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MARCHIGIANA, CHIANINA, ROMAGNOLA,
MAREMMANA AND PODOLICA CATTLE



15th YEAR Number 2/2008



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**Grand Champion Cow - 18th Romagnola Nationals Rocca
S. Casciano, Forlì - June 3rd -5th 2005**



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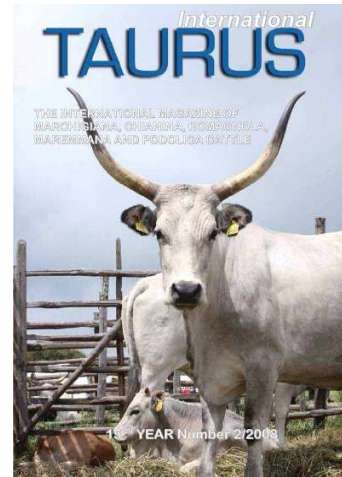
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per allevare
meglio*



*La nostra esperienza,
al vostro servizio.*



Shows

The Bastia ... Olympics!

by Matteo Ridolfi
Morphological Evaluations Office

For “Chianina fans”, Bastia is always Bastia, a fascinating showcase and an important rendezvous to be respected by arriving in top form. Despite the uncertainties that have characterized the eves of these shows for far too long, the Chianina was represented at its 23rd National Show with 100 subjects presented by 18 exhibitors from 6 provinces: Perugia, Terni, Florence, Arezzo, Siena and Rome, the latter present at the springtime highlight for the very first time. The three-day show was held from 28 to 30 March of this year and good weather favored the influx of a large crowd throughout the event.

The work in the ring began on the morning of Friday, 28 March, with the judging competition reserved for students from agricultural institutes, distinguished by its liveliness and young cheering section. The competition saw seventeen teams in the ring, representing five institutes from Tuscany and Umbria. The event, coordinated by Gaia Martuscelli and me, put the competing teams to the test and they measured themselves at ranking two groups of heifers that were kindly offered by the Luchetti ranch. Eight of the teams successfully matched the reference classification, so their motivations were used in order to rank the institutes, which placed as follows:

1st place: ITAS C. Cattaneo from Cecina, Livorno – Speaker: Andrea Guerrieri
2nd place: ITAS Vegni from Cortona, Arezzo – Speaker: Vittorio Alimento

3rd place: ITAS B. Ricasoli from Siena – Speaker: Francesco Chiodini

The winning institute, C. Cattaneo located in Cecina, can be credited with the best explanation for the classification that was drawn up, offered by eighteen-year-old Andrea Guerrieri, a passionate breeder and newly trained Chianina expert, who motivated his choices with the authoritativeness of a veteran. The judging competition had an exceptional spectator, the General Director of AIA Dr. Paolo Scrocchi, who greeted the young people in the ring and in the stands at the end of the competition, praising them for attending in such large numbers.



Antonio Vagniluca, head of ANABIC's Genetics Center, and his assistant Mauro Migni

Shows



Tocco, junior champion bull – Owner Basilio and Claudio Luchetti

He also gave those who plan to work in the livestock sector his best wishes for a gratifying future. ANABIC would also like to congratulate the students and teachers from all the institutes on hand, which included ITAS Ciuffelli from Todi and ITAS Sant'Anatolia di Narco from Norcia. After this now-traditional opening phase, the National Show proper commenced, launching the works in the ring for the six heifer categories.

In the middle of the piastra, a technical term that Italian professionals use to refer to the ring, was Antonio Vagniluca, head of ANABIC's Genetics Center, who was flawlessly assisted by Mauro Migni, Lucio's younger brother and the "scion" of a family that has always been part of the Chianina "elite". The sound, methodical and consistent work conducted by the judge allowed six splendid heifers – which deserve detailed commentaries – to go on the Junior finals.

Tempesta di Pergo: A distinctive daughter of Mandrillo from Arezzo, presented by Giovanni Pucci, she won in the first category because of superior development and greater structural correctness, beating two promising calves sired by Rocco and Icarus ET, presented by the Luchetti ranch. This class was especially competitive and the judge felt that the top six heifers deserved a yellow ribbon. Tosta: A promising daughter of

Moriero presented by the Luchettis, she won the top prize in the second category because of a better balance between typicality, muscle development and style, placing ahead of two heifers from the same ranch, also sired by Moriero.

Teodora di Pergo: The vigorous daughter of Giovanni Pucci's Lio beat her competitors thanks to size and greater trunk length, with a powerful trunk that is well supported by her loins. Placing after her in one of the best categories seen at the show was a daughter of Lio presented by Basilio Luchetti and one of Dazzo's



Trappolo, reserve junior champion – Owner Emilio Massi

Shows



Rocco, senior champion bull – Owner Claudio and Basilio Luchetti

daughters presented by Ottorino Vanni. Siria: Another daughter of Lio presented by the Luchetti ranch took the top prize in the fourth category because of style and size, leaving second and third place to a distinguished daughter of Pascià presented by Mario Atanasi and a promising daughter of Moriero presented by Dr. Juanito Grigioni, a first-class debutant at this year's National Show. Senna: Sired by Lio, she won the fifth category because of greater size, muscle development and diameters, placing ahead of Susy dei Colli presented by Francesco Fedeli, a Fabio with great style and solid legs, which allowed her, in turn, to take precedence over Sabina, a daughter of Nurso presented by the Gobbi brothers, that stood out because of size. Sasha: This extremely powerful heifer sired by Lio and presented by the Luchettis was the outgoing Junior Championess at the Braccagni National Show. She stood out because of the vigor and power of her front diameters, placing ahead of the elegant daughter of Nurso, presented by the Bosi brothers, and a promising daughter of Quinto Melograni, presented by the Fedeli ranch.

This review of the young females, all of which very interesting, led to a “neck and neck” in the Junior finals, which saw the close competition of Pucci's Teodora and the Luchettis' Sasha, both sired by Lio. The judge chose the younger Teodora di Pergo because of her more accented trunk length and, in particular, a better shoulder-thorax connection, although he acknowledged Sasha's fabulous shape, despite her advanced pregnancy. The cow categories also expressed exceptional individuality, highlighting – among lactating cows – generally correct udders, which are extremely functional in terms of quarter volume and teat shape. Four top-level dams went on to the finals. Rarità di Pergo: The daughter of Mandrillo from the Pucci ranch has already won numerous prizes, standing out among primiparae for the desirable combination of size, rump diameters, muscle development and correct legs. Quota di Pergo: The muscular and powerful daughter of Mandrillo, presented by Juanito Grigioni, predominated – but not by much – in the fantastic seventh category because of her slightly better tone, besting the lovely Qualità presented by the Luchettis, as she showed off the style and fineness of a top model. Olimpia: The Luchettis' outgoing Senior Championess at the National Show in Braccagli won the eighth category because of her larger transverse diameters and superior show performance with respect to Olimpia di Pergo, the exceptional daughter of Pucci's Dazzo and the great Gedda. Olimpia di Pergo took second place and pushed Orietta, sired by Gigante and

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Quinto Melograni, reserve senior champion –Owner Francesco e Andrea Fedeli

presented by Ottorino Vanni, into third place.

Marta: A daughter of Giunone, presented by the Luchettis, won the ninth category. Marta is still solid and functional after her sixth calving and despite the fact that she just finished lactating.

The cow finals reconfirmed the ranking of the eighth category, with the Luchettis' Olimpia besting Olimpia di Pergo. We must make note of the functional beauty of these two extraordinary dams, both of which elegant and distinguished, and they are emblematic of the selection orientations currently being pursued for the Chianina.

With regard to the seventh, eighth and ninth categories, reserved for pluriparae, the prize for the most productive cow was introduced at this year's National Show, awarding a blue ribbon to the cow with the best productive and reproductive

career. The cows that were chosen returned to the ring to compete for the trophy commemorating Lucio Migni, which has become one of the most sought-after awards given at ANABIC's national shows. This special competition, judged by Dr. Claudio del Re, who is a national breed expert as well as a highly regarded zootechnician for the Region of Tuscany, involved Otellata, a daughter of Gigante presented by the Vanni brothers from Arezzo, as well as Olimpia and Marta from the Luchetti ranch. The judge's

nod confirmed Olimpia as the winner of the trophy for the second consecutive year, confirming the idea that productivity and morphology worthy of the top rings can unquestionably be combined. Mauro Migni awarded the trophy to Marco Luchetti, while ANABIC director Roberta Guarcini recalled Lucio with ongoing affection.

