excellent production- and fitness-transmitter. Visor P improves with his Swiss daughters in production and notes at +387 kg milk. He convinces with an incredible fat content, lots of protein and impressive fitness traits. New in second crop use are Defender and Doboy. The two sons by Daredevil combine a high production index with good type qualities. Both have a fitness index above 100.

Important sires of genomic bulls

The most important sires of genomic bulls are O Malley (12), Sinatra (11), Antonov (8), Canyon (6) and Visor P (5). At the top of the list by total merit index remains O Malley-son Rastaroket at GZW 1494. Rank 4 goes with Bellboy also to a son of O Malley with a high milk index. A completely different profile has the third highest O Malley-son, Juri, the number 1 for overall type and udder index amongst the young bulls.

The most important sons by Sinatra all note at over +1000 for milk kg: Optimal, Tu SG, Sallwo and Sid. Caviezel and Hank are two promising freshmen on the toplist. Caviezel, a Noro-son out of the full-sister to Huge, promises excellent udder transmittance just like Hank, an Apple-son out of Duss Biver Happy.

New Number 1 for OB

Orlando is the new leader of the progeny tested Original Braunvieh bulls. He is convincing with extreme components, excellent fitness traits and a strong beef index. Placed second is Arcas, who is combining high milk yield with good beef performance and a very desirable type. Oribter is very complete bull newly promoted to second crop use. He is a very decent production bull on a high exterior level. The toplist of Original Braunvieh genomic bulls is still headed by Ambros and Anakin, both bulls sired by Arcas.



Orbiter NINA

CH 120.1391.0107.1

LBE 86-85-82/86-85 VG85

1. L. 2.05 7'432 kg 3.8 % 3.4 % (proj.)

O: Roland Ehrbar, 9107 Urnäsch

B: Paul Christen, 3996 Binn

Photo: Keleki

www.braunvieh.ch > Zuchtwertschätzung