

International

TAURUS

**THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF
MARCHIGIANA, CHIANINA, ROMAGNOLA,
MAREMMANA AND PODOLICA CATTLE**



16th YEAR Number 2/2009



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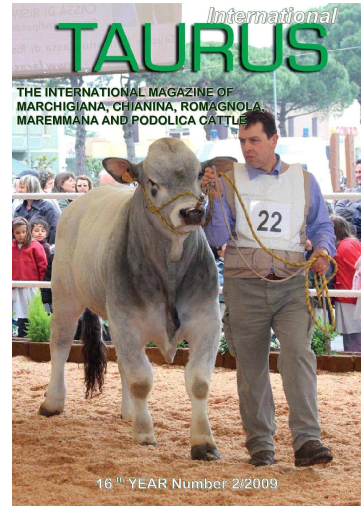
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5

Quercia & Quercia win all at the Raci!

13

The Chianina delights at the Madonnino!

23

An exciting, record-breaking Romagnola at San Pietro in Vincoli!

29

Marchigiana, Romagnola, and Podolica at the Agricultural Fair of Foggia

31

Splendid Chianina at the Umbrian Regional Fair



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*La nostra esperienza,
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Shows

Quercia & Quercia win all at the Raci!

by Matteo Ridolfi
Morphological Evaluations Office



From left: Quercia and Quercia, champion cow and her reserve senior champion cow of National Show

The Marchigiana honoured the National Show with prestigious animals, creating a great event.

The 25th edition of the National Marchigiana Herdbook Show, held this past 30th May through 2nd June at the cattle forum of Villa Potenza, Macerata, within the framework of the annual Agricultural Show of Central Italy (RACI), was an event marked by the participation of breeders coming from all the provinces of the Marches region, with 277 animals registered in the catalogue by 31 showers coming from the provinces of Macerata, Ancona, Ascoli-Piceno, and Pesaro. The Show, organized by the ANABIC, together with the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, the Provincial Administration of Macerata, the Provincial

Breeders' Association of Macerata, and the other Provincial Breeders' Associations of the Marches, was marred by persistent bad weather, which greatly limited the visitor flow in spite of the extremely high level of the show. There were, in fact, 233 animals participating in the individual competitions, while the remaining 44 were the representatives of five groups reared on grazing farms. The qualitative level of the competing cattle was very high and totally in line with that shown in the Villa Potenza ring over recent years. A delightful international note characterizing this 2009 edition came from the presence of a delegation of breeders coming from Holland, which has by now become the Marchigiana's second homeland in Europe. This edition of the show, also, was pleasantly opened with the judging competition among

Shows

students of the agricultural schools (ITAS), which featured 2 teams of students from the ITAS G. Garibaldi of Macerata. The competition, coordinated in the ring by Matteo Ridolfi, involved the handling of four 6th/B and 7th category cows, and the final results rewarded the team headed by Mario Crescimbeni, which beat that headed by Dario Bonifazi, which placed 2nd. The students of the ITAS of Macerata are a welcome and customary presence at national shows, also thanks to the support of Stefano Agnani, responsible for the school's stalls, an untiring promoter of the passion for the Marchigiana among the new generations. The role of judge was



Urbano, junior champion – owner Vissani Valentino (MC)

performed, with his usual mastery, by Antonio Vagniluca, head of the ANABIC Genetic Centres, well assisted in the ring by Romina Bastari. The judge set a good pace for his work, authoritatively justifying his decisions and sending into the four finals, commented below, animals that were extremely representative as far as their functional beauty and topicality of their model were concerned.

Junior Male Final

- Uranio, son of Soffio, presented by Valentino Vissani, won in the 1st category by virtue of his superior muscle development, strength of his transverse diameters, and correctness of his limbs. Runner-up was Urlo, a son of Damasco from the Ercoli farm, who in turn beat Unico, son of Otello from the Marco Mei farm.