The male section was just as competitive as the female one, with plenty of noteworthy subjects in all the competing categories, from youngest to oldest. Among the Junior males in the first four categories, several subjects stood out.

Trappolo: A muscular son of Lento presented by Emilio Massi, Trappolo showed superior structural solidity that placed him ahead of Talento, an elegant son of Rocco from the Luchetti ranch.

Tocco: A son of Moriero presented by the Luchettis outdid Tex, shown by the Gobbi

Shows



Olimpia, senior champion cow – Owner Basilio and Claudio Luchetti

brothers, because of greater overall balance and more correct hind legs. Third place went to Tabano dei Colli, a son of Quinto presented by Francesco Fedeli.

Tuono: A son of Dazzo presented by the Luchettis, Tuono stood out because of greater correctness and muscle development, winning over Tito, a son of Oaro presented by the Fiorucci brothers, which in turn placed ahead of Tito delle Logge, presented by the Bosi brothers.

Steno: Another correct son of Dazzo, presented by Roberto Posati, was the only subject in the category and easily – but deservingly – went on to the finals.

Among the four bull calves in the final, Tocco, a son of Moriero presented by the Luchettis, took first place, ahead of Emilio Massi's Trappolo, because of greater size and breed expression, although the runner-up showed top-class legs and muscle development.

The more adult males also maintained the extremely high level of all the show categories.

Sirio di S. Anna: This son of Mandrillo, presented by Lamberto Lombardi, was alone in the fifth category, but showed a long and muscular trunk, with excellent rump dimensions.

Rocco: This son of Nesto, presented by Basilio Luchetti, dominated because of style, gigantism and impeccable legs, in a fabulous sixth category that also showed off the muscular Rino di Polledraia, presented by the Atanasi brothers, and Ruben della Favorita, a promising son of Leonardo del Chiostro

presented by GF2 Immobiliare of Roma, a ranch that debuted at this extraordinary National Show. Quinto Melograni: A son of Nurso and Innata, this subject has long been a regular in the ring. Presented by Francesco Fedeli, he won the seventh category because of superior muscle development and show condition, placing ahead of Pascià della Favorita presented by the Cendali ranch of Florence.



Olimpia di Pergo, reserve senior champion cow – Owner Giovanni Pucci

Shows

The fact that both bulls were Senior Champions at previous National Shows illustrates the level of the competition. Third place went to Piffero, a muscular son of Mafino presented by the Bosi brothers, which in turn bested Pietro Fiorucci's Romito.



Teodora di Pergo, junior champion heifer – Owner Giovanni Pucci

The Senior finals, involving these subjects, was thus a splendid event. The Luchettis' Rocco came out ahead of the remarkable Quinto di Fedeli because of greater size, distinction and cleaner hind legs, especially at the hocks. After the finals, which – in keeping with Bastia tradition – are held on Sunday afternoon, there were numerous side competitions that kept the large crowds of visitors seated around the ring. This year, there were also numerous innovations regarding the competitions. One of the most

important is the adoption of the Code of Conduct signed by breeders when they enroll. This has led to greater attention not only in presenting

the cattle but also in the handlers' garb, giving the

event a highly professional tone. Furthermore, in order to make the special competitions more interesting, several changes were made to the respective regulations, which readers can find at the website (www.anabic.it) and in the first issue of 2008. One of the most widely approved innovations was the rotation of judges, with Claudio del Re, a ring veteran on loan from the office of Zootechnical Policies of the Region of Tuscany, involved in judging not only for the trophy named for Lucio Migni but also for the one commemorating Dr. Augusto Chiacchierini. Whereas the Lucio Migni Trophy, won by Olimpia and described above, is awarded to the cow with the best career, the Chiacchierini Trophy is traditionally given to the best progeny of bulls from the AI program at the Chiacchierini Bull



Sasha, reserve junior champion heifer – Owner Basilio and Claudio Luchetti

Center. The ten subjects involved in this competition were

Shows

the sons of Mandrillo, Priamo, Icarus ET, Fabio, Iero and Nurso, and their pedigrees, genetic indexes and traits to be taken into consideration for mating



Presentation of the "Chiacchierini" trophy to Giovanni Pucci

plans were illustrated.

The trophy winner was Rarità di Pergo, a primipara and daughter of Mandrillo presented by Giovanni Pucci of Cortona, who received the award from Anna Chiacchierini, Augusto's daughter and currently the owner of the Perugia Bull Center.

At this time, a special award was also given to Ottorino Vanni, who had just returned from the Fieragricola exhibition in Verona and has tirelessly supported the Chianina in hundreds of shows, unquestionably making a unique contribution to spreading knowledge about this breed.

This was followed by the competition for cows with their calves. The judge for this event was national expert Elisa Lenzi of Livorno, assisted by Andrea Guerrieri, a very young but experienced collaborator with a promising future. Andrea has followed in the footsteps of his father, the

late Massimo Guerrieri, who was not only one of the best Chianina breeders but also a great expert. The tenth female category, reserved for lactating cows with

their calves, was dominated by two dams, Rada and Quota di Pergo, both presented by Juanito Grigioni of Arezzo. The goal of the competition, in which not only the dam but also her calf is evaluated, is to highlight the cows' maternal abilities; in this case, Rada came in ahead of Quota. Grigioni, who owns both cows, also received the special award given by the Città della Chianina Association to the best debuting breeder at the

2008 National Show.

Another important moment on the last afternoon of the show was the competition for herd groups, with the representatives of four ranches. Each group was composed of three subjects born on the ranch. The group from the ranch of Basilio and Claudio Luchetti Basilio, located in Collazzone, won with three extremely uniform calves in terms of typicality, muscle development and rump lines. This group was followed, in order, by the notable groups from the Pucci, Pagoni and Gobbi ranches. The success of the Luchettis in this competition adds to the quality of their team, which was impeccably exhibited and also won them the trophies for Best Breeder and Best Exhibitor at the 2008 National Show.

Shows

The close competition that emerged on several occasions between this ranch and

however, there was also a fun innovation. Alongside actual handling in the ring,



“Olimpia” awarded with the “Lucio Migni” trophy

Giovanni Pucci’s in Arezzo brought great dignity to the show and underscored the participation of the latter ranch, which was more competitive than ever in all the classes in which it participated. This was due in part to the skill of a consummate handler by the name of Danilo Pucci, who played a key role in the brilliant performance of his subjects. As a result, he won the title of Best Handler at the 2008 National Show, over Lamberto Lombardi of Todi and Juanito Grigioni of Arezzo. Young handlers – eleven in all – also tested their skills in the competition for the younger generation, which included little Alessio Pagoni, Enzo Pagoni’s six-year-old son, who showed great determination in handling his calf while “fighting” with a number label that was far too big for him. A total of ten “under-25” handlers competed; all of them are children of breeders and have long been regulars in the ring. This year,

there was also a cultural test, in which the competitors had to submit written responses to questions about zootechnics, feeding and genetics. The results of the two tests were added to come up with the final ranking and the award of the “Future Breeder” prize. This year the well-deserved

award went to Riccardo Tosti from Pietralunga, Gubbio, an experienced nineteen-year-old who placed ahead of Debora Posati from Todi and Marco Blasioli from Spoleto. The awards for this competition were handed out by Dr. Lazzaro Bogliari, President of Umbriafiere, who complimented the participating breeders and emphasized his respect for the sector and the commitment to renew the trade-fair organization, which will be upgraded with a modern multipurpose exhibition structure, where the Chianina breed will play a central role in the future. The final afternoon of the show put the finishing touch on a day that commenced with the traditional heifer auction, in which eight heifers were presented by the Pagoni, Massi, Gobbi, Atanasi, Posati and Luchetti ranches. Roberta Guarcini brought down the hammer for the top price of €4000, garnered by Treccia, a daughter of Lio sold by the Luchettis, bought by Querce de’ Chiari in Florence.

Shows

The prices for the other subjects averaged €3500.

This commentary demonstrates that the show took place in various phases and at a very fast pace, thanks to the staff's meticulous work as well as the valuable collaboration of the supervisors from the Provincial Breeders' Associations that were involved. Therefore, special thanks go to Giampaolo Montagnoli and Marco Corbucci from the Perugia Breeders' Association, Renzo Brillì from the Florence Breeders' Association, and Elio Casetti and Enrico Brocchi from the Arezzo Breeders' Association, who made a fundamental contribution to the success of this event.

There is still plenty to say about this wonderful National Show held in Umbria, and one of the most delightful comments involves the welcome visit of the Australian delegation: John and Cecily Adams, passionate Australian breeders from the State of Victoria. They are well known to Chianina breeders and are regulars at the breed's most important events held in Italy. ANABIC, which was on hand in Bastia with a full staff, also had a particularly large stand this year. In addition to the administrative office for the show, the stand also hosted a lovely exhibition of period photographs of Chianina cattle, presented by the Amici della Chianina Association, a cultural organization based in Bettolle, in the heart of the Siense Val di Chiana. The

goal of the association is to

rediscover, promote and valorize historical, scientific and cultural aspects tied to the "White Giant". The photo exhibition was particularly successful and drew a constant flow of visitors and enthusiasts. One of the most significant events that the association has planned is an upcoming event honoring Prof. Enzo Marchi, a professor with the Department of Agriculture at the University of Florence and an eminent zootechnician of the past who devoted most of his life to the Chianina.

There are countless positive images of this show, but the best one – with which we would like to end our commentary about the 2008 National Show – is the one of the young handlers and their subjects, perfectly aligned in the ring at the end of the event. This was unquestionably an ideal corollary to the final awards ceremonies, but it represents the image of hoped-for continuity and faith in the future.



Luchetti Basilio receives "the best exhibitor of the show" trophy

Sales

Another year of auctions

by Antonio Vagniluca
ANABIC Genetic Centres

Despite several high notes, the March auctions reflected the current market difficulties

The usual springtime triptych of auctions starring the Marchigiana, Chianina and Romagnola breeds took place from March 18 to 20 at the ANABIC Genetics Center.

The event drew a good audience despite the bad weather that detracted from the atmosphere of the three auctions, which were somewhat lackluster due to the rather unfavorable moment currently being faced by the breeding industry. Nevertheless, the Association is currently experiencing a phase of intense technical activity that, following a preliminary investigation on the development of breeding systems, also involved the complete overhaul of the Bull Selection Index by the Genetic Evaluation Office, in collaboration with the University of Padua. This will be followed by changes in the Dam Selection Indexes, which will shortly be enriched by the numerous innovations that are still in the works; updates will be given in the magazine and at the website. Work will also begin shortly to restructure the Genetics

Center, in order to make these facilities better suited to

the prevention of infectious diseases and to promote work for the genetic improvement of our breeds.

As usual, the bull calves were the stars of the ANABIC's three-day event and all three breeds cut a fine figure in the ring, showing not only significant test results but also a wide variety in terms of pedigree, with plenty of individuality. In keeping with tradition, the first day was set aside for the Marchigiana, which proposed a group of particularly uniform bulls, composed of four subjects that were eligible for AI and three that were approved for NS. All were sold during the auction. The first to enter the ring was



One of Chianina bulls on sale"

Sales

Silvio, the vigorous son of the bull Mugello by Damasco, which stood out because of great elegance and breed traits. Presented by Priori Nazarena of Ancona and purchased by Attinà of Frosinone, Silvio went for €3300, a sum that could have been higher, considering the potential of this interesting subject.

Another interesting subject was Silone,



*Silvio, the highest indexed of Marchigiana bulls on sale –
Owner Nazzarena Priori*

the muscular offspring of Ponzio by Erode, purchased by Di Marcantonio of Pescara for €3600. Among those approved for AI, notables included Tiro, an extremely vigorous and well-built subject sired by Lupo and Emulo, which passed the performance test with an ADG of 1800 grams and commanded a price of €3500 from Ditri Mario of Isernia. Among the subjects approved for natural service, special mention goes to Talismano, an interesting son of Erode by Gomero, which matched muscle development and breed traits with good skeletal structure. Talismano was presented by Gagliardi of Ascoli and purchased by Azienda Grossi Mario of Frosinone for €3550.

It was the Chianina's turn on the second day, 19 March, and the breed was represented by nine bulls, eight of which approved for artificial insemination and one for natural service. Good attendance,

combined with the exceptional conditions of the bull calves, made this a fascinating rendezvous, thanks to the interest shown by the purchasers and the fact that, although no record-breaking sales were posted, all the subjects found a buyer.

The auction opened with Sereno, a vigorous son of Lio di M.B. by Mandrillo. Distinguished by exceptional breed traits and muscle development, Sereno commanded a price of €4050 and was won by the Quinto Farina ranch of Viterbo. The same price was garnered by Tinco, from the Pecci Lido ranch of Siena, which was purchased by Micci Battaglini of Viterbo. This vigorous son of Quiro (Nurso line) by Gigante showed a high BSI and an extraordinary ADG of 2124 g/day. Siro dei Colli, from the Nurso line by Dazzo, commanded the significant sum of €4650 and impressed the audience because of his ADG, which was close to 2 kg/day, and a BSI of 116.4.

Tedesco, a promising subject owned by the ranch of Ottorino Vanni and Brothers, was also worthy of note. Although he was withdrawn from the auction, he was paraded in the ring, showing excellent typicality, muscle development and structural correctness. The top auction price went to the Florentine Tetric, sired by Lio and Drea from the Manuele Benedetti ranch. Tetric was purchased for €4900 by La Selva of Grosseto and made a positive impression because of test data and the muscle development of his hindquarters. Lastly, although approved only for NS, Sauron from the Cappello ranch of Padua sparked a lively auction. The son of Priam by Flutto, Sauron cut a fine figure in the ring, leaving it only after bringing €4150 to the Attilio Nanni ranch of Arezzo. The following day it was up to the Romagnola to put the finishing touch on

Sales

the auction days. This goal was achieved only in part, due also to heavy snowfall in the Romagna Appennines that limited the influx of buyers. Vigor, muscle development, correctness and typicality were the recurrent features of the 13 lots being auctioned, but they did not receive the type of attention they deserved.

The first subject to be auctioned was Toldo, from the Pozzi ranch, which was sold to the Beoni company of Bagno di Romagna for €3300. This muscular son of Nuvolari by V.U. Navaho, assessed as excellent, boasted a BSI of 122.3 and an ADG of well over 1700 g/day. Torero, from the Renzo Scozzoli ranch, also performed beautifully. The son of Petrarca by Gigante, Torero was excellent in the ring, underscoring the importance of pedigree as a parameter for selecting bulls. This subject had excellent credentials and was purchased by the Pennacchi ranch of Forlì for €3100. Last but not least was V.U. Totem, a son of Neff by Bandolero from the Sofia family, owned by the G. Luca Giuliani ranch and bought by Marinello Mascheri for €3400. This interesting bull calf stood out because of breed traits, muscle development and somatic development, and the price it garnered does not fully reflect V.U. Totem's true potential. The same holds true for the other subjects that entered the ring, as the prices they commanded were not up to their true genetic and morphological value.

There is no question that the lack of purchase subsidies did not help with regard to the Romagnola subjects being

auctioned. Nevertheless, it would be simplistic to cite this as the sole reason



Ville Unite Totem, top price Romagnola bull, Owner Gianluca Giuliani

for an unusually low-key auction, and we hope that more appropriate prices will soon compensate for this in the June auction.

Anabic members' meeting

by Chiara Matteucci
ANABIC Shows Office

Election of the new Board of Directors of the National Association of Italian Beef Cattle Breeders for the 2008-2010 three-year period. Presentation of the annual report on the numerous activities carried out. The 2008 Ordinary Meeting of the ANABIC members was held in San Martino in Colle (Perugia), during which the report of the Board of Directors on the activities carried out by the Association was read. In his introductory presentation, President Luchetti spoke of the current difficulties of the Italian livestock sector, penalized by growing production costs that are eliminating breeders' profits. He mentioned how the ANABIC has sought to recover competitiveness and efficiency in all sectors of activity, seeking to provide adequate responses to the constantly evolving needs of breeders, and to strengthen relations with the other structures of the system, with the Regions, and with the Ministry for Agricultural Policies, obtaining important results from many standpoints. Continuing his talk, President Luchetti stressed the satisfaction expressed by the Central Technical Commission with regard to the improvement of the efficiency of the selection scheme achieved through the better use of performance-tested breeding animals. Mentioning briefly the new services implemented, such as the possibility to consult the company data on the Internet,

and the renewal of the company management procedure, Luchetti spoke of the efforts made to improve transparency and communication with the breeders. ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini then gave a concise description of the activities carried out and the results achieved in 2007 by the entire structure. At the end of the session, the meeting appointed the new Board of Directors of the Association, which confirmed Fausto Luchetti as President of ANABIC during the meeting of 19 June 2008.