- Usignolo, son of Opapo from the Marco Mei farm, was most impressive in his muscle development and limb correctness and won in the 2nd category over Uber, a son of Pergolo presented by Valentino Vissani.

- Ufo, son of Opapo from the Marco Mei farm, striking for his muscle development, trunk length, and wide transverse diameters of his rump, beat in the 3rd category Urlato, also a son of Opapo and



Usignolo, reserve junior champion bull - owner Mei Marco (MC)

coming from the same farm.

- Urbino, another son of Opapo presented by the Marco Mei farm and the most adult contender of the Junior final, won with his superior muscle development and trunk length, beating Talco, a son of Otello from the same farm.

The judge's final decision assigned the Grand Champion title to Valentino Vissani's Uranio, over Marco Mei's

Shows

Usignolo, his reserve, for the more accentuated longitudinal and transverse diameters of his trunk and superior muscle development. The reserve is noteworthy for the particular functionality of his locomotor system.



Raggio, senior champion bull owner Mei Marco (MC)

Senior Male Final

The Senior Male final also featured the competition of 3 decidedly interesting bulls:

- Teatro, son of Erode, presented by Marco Mei, won in the 5th category thanks to his superior muscle development, striking trunk length, and greater rump width, over Tamburo, a muscular son of Quadro owned by Pierino Staffolani, thus gaining passage to the final.
- Silicio, a son of Pergolo owned by Marco Mei, won in the 6th category for his greater distinction and more modern model, over Teo, a son of Pedro di Giunture from the same farm.
- Raggio, the well-known son of Otello from the Marco Mei farm, the outgoing champion of the 2008 National, dominated the most adult category, relegating to 2nd place, thanks to his superior dimensions, the muscular Rick,

another famous son of Otello from the same farm, who in turn had beat the well-known Ralf, son of Lupo, also owned by Marco Mei.

Raggio's vigour won him the Grand Champion title, repeating the previous year's result. His exceptional size, trunk length, and muscle uniformity relegated to reserve status the noteworthy Rick, bringing the verdict for the final to repeat that for the 7th category.

The females also kept competition high in all their classes, without distinction between Junior and Senior. The judge's work, which was truly demanding, concentrated the best animals into two closely contended finals which deserve extensive comment.



Rick, senior reserve champion bull - owner Mei Marco (MC)

Junior Female Final

Competing in the heifer final was a lot of females who were considerably uniform in their breed typicity, muscle development, and structural solidity:

Uela, daughter of Mugello presented by Valentino Vissani, won among the heifers of the 1st category thanks to her superior distinction, muscle development, and strength of her limbs, over the also noteworthy Ulla, a long, distinguished Pergolo coming from the same farm.

Shows

Umbria, a Quebec also owned by Valentino Vissani, dominated the 2nd category for her superior muscle development and considerable transverse diameters of her trunk, beating out Urbana, a Cirio owned by Pietro Paoltroni, who stood out for her style and correctness.



Tundra, junior champion heifer owner Mercatili Livio (AP)

Uriel, a distinguished daughter of Piombo owned by the Nuti brothers, was the winner in the 3rd category, thanks to her superior muscle development and width of her transverse diameters, beating the also-noteworthy Urta, her paternal sister and, like her, coming from the “Bigotta” farm.

Taissa, an elegant Mirino owned by Valentino Vissani, won in the 4th category for her more evident muscles, dimensions, and better structure of her rear limbs, beating Tofara, a Lupo presented by Ubaldo Massi, a promising breeder from Ascoli making his debut in the National ring.

Tundra, an impressive daughter of Picasso and the well-known Liberia, presented by Livio Mercatili from Ascoli, won in the 5th category for her greater trunk length and rump width over Tassa, a daughter of Ombroso presented by

Valentino Vissani, the owner of a farm that was particularly competitive in this edition of the National Show.

Traccia, the Ponzio owned by Cristian Vissani, thanks to her striking femininity, build, and trunk length, won in her category over Marco Mei's Tenda, a Pedro who stood out for her muscle development and the width of her transverse diameters.