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Fausto Luchetti re-elected president of Anabic

by Chiara Matteucci
ANABIC Shows Office

During the meeting of this past 19 June, the Association's Board of Directors reconfirmed Fausto Luchetti as President of the ANABIC, National Association of Italian Beef Cattle Breeders, for the three-year period 2008-2010.

Born in Perugia, Luchetti entered the breeders system many years ago, first taking the office as President of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Perugia, and then becoming the Vice President of the Consortium for the Defence of the Central Apennine White Bullock and a Board member of the Federazione Provinciale Coltivatori Diretti (Provincial Federation of Self-Employed Farmers) of Perugia. In 2005 he was elected National President of ANABIC.

In May 2008 he was elected President of the Italian Beef Consortium for the first time.

In Collazzone, in the province of Perugia, he runs, together with his brother and cousins, a farm of about three hundred hectares (>740 acres), where their proudest achievement is the breeding of the Chianina, a long-standing passion that has been passed down successfully from father to son.

As he accepted his confirmation for the office of President, Luchetti thanked those present for the confidence and trust shown him, ensuring them that he will continue with commitment, together with the Board, the work to enhance the five Italian beef breeds both nationally and internationally.

“Crisis-busting” summer auctions at the genetic centre

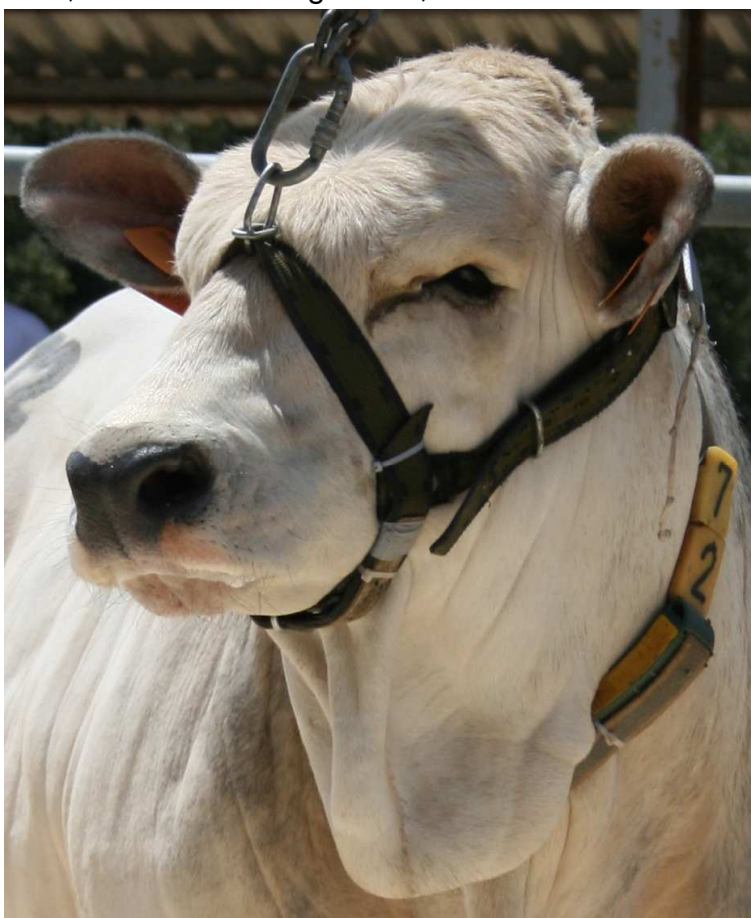
by Antonio Vagniluca
ANABIC Genetic Centres

Animals of great interest won over the buyers at the June auctions, attenuating the “crisis in the air” and registering well-deserved knockdown prices.

The summer auctions, held at the Genetic Centre this past 24 and 25 June, offered the novelty of showing together, throughout the 1st day, the sires of the Marchigiana and Romagnola breeds, which featured 10 and 12 animals, respectively.

The Marchigiana was the first to enter the ring, with an extremely homogeneous group of animals, 6 of which were qualified for AI and 2 for NS. For all the bullocks, excellent muscle development and dimension traits were observed, with good breed typicity and just as valid limbs. The top price was taken by Teodoro, who had an evaluation score of 88 points, with an Excellent for muscle development and three Very Good’s for the remaining qualifications. He is a son of Erode out of Orchidea, a Lotar x Cavour, a true “golden-egg goose” for Silvio Dall’Armellina, a breed supporter from Vicenza. Teodoro was won for 4,300 euro by the Giancarlo Fecondo farm of Teramo. The second-highest price was obtained

by 2 animals in a tie: Tinco, qualified for AI, and Tosto, qualified for NS. These are two bullocks who are both impeccable in model and structure. With regard to Tinco it is worthwhile to note his open pedigree in his paternal line and supported by numerous functional, solid cows. Elegant and distinguished, as well as normal as



*Thomas, the highest indexed of Romagnola bulls on sale –
Owner Simone Pozzi*

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far as the myostatin gene is concerned, Tinco was presented on the auction block by Lorenzo Raschini of Pesaro and was won for 3,650 euro by the Bulls Centre of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Macerata.



Tinco, Marchigiana bull on sale

An identical price was obtained by Tosto, from Ancona, a son of Pomo, out of Muro, and pedigree linebred to Musone, reared by Stefano Giorgi and purchased by the Corrado Laurenzi farm of Ascoli Piceno. This animal, also, showed an impeccable morphology, confirmed by his 86 points. A slightly lower price was taken by Trofeo, a son of Mirino out of Gigante bred by the Mei Marco farm and purchased by Giuseppe Masella from Latina. Worthy of note for this animal are a significant ADG of 1,977 grams and a morphology score of 85 points.

The next price is that obtained by Tiberius, from Ascoli-Piceno, the first animal in the auction. This bullock, with an ADG of 1,706 grams and a morphology score of 86 points, has a

Quebec x Cirio x Inatteso pedigree and was presented by Ezio Sartorelli. He was won by Gerardo D'Oto from Benevento who, in addition to Tiberius, also purchased Tingolo, a son of Quinto out of Lupo, who is qualified for NS. As can be deduced from these notes, it was a lively auction, crowned by a satisfying "sold-out", which confirms how the Marchigiana breeders are becoming increasingly involved with the Genetic Centre's activities. But there was no time for anyone to rest on their laurels, and the Romagnola took the stage with 12 animals, 7 of which qualified for AI and the remaining 5 for NS. The top price was taken by La Viola Tapiro, a son of Orizio out of Gallo x Eraldo, with an ADG of 1,700 grams, who is qualified for NS and was purchased for 4,500 euro by Romano Piancaldini

from Firenzuola.

The second-highest price was obtained by Thomas, from Ravenna, a Petrarca out of Lucas presented by Simone Pozzi. This bullock, muscular and correct, came to the auction with an ADG of 1,800 grams and with excellent muscle development, dimensions, and structure. He was won, for 4,000 euro, by the Pasquale Ancarani farm in Ravenna, which signed him up with Semenitaly. A knockdown price of 3,500 euro concluded the auction of Tiziano Babini, a Nembokid out of Maracanà, descending from one of the best female lines of the Rivalona farm. With an ADG of 1,600 grams and a score of 85 points backed by strong muscle development and good size, this

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animal was purchased by Patrizia Amadori di Bagno from Romagna (Forli-Cesena). All the remaining animals were purchased for 3,000 euro and of these, Talamone della Mezza Cà (Ivanhoe x Navaho), presented by the Daga Bros.

and purchased by Massimo Bardi, was signed up with Semenitaly. Another bullock, La Fattoria Tuono (Petrarca x Denaro), presented by Emilio Donati, was purchased by Giuseppe Raffini of Firenzuola, and will be stocked by the ANABIC for the management of its mating programmes. The Romagnola auction was certainly not an auction of record prices, but in any case it re-established calming prices, erasing the bad memory of the spring auction.