The judge's decision gave the victory to Turdra, Livio Mercatili's standard-bearer and the Junior Reserve of the past edition, over Cristian Vissani's Traccia, for her superior trunk length and limb correctness. The runner-up is worthy of mention for her particular femininity and size.



Traccia, reserve junior champion heifer owner Vissani Cristian (MC)

Senior Female Final

The final of the cows was at the same level as that of the heifers, showing, in all the contenders, typicity, muscle development, trunk length, and rump width. Also worth mentioning, with regard to the lactating cows present at the show, were the particularly correct udders.

Shows

- Star, a first-calver and daughter of Erode, presented by Marco Mei, dominated among the young cows of the 6th/B category for her superior muscle development, size, and trunk length, beating Siepe, a Palio owned by



Quercia, senior champion cow - owner Vissani Valentino (MC)

Valentino Vissani.

- Quercia, Valentino Vissani's well-known Mugello, won in the spectacular 7th category thanks to her superior dimensions, muscle development, and transverse diameters, beating Sicilia, the Erode presented by Cristian Vissani, Junior Champion of the 2008 edition, whose strengths included her style, trunk length, and refined handsomeness. Quercia also won the blue ribbon for the cow with the best career among those present in the category.

- Quercia, a daughter of Erode also owned by Valentino Vissani, fully emulated her namesake in her superior distinction, size, muscle development, and extraordinary condition in the 8th category, where she beat Panna, a muscular Cirio from the Ercoli farm who, thanks to the superior correctness of her rear limbs, relegated Pesca del Conero, Franco Salciccia's Lupo, to 3rd place.

The blue ribbon for the best productive career went, instead, to Ombrella, the Erode owned by Donatella Carnevali, who placed 5th.

- Nerina, the Isidoro from the Baleani farm, another veteran of the ring, won in the 9th category for her greater muscle development, femininity, rump width, and limb functionality, over Milagros, another daughter of Erode, the well-known standard-bearer of Valentino Vissani, who won the blue ribbon in the more adult category.

- Among the cows with calves at heel was Persia, an Isidoro owned by Nazzarena Priori, who won over Quartina, a Birbo from the Socionovo-Gioacchini farm, in a category characterized by cows with striking functional characteristics, in particular for the volume and conformation of their



Quercia, reserve senior champion cow and winner of "LUCIO MIGNI" trophy - owner Vissani Valentino (MC)

udders, full of milk, judging by the tone of their calves.

The Senior final was honoured, as can be seen, by many "high-profile" cows with impressive prize collections. The judge named "Quercia & Quercia", both presented by Valentino Vissani, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the National Show, confirming in the final the values shown in

Shows

their respective categories by these two splendid cows. Only the greater maturity and cleanness of the hocks of the daughter of Erode allowed her to win over the Mugello who, in addition to the Reserve Grand Champion title, also won the trophy for the cow with the best career dedicated to the memory of Lucio Migni.



“La Bigotta” farm awarded for the best Breeding Group

This final was followed by the competition among the Breeding Groups, each made up of 3 animals born on the shower’s farm. The competition featured 7 groups in the ring: Socionovo-Gioacchini, Valentino Vissani, Cristian Vissani, the Nuti brothers’ “La Bigotta”, Marco Mei’s Mei farm, the ITAS of Macerata, and Eugenio Pirani. The winner was the Nuti brothers’ “Bigotta” group, for the typicity, limb correctness, and superior uniformity of the three heifers making it up. Right behind the “Bigotta” group came Cristian Vissani’s group, while 3rd place went to the Socionovo-Gioacchini farm. With the groups all lined up in the ring, the prizes for Best Breeder and Best Shower of the 2009 National were awarded, to Piero Smargiassi and Marco Mei’s Mei farm, respectively; the latter won out after a long, close, head-to-head competition