The following morning it was the Chianina that was the protagonist, with its 7 animals, 4 of which qualified for AI and the others for NS. The event was characterized by a good participation of audience and breeders vying for purchases. Opening the auction, and taking top price, was Tonetto Melograni, a son of Fabio out of Lento presented by Fosco Mecherini of Livorno, and won for 5,200 by the Nello and Michele Ciccioni farm of Arezzo. Muscular and correct, Tonetto had a BSI of 121.7, a test ADG of 1,851 grams, a score of 85 points, and two Excellent evaluations for muscle development and dimensions. His pedigree shows a series of interesting cows, including two grandmothers evaluated Very Good with 88 points. He will be stocked by the ANABIC for its mating programmes. A price worthy of note was also obtained by Timor, from Siena, a Priamo out of

Labirinto bred by the Fioroni Bros. and purchased for 4,550 euro by Ferdinando Florini of Grosseto. For this bullock, qualified for AI, worthy of note are an ADG of 2,007 grams and evaluations of Very Good for muscle development and dimensions. The next mention goes to the performance of Teclisse, a grandson of Nurso with an open pedigree in the maternal line, presented by Claudia Spatola of Terni, with his first animal coming out of the Genetic Centre. This bullock, muscular and correct, was purchased for 4,150 euro by Roberto Cipriani of Arezzo.

Among the animals qualified for NS, worthy of note is the price obtained by Turno, a Moriero out of Dominio presented by Basilio Luchetti and the last animal to enter the ring, purchased for 4,050 euro by the Daniele Bestini farm of Grosseto. In this case, also, he is a decidedly interesting animal for typicity, muscle development, and size.



Tonetto Melograni, top price Chianina bull – Owner Fosco Mecherini

Sales

At the end of the auction, crowned by a fair success, we cannot hide our concern on the eve of the auction with regard to the merciless climate that long hindered the haymaking in large zones of the breeding areas of our breeds. The strong and numerous participation of the public comforted us in seeing that, despite the pressing work necessary in the fields, many found the time to be present at our auctions, contributing substantially to their successful outcome. The breeders' support is, in fact, at the basis of the genetic improvement activity, and this is true now more than ever, with the work on the expansion of the Centre started and well under way. Our desire to see the breeders increasingly interactive and

participating cannot disregard adequate and prompt information. The two auction days, punctuated by the hammer of ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini, were thus both a pleasant moment of encounter and an important opportunity for making known the services the ANABIC makes available to breeders. The expressions of appreciation that we are receiving in this sense are encouraging, as are the compliments regarding the fitness of the animals presented at the auctions, which encourage us to do increasingly better in the future.

Shows

Marchigiana, more beautiful than ever!

by Matteo Ridolfi
Morphological Evaluations Office

The breed showed its best in the prestigious Villa Potenza ring. The 24th edition of the National Herdbook Show of the Marchigiana breed, held from 30 May through 2 June at the Villa Potenza cattle forum in Macerata, within the framework of the “RACI”, Rassegna Agricola del Centro Italia (Central Italy Agricultural Show), finally returned to its best levels, without the health restrictions that in the past had prevented the participation of the breeders of various provinces of the Marches and Abruzzo regions. In fact,



A moment of the judging competition for students of agricultural schools (ITAS)

there were 317 animals listed in the catalogue, from 32 showers

coming from the provinces of Macerata, Ancona, Ascoli Piceno, and Pesaro. Entering the ring for the individual competitions were 181 animals, and their qualitative level was not only worthy of the best traditions, but sometimes at the absolute top of the qualities shown by the breed in recent years. The section reserved for grazing groups, in which there were representatives from 7 different farms, was particularly rich. A novelty that marked this edition of the show was the judging competition for students of agricultural schools (ITAS), which featured the participation of 5 teams of students from the ITAS G. Garibaldi school in Macerata. The subjects of the competition, coordinated

in the ring by Matteo Ridolfi, were four young category 6/B cows, and the final ranking showed the team led by Luca Gallina in 1st place, topping those led by Costanza Giovannetti and Dario Bonifazi, the speakers of the teams that won 2nd and 3rd place. The students of the ITAS of Macerata have long been an enjoyable fixed presence at our national shows, enlivening them with a note of freshness and liveliness. One of the main promoters of this participation is certainly Stefano Agnani, the school's stall manager, whose passion for cattle is the best stimulus for bringing young people to know and appreciate the Marchigiana,

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together with an indispensable dose of patience.

Among the most pleasant notes of this fine National 2008, worthy of mention is the clear qualitative leap from the standpoint of showing skill, with particular reference to both the handling of the cattle in the ring and the attire of the handlers, more polished than in the preceding editions. The role of sole judge was performed by veteran Giannetto Guerrini, accurately assisted in the ring by Romina Bastari. The judge did his work at a fast pace, showing authoritativeness and giving complete reasons for his decisions. The first to enter the ring were the males, for whom the judge's decisions created the following finals:



Giannetto Guerrini, the judge of the show and his assistant Romina Bastari

Junior Males Final

- Teatro, a son of Romano presented by the Azienda F.lli Mei Carni farm, won in the category by virtue of his superior muscle development, strength of his transverse diameters, and correctness of his limbs. His reserve was Todaro, a son of Palio owned by Valentino Vissani, who preceded Tiberio Valdolmo, a son of Cirio

and the well-known Festosa, presented by Piero Smargiassi.

- Tuffo, a son of Erode owned by the Ercoli Brothers, had his best traits in his refined handsomeness, muscle development, and limb correctness, and won in the 2nd category over Teatro, a son of Pergolo presented by the Azienda Mei di Mei Marco farm.

- Treno, a son of Damasco owned by Cristian Vissani, standing out for his muscle development and vigour, as well as for the broad transverse diameters of his rump, won in the 3rd category over Tenore, a son of Picasso owned by the Azienda F.lli Mei Carni farm.

- Tulipano, a son of Quarzo presented by Valentino Vissani and the oldest competitor in the Junior final, won with his superior muscle development and trunk length, beating out Tonante, a son of Quasimodo owed by the Azienda F.lli Mei Carni farm.

The judge's final decision assigned the Grand Champion title to Tulipano, ahead of Tuffo, his reserve, for his more accentuated longitudinal and transverse diameters of his trunk, and the particular functionality of his locomotive system. The reserve deserves mention for his striking refined handsomeness.

Senior Males Final

The Senior Males final, made spectacular also due to the sheer size of the animals participating, featured 3 decidedly interesting bulls in the competition:

- Socrate Valdolmo, a son of Pergolo and Novella Valdolmo, presented by Piero Smargiassi, won in the 5th category for his superior size, striking trunk length, and greater cleanliness of his hind legs, over the muscular son of Birbo owned by

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Paolo Zitti, thus earning access to the final.

- Raggio, a vigorous son of Otello owned by the Azienda Mei di Mei Marco farm, won in the 6th category for his extraordinary gigantism and vigour, greater distinction, and more modern model, beating Rio, a son of Damasco owned by Pierino Staffolani.

- Rick, another son of Otello owned by Mei Marco, dominated the more adult category, relegating to 2nd place, thanks to his superior dimensions and elegance, the muscular Pedro di Giunture, a Cirano from the same farm, who had, in turn, beaten the well-known Ralf, a son of Lupo, also owned by Mei Marco.



At the right Tulipano, the junior champion bull. At the left Tuffo, the reserve junior champion bull of the show.

The overwhelming power of Raggio, who arrived at this show in great shape, won him the title of Grand Champion, adding one more prize to a collection that is already quite impressive for such a young animal. His exceptional size, trunk length, muscle uniformity, and limb correctness relegated to the reserve position the promising Socrate Valdolmo, a decidedly well-balanced animal destined for future success.

As usual, the females also kept the competition alive in all the classes, without distinction between Junior and

Senior. The judge's work, at times truly demanding, concentrated the best animals into two great finals, which are deserving of detailed comments.

Junior Females Final

Competing in the heifer final was a group of females who were uniform in their breed typicality, muscle development, trunk length, and structural solidity:

- Tosca, a daughter of Piombo presented by the "La Bigotta" farm of the Nuti Bros., won for her superior distinction, muscle development, and strength of her back and limbs over Tecla, a long, distinguished Erode presented by the ITAS of Macerata, dominating the 1st category, one of the most interesting seen in this show.

- Tundra, a Picasso owned by the Azienda F.lli Mei Carni farm, dominated the 2nd category thanks to her superior muscle development and impeccable trunk, beating Tosca del Conero, an elegant Daino owned by Franco Salciccia, noteworthy for her style and structural correctness.

- Trincea, a distinguished daughter of Ponente owned by Umberto Miliozzi, was the winner in the 3rd category, beating, thanks to her superior size, transverse diameters, and trunk length, the also

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noteworthy Tastiera, a Gigante owned by Cristian Vissani.

- Tata, a Piombo owned by the Nuti Bros., won in a hard-fought 4th category thanks to her evident typicity, muscle development, and dimensions, beating Scozia, a distinguished Mirino presented by the Carnevali Donatella farm.

- Star, a daughter of Erode owned by Marco Mei, won in the 5th category for her greater rump width, superior muscle development, and limb correctness, over Truffa, an interesting Ebro owned by Pierino Staffolani, who beat, in turn, Santa, a distinguished favourite of the "La Bigotta" farm, whom aficionados will remember as the Junior Reserve of the 2007 edition.

- Sicilia, the Erode owned by Cristian Vissani, Junior Champion of the previous edition, appeared as formidable as ever, by virtue of her striking femininity, typicity, trunk length, and transverse diameters, throwing down her gauntlet for the Grand Champion title and beating in her category the noteworthy Sabbia, a Palio di Vissani Valentino, striking in her style and clean bone structure.

The Junior offered a grouping of extremely fine animals among the competitors, and the judge's decision awarded Sicilia, a standard-bearer of Cristian Vissani, over Tundra from the Az. Fratelli Mei Carni farm, who won thanks to her superior typicity, fineness, and trunk length. The reserve deserves mention for her extraordinary muscle development, in addition to a textbook rump and the particular correctness of her limbs.

Senior Females Final

The final for cows was just as valid as that for the heifers, with all the

competitors expressing muscle development, trunk length, and rump width. Also worthy of note, with regard to the numerous lactating cows present in the show, is their correct udder conformation.

- Ronda, an interesting first-calver daughter of Palio, presented by Valentino Vissani, won among the young cows of the category 6/B, thanks to her superior typicity, femininity, and trunk length, beating out Rissa, a Pioniere owed by Pierino Staffolani. Also noteworthy for the winner was the particular correctness of her udder.

- Quercia, the well-known Erode owned by Valentino Vissani, won in a spectacular 7th category for her superior distinction, muscle development, and transverse diameters, over Ronda, another promising Erode presented by Cristian Vissani, whose best features were her trunk length and rump conformation.

- Novella Valdolmo, owned by Piero Smargiassi, and Ombrella, owned by Donatella Carnevali, both lactating and multiple award-winning daughters of Erode, battled it out in a heated 8th category, another of the most interesting classes of the show. The superior size and greater cleanliness of her hocks enabled Novella to beat her rival, who is to be commended for her superior trunk length. The 3rd place went to Milagros, owned by Valentino Vissani, another cow well-known to aficionados.

- Liberia, the daughter of Damasco owned by the Az. F.lli Mei Carni farm won among the veterans of the 9th category thanks to her superior typicity, femininity, trunk length, and limb functionality, beating out Italia, a daughter of Daino and another standard-bearer of the same farm, who in turn beat Fava, the multiple

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award-winning Nettuno owned by Marco Mei.

The Senior final was honoured by many cows of great distinction and value, and by the weighty record of honours. The judge named Liberia and Italia, from the Az. F.lli Mei Carni farm, Senior Female Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the 2008 National, confirming in the final the values already expressed by these two splendid cows in their category. Also worthy of note, for Liberia, is the confirmation of the Grand Champion title won in 2005, which rightfully places her in the “Hall of Fame” of the Marchigiana breed. Special mention also goes to Quercia, the Erode owned by Valentino Vissani, another great protagonist of this final.



Raggio, senior champion bull – Owner Az. Mei di Mei Marco

After the finals, the trophy for the cow with the best productive career, named in memory of Lucio Migni, was awarded. Competing for the coveted award, through which Lucio is remembered on the occasion of our major show events, were the blue-ribbon winners of the 7th, 8th, and 9th categories, specifically: Quaterna owned by Marco Mei, Ombrella owned by Donatella Carnevali, and

Modella owned by Pierino Staffolani. The judge chose Donatella Carnevali's Ombrella, who won the award for the second year in a row.

This final, which closed the individual competitions, was followed by the competition reserved for breeding farm groups, each made up of 3 animals born on the shower's farm. This competition featured 9 representatives in the ring: Socionovo-Gioacchini, Vissani Valentino, Vissani Cristian, La Bigotta, F.lli Mei Carni, Az. Mei di Mei Marco, ITAS di Macerata, Baleani Adriano, and Priori Nazzarena. The winner was the group presented by the “La Bigotta” farm of the Nuti Brothers, Pesaro, striking for the typicity, muscle development, and superior homogeneity of its three heifers, who also won in their individual classes.

This recognition awards the efforts of this emerging farm which, even though it has only recently entered the show environment, was immediately appreciated for the quality of its animals and the showing skill. After “La Bigotta”, 2nd and 3rd place went to the groups of the F.lli Mei Carni and Vissani Valentino farms, both of Macerata. With the groups lined up in the ring, the ANABIC also presented a plaque to the Provincial Breeders' Association of

Macerata, as a sign of its appreciation for the organizational support provided for the holding of the event. ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini presented the award to Gianluca Ceresani, President of the Macerata Provincial Breeders' Association, expressing sincere thanks also to the Director, Dr. Dino Mosca, and their entire staff.

Also of great interest were the prizes for Best Breeder and Best Shower of the 2008 National, presented to Cristian

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Vissani and the Azienda F.lli Mei Carni farm, respectively, who need no presentation, both because of the brilliant



Socrate Valdolmo, reserve senior champion bull – Owner Az. Smargiassi p. e Le onori R.A.

results achieved in the show and because of their constant presence at Marchigiana events. At the end of this competition, Dr. Franco Cicarilli, a Red Dappled breeder and Italian Breeders' Association member, was asked to greet the breeders, whom he congratulated not only for the extraordinary quality of their cattle, but also for having created an important event, which deserves attention because it promotes a specific, qualified product that brings prestige to the territory of origin. In this sense, the activity of the Provincial Breeders' Associations locally and of the ANABIC at the national level are decisive, and worthy of the utmost attention. "Also for this reason," said Cicarilli, "I will work so the Italian Breeders' Association President, Dr. Nino Andena, takes part in the next edition of the RACI."

The next awards were for the best handler in the show and, confirming what was said earlier, it was Alessandro Nuti of the "La Bigotta" farm who won over Gianni Vissani and Bruno Zingaretti, two skilful handlers, and veterans of countless shows.

Next came the competition dedicated to young handlers, which featured the participation of 14 youngsters. A novelty of this edition consisted of the awarding of a prize for the "Breeder of the Future", reserved for the 1st place winner in a competition which, alongside the handling competition, also contemplates a written test on topics having to do with livestock raising. The test was won by Cristina Marchianni, an impassioned 19-year-old breeder from Macerata. The top five places in the young handlers competition went to Martina Salciccia, Federica Vissani, Manuele Mei, Luca Gallina, and Danilo Vissani, youngsters known in the sector since a very young age. The winner, 13-year-old Martina Salciccia, is, in fact, the daughter of Franco who, in addition to being a long-time impassioned breeder, is also the President of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Ancona. Together with the young handlers, the show's judge and assistant, Giannetto Guerrini and Romina Bastari, also received awards and expressions of heartfelt thanks. Romina's presence gave ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini, speaker on the closing morning, the chance to remind those present of her father, Giuseppe Bastari, a passionate breeder who was a frequenter of the shows, who died at a young age. During the award ceremony, Roberta Guarcini also thanked the breeders, not only for the high level of the animals presented in the show, but especially for their growing closeness to the ANABIC, an attitude which, in spite of the difficult period being suffered by the cattle-breeding sector, is starting to give results in terms of both the calves recommended for entrance to the Genetic Centre and the animals purchased for Performance Test

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purposes. The Marchigiana breeders were also asked to take part in the end-of-test auctions and urged to participate actively in the selection process, both by consulting the Association's website, and through a greater knowledge of the services that the ANABIC has set up, for the constant improvement of which suggestions are particularly welcome.

Lastly, the closing afternoon featured the traditional procession and awarding of the top-ranking animals, as well as of the other breeds and species present in the show. We would like to mention, in this context, the awarding of the grazing groups, coming from the provinces of Macerata and Ancona, which were ranked as follows: 1st place, the Az. Conforti Giuliano e Luciano farm of Macerata; 2nd place, the Az. Marini Paolo farm of Ancona; 3rd place, the Az. Smargiassi Piero farm of Ancona.

At the end of the procession of the show's champions, there was a non-competitive

presentation also of Otello, a vigorous son of Erode owned by the Az. Mei di Mei Marco farm, the outgoing Senior Champion of the 2007 National and still striking for his breed typicality, muscle development, dimensions, and limb strength.

The ANABIC, which organized the event together with the Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies, the Provincial Administration of Macerata, and the Provincial Breeders' Association of the Marche region, was also present at the RACI with its own promotional stand, like the Italian Beef Consortium, working to promote Marchigiana beef, protected by the IGP (Protected Geographic Indication) mark for "White Young Bulls of the Central Apennines". To conclude these comments of the 2008 Marchigiana National, we renew our compliments to the breeders, who are the ones who deserve the most credit for the event, with a warm "arrivederci" until the next edition.

Shows

Maremmmana, a wonderful confirmation!

by Matteo Ridolfi
Morphological Evaluations Office

The breed is back in great shape at the National Show of Allumiere

The National Show held the past 16-18 May in Allumiere, in the locality of Giovita, at the farm of the agricultural university of the same name, offered the opportunity to see all together, one year later, the “VIPs” of the Maremmmana breed, brought together in an event in which the breed gave its best, continuing the positive trend started right here 3 years ago. The event’s organizers, alongside the ANABIC, included the Ministry for Agricultural and Forestry Policies, the Region of Lazio, the Province of Rome, the Municipality of Allumiere, The Agricultural University of Allumiere, the Third Mountain Community of Lazio, the ARSIAL (Regional Agency for the Agricultural Development of Lazio), and the Provincial Breeders’ Associations of Roma, Latina, Viterbo, and Grosseto. Before proceeding with the examination of the technical content seen in the 2008 Maremmmana National, we would like to express our particular heartfelt thanks to Aldo Frezza, President of the Agricultural University of Allumiere and the “soul” of the event, together with his aides.

Special thanks also go to Stefano Cortesi, a cattle assessor of the Roman Breeders’ Association and a breed expert, who handled the logistic aspects of the show

on site, together with Marco Merlani, the highly respected a cattle assessor of the Viterbo Provincial Breeders’ Association. As mentioned above, the Maremmmana arrived at the important appointment in great shape, both in the number of animals shown and their extremely high qualitative level. The 128 animals were shown by 25 showers representing the entire breeding area and coming from the provinces of Rome, Viterbo, Grosseto, and Latina, including numerous first-timers. The animals shown were extremely fit and this enhanced the general correctness of their morphology,



Francesco Basville, the judge of the show and his assistant Romano Palazzo

common to all the classes of both sections of the show. Acting as judge in this edition was Mr. Francesco Basville,

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an expert of particular depth, aided by Romano Palazzo, a young technician who works at the ANABIC Genetic Centre. The female section, more numerous as always, proposed extremely fine animals in all classes, but the male section was no less valid. The finals for the proclamation of the Grand Champions of the show were thus marked by an extreme competitiveness of the participants, which we will present below.

JUNIOR MALES FINAL

This final featured the participation of the catalogue's no. 2 owned by the Agricultural University of Monteromano, ranking 1st in the 2nd category, as well as animals no. 5 and 7 ranking 1st, respectively, in the 3rd and 4th category, both belonging to the Musignano farm of



Magnus, senior champion bull – Owner Tenuta Nuovo Poggione

Viterbo. The winner was no. 7, followed by no. 5, thanks to the greater balance

between size, transverse diameters, and muscle development, even if the judge's

comment confirmed the strong similarities of the model in the two animals, both very promising.

SENIOR MALES FINAL

There were two Senior contenders, the winners in the 6th and 7th categories, respectively: Schione Castelporziano and the veteran Magnus, the outgoing Senior Reserve of Tarquinia 2007. Schione, the youngest finalist, showed desirable trunk length, broad transverse diameters, muscle development, and structural quality, but had to settle for the title of Reserve, beaten by the full maturity of Magnus of the Nuovo Poggione farm, who, in the 7th category – the most adult category for males – had relegated the muscular Pavone of the Muscignano farm to 2nd place.

JUNIOR FEMALES FINAL

This was a very tight final, both in number and quality of the competitors. In fact, the final result was not at all a foregone one, as can be seen in the description of the finalists:

- Traina dell'Alberese, 1st place in the 2nd category, presented by the Regional Farm of Alberese, is a daughter of Pastore and won in the category over Titti, owned by Angelo Tarquini, thanks to her greater distinction, superior muscle development and rump width, and more desirable hind leg perpendicularity.

- catalogue no. 53, a daughter of Pavone presented by the Musignano farm of Viterbo, was the winner of a 3rd category

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fought “all in the family”, since she won thanks to her greater typicity, femininity, and structural correctness, over the vigorous no. 50 presented by the same farm.

- The winner of the 4th category, Tanagra Castelporziano, is a daughter of Peschio presented by the Tenuta Presidenziale (President's Estate), who arrived at the show with a group of animals of particular interest. Her greater distinction, size, and trunk length enabled Tanagra to win over Tarantola dell'Alberese and thus gain access to the final.

- The 4th finalist arrives from the Angelo Tarquini farm in Bracciano: Sonia, a distinguished daughter of Osvaldo Castelporziano who won by a hair's breadth over Suntuosa, a daughter of the same father and coming from the same farm, who is thus reconfirmed as nicely competitive after her positive debut last year in Tarquinia.

- It was Ripalta and Stendiade, both coming from Castelporziano, who battled it out in the most adult class of those reserved for heifers, ranking in the order in which they were named in a category, the 6a/A, that was particularly numerous and uniform.

Her general correctness, style, muscle development, and optimum rump conformation enabled Ripalta to win over Stendiade, who is also very well balanced and destined for future success.

Winning the title of Junior Champion is no. 53 owned by the Musignano farm, followed by Traina dell'Alberese, thanks to her superior vigour, observable in her more powerful forequarters and greater development. In the Reserve, worthy of

note are her fineness and muscle development.

SENIOR FEMALES FINAL

Veterans also provided a heated competition, seen in the high number of yellow ribbons assigned by the judge in all classes. There were truly numerous stand-out cows for typicity, size, structural



The farm of Alberese receive the trophy for the reserve junior champion heifer

strength, muscle development, rump width and, last but not least, udder quality. The fight for the final thus offered a group of first-rate cows that deserve our sincerest compliments for the representativeness of their model, which we will comment in detail.

- Richenza Castelporziano, a vigorous daughter of 08/01 of Castelporziano, stood out for her typicity, rump conformation, and muscle development, traits that enabled her to win in category 6/B, followed by Renata di

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Castelporziano, a daughter of the same father and presented by Graziano di Girolamo from Latina.

- Pigea Castelporziano, a daughter of Fidio, stood out for her structural strength, muscle development, and wide diameters, both chest and rump, beating out, in the 7th category, Peleade Castelporziano, a daughter of Iacco of a very similar model, and presented by the same farm.

- Nota, the beautiful winner of the 8th category, is an optimum synthesis of typicality, vigorous, and femininity, with evident muscle development, wide rump, and impeccable limbs. This cow, owned by the Az. Zootecnica Sperimentale (Experimental Livestock Farm) of Tor Mancina, albeit slightly penalized in her tone because of her advanced stage of lactation, won in the category over the noteworthy 02/52 presented by the Agricultural University of Tarquinia, a striking animal for her muscle development and diameters, but less distinguished than the winner.

- Marta Castelporziano, a daughter of Etrusco, presented by the Ortagri farm, stood out among the cows of the 9th category for her vigour, size, muscle development, and rump diameters. Her worthy reserve was Gelsomina, a daughter of Dingo with a very powerful trunk, presented by the Nuovo Poggione farm of Grosseto.

The verdict of the final sanctioned the victory of Nota over Pigea Castelporziano, highlighting the particular distinction and structural integrity of these two splendid cows. Nota's success stressed the extraordinary size and distinction of this dam, but does not diminish the value of the other finalists,

among whom Pigea was certainly the most combative.

A particularly interesting note in this



The Farm "Tenuta di Castelporziano" awarded as the best exhibitor of the show and for its reserve

edition of the National Show arrived from the high number of cows with their calves at heel, an aspect that contributed to enhancing the striking maternal attitude of the Maremmana breed, seen in the correctness and volume of the udders. Therefore the productive aspects did not pass unnoticed, as seen by the assignment of the blue ribbon to the most productive dam of each of the categories 7, 8, and 9. The winners of access to the final for the "Lucio Migni" trophy, for the dam with the best career, were:

Perla, 4th place in the 7th category and presented by the Agricultural University of Tolfa;

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Ofelia Castelporziano, 3rd place in the 8th category and presented by the Tenuta Presidenziale (President's Estate); Italia, presented by the "Tenuta Polverosa di Bruschetti Novellis" farm of Grosseto and ranking 4th in the 9th category.

The judge's choice fell on Ofelia Castelporziano, a daughter of Fidio born in February 2002, whose first calving took place at the age of 38 months; she has had 4 calves and has an average intercalving period of just 366 days. The morphology of this cow is also excellent, with an Excellent qualification and 90-point score. The awarding of this animal enabled us to affectionately remember Lucio, a skilful technician of great humanity.

Ofelia also brought prestige to the participation of the Castel Porziano Estate which, thanks to the herd's productive performances and its group of animals of an exceptional morphological level, also won the trophies for the Best Breeder and Best Shower for the year 2008.

The National Show of Allumiere, included in the context of the event "Primavera in Maremma Laziale" (Springtime in the Lazio Maremma Region), also featured enjoyable side events, such as the exhibitions of flag-throwers, musical bands, and the organization of horse races, which gave the event a touch of colour. There was also a technical discussion on the topic "Fattening centres and marketing of Maremmana veal", held on Saturday afternoon in a tent structure next to the show area. The event, coordinated by Aldo Frezza acting as host, was opened by the greetings from Augusto Battilocchio, the Mayor of Allumiere, who congratulated the ANABIC and the Agricultural University for the event's success, which brought prestige to the municipal territory. Afterwards the



Cra – Pcm – Tor Mancina receive the trophy for the senior champion cow

encounter got down to business, tackling an aspect that is important for the profitability of Maremmana breeding farms, consisting of the upcoming creation of fattening centres that will gather together the calves produced in areas that are often disadvantaged, to standardize their finishing techniques and enhance the meat, whose quality and healthfulness are exalted by the extensive farming conditions. The feeding of the cattle for fattening was the subject of the interesting presentation by Mr. Di Marco, who explained the dietary tests being carried out by the ARSIAL (Regional Agency for the Agricultural Development of Lazio) to evaluate the use, in rations for finishing purposes, of certain legumes such as, for example, chickpeas (garbanzo beans). In fact, this crop does not need well-irrigated soils and, together with a high protein content, it also guarantees a sizable amount of starches, making it possible, if used together with hay, to reduce the use of

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grains, limiting the costs without compromising growth, carcass conformation, and the organoleptic characteristics of the meat. In the next presentation, ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini gave an overview of the selection carried out by the ANABIC for the Maremmana breed, stressing its potentials in terms of growth and confirming the central role of the Bull Selection Centre of Alberese in supplying bulls that are qualified not only in their test results but also from the standpoint of health. Among the novelties which emerged during the presentation, the compulsory drawing of biological specimens for animals born starting in 2008 and the establishment of an ANABIC DNA database are important steps toward the total trackability of the chain and greater consumer protection. Ms. Guarcini also spoke of a recent decision by the Central Technical Commission which, with regard to IBR and only with regard to the rustic breeds, ruled in favour of the possibility of the entrance into the genetic centre of negative-testing animals even if they are the offspring of bovines immunized with a gene-deleted vaccine. This is a decision that differs from the protocols required by the ANABIC up to recently for IBR, which envisaged the negativity for the mothers of the incoming calves as well. The decision derives from the need to provide for a base as broad as possible for the selection of bullocks in a breed reared in an extensive environment and in limited numbers. Another important aspect discussed by the ANABIC Director was the possibility for regional bodies to grant breeders an economic support for the purchase of sires, through the “*de minimis*” procedure envisaged by the PSR (Rural Development Plan) and using as an example the protocol implemented

in this sense by the Region of Tuscany. Concluding her presentation, the speaker invited the breeders to guarantee a good turnout at the Bull Selection Centre of Alberese for the end-of-test auction, to be held on 8 July.

Mr. Amedeo Fadda, of the Department of Agriculture of the Region of Lazio, expressed the greetings of Commissioner Daniela Valentini, who was unable to attend, and stressed the importance of the Maremmana breed as a resource for the defence and enhancement of the territory, confirming the closeness of his organization to the breeding system as a whole, the problems of Maremmana breeders and, last but not least, the Agricultural University of Allumiere, working in the field, together with other similar organizations, in various activities for the purpose of supporting the breed. During the next talk, Mr. Bartolucci, a technical official of the Region of Lazio, stressed how his organization is working on various initiatives, also working together with the ANABIC to press for the re-examination of Article 69 supporting breeding farms registered with the National Herdbook that implement the cow-calf line. In spite of the fact that the disbursement of EEC 2078 aid for endangered breeds is contributing to increasing the numbers, the Maremmana breed feels the effects of a specific fragmentation of the supply, which makes the insertion of its meat into the large-scale retail sector problematic. From the standpoint of the promotion and enhancement of the product, there remains much to be done, in spite of the fact that the Region of Lazio is cooperating with the breeders' structures with full willingness to receive and meet their requests, insofar as is possible. Lastly, among the various aspects to be considered is the publication of tenders

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for the Rural Development Plans, which could, in the short term, offer an interesting opportunity for breeders.

This statement inspired a comment by Stefano Cortesi, livestock inspector of the Roman Breeders' Association and breed expert, who pointed out that the efforts made up to today in the province of Rome have produced important results, as seen in the 122 Maremmana breeding farms registered with the Herdbook. After helping to spread the use in the population of sires in line with Law 30 on Animal Reproduction, Stefano stated the goal of improving the farm management on the registered farms, whose need for restructuring could find adequate support in the Rural Development Plans.

At the end of the presentations, the ANABIC Director took the floor again to express several considerations on the National Show in progress, confirming the growing trend of the number of animals shown in the last editions and considering the possibility of optimizing the resources for the show, considering, among other things, the possibility of changing its date and, as breeders hope, that of combining the shows with other events that may increase the visitor flow.

The award ceremonies, held on Sunday morning, wound up the event with the presentation of the ribbons, cups, and trophies to the breeders as decided by the judge's verdicts. Coordinated by Roberta Guarcini and enlivened by the vivacity of Aldo Frezza, the ceremony, immortalized by the standard photographs, featured the numerous individuals who had participated. Among them all, we would like to mention the greetings from the President of the

Roman Breeders' Association, Mr. Azelio Marsicola, who confirmed the commitment and closeness of the Provincial Breeders' Association to its breeders at a time, such as the present, of particular difficulty, and stressing how the enhancement of marginal areas and environmental protection are more decisive and spendable if they are connected with breeds of great tradition such as the Maremmana, which is a value from a historic and cultural standpoint as well. We would like to point out the awarding of the well-deserved recognition to the judge, Mr. Francesco Basville, and his assistant Mr. Romano Palazzo, who performed their duties perfectly. Then came the awards for all the breeders, the various Provincial Breeders' Associations involved, and the representatives of the hosting Agricultural University of Allumiere, in addition to the local agencies that worked on the holding of the event. A certificate of affection and esteem, consisting of a drawing of a Maremmana bull was also given by ANABIC to Aldo Frezza, one of the main "souls" of this very successful event, to whom we express special thanks, together with his collaborators.

The Maremmana thus leaves Allumiere with a stronger image thanks to both the numerous and meritorious animals shown, and the spirit of their breeders, who participated in large numbers, with determination and a desire to compete sportingly. The Tolfa hills were the magnificent natural backdrop to an event enriched by an enjoyable atmosphere, which we hope to experience again soon, setting the next appointment at the Bull Selection Centre of Alberese for the upcoming end-of-test auctions.

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