with Valentino Vissani. Honouring the awards ceremony with his presence during the finals was Nino Andena, President of the Italian Breeders’ Association (AIA) who, during his greeting address, congratulated the breeders for the extraordinary quality of their cattle which, in addition to representing one of the points of excellence of Italian animal husbandry, deserves, in the AIA’s opinion, a promotional effort so it can receive greater exposure abroad, together with the other beef breeds. The next award, for the Best Handler in Show, went to Alessandro Nuti from the “La Bigotta” farm, over Luca Gallina and Cristian Vissani. For the competition for young handlers, which featured the performance of 5 of them, the victory went to Martina Salciccia, a 14-year-old from Ancona who is following in her family’s footsteps, and who beat 11-year-old Alessio Staffolani and 18-year-old Federica Vissani, both from Macerata. Martina, who has been an impassioned “regular” of the shows since she was a little girl, also received the plaque for the “Breeder of the Future”. Accompanying



Martina Salciccia and Alessandro Nuti, best show handlers junior and senior

the young handlers, other awards and heartfelt thanks were given to the Show’s judge and assistant, Antonio Vagniluca

Shows

and Romina Bastari, who did honour to this fine edition of the National Show. We would also like to mention, in this context, the awarding of the grazing groups,



Martina Salciccia awarded like "Breeder for the future"

coming from the provinces of Macerata and Ancona, which ranked as follows:

1st: Paolo Marini farm, Ancona;
2nd: Giuliano & Luciano Conforti farm, Macerata;

3rd: Gino Conforti farm, Macerata;
During the awards ceremony, ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini urged the Marchigiana breeders to be present at the Genetic Centre for the auction to be held on 23rd June, a special event for the three specialized breeds, and coinciding

with the opening of the new Genetic Centre. The ANABIC Director also expressed warm greetings to the breeders from Benevento, who had arrived en masse, bearing witness to their growing closeness to the ANABIC, an attitude that is starting to produce results in terms of bullock calves indicated for entry and animals purchased at the end of testing. In fact, a show will be held on 5th and 6th September at S. Giorgio la Molara in the province of Benevento; around 200 animals are expected and, in importance, the show is second only to the National Show. On the last morning, the auction of young females was also held, featuring 9 heifers, all potential bull mothers, presented by the "La Bigotta" (Nutri), Staffolani, Marco Mei, Valentino Vissani, Nazzarena Priori, Adriano Baleani, and Piero Smargiassi farms. The top price was reached by Uriel, the Piombo owned by the Nutri brothers, who had placed 1st in the 3rd category, who was purchased for 3,000 euro by the Ercoli farm. Alongside the Marchigiana breed, the undisputed star of the RACI, there were also representatives of the Holstein and Red Dappled breeds, as well as a sheep and pig show, whose breeders were awarded during the

traditional closing procession of the winners.

Also during the show, the Marches Region organized a conference on



The Farm "Mei di Mei Marco" awarded as the best exhibitor of the show

Shows

“The Marchigiana: Potential, State of the Art, and Development”, held at the RACI on the evening of 1st June and featuring the following speakers:

- Cristina Martellini, a lawyer and Director



The judge and his assistant awarded by Dr. Andena, president of AIA

of the Agriculture Office, who described the Region’s initiatives for animal husbandry;

- Prof. Angelo Frascarelli, of the University of Perugia, who spoke on the economic appraisal of the meat agrolivestock enterprise;

- Prof. Mariano Pauselli, of the University of Perugia, who presented the assessment of the efficiency of the breeding farm;

- Prof. Federica Maria Trombetta, of the Politecnica University of the Marche, who spoke about the rationing and quality of feed for dams;

- Giovanni Filippini, of the IZS (Institute of Experimental Zooprohylaxis) of Umbria and the Marche, who described the health-related aspects of Marchigiana breeding farms;

- The ANABIC’s Francesco Filippini spoke on the situation and development of the productivity of the Marchigiana breed;

- Andrea Petrini, of the Consortium for the Protection of the Central Apennine White

Bullock, who introduced the subject of the



A moment of the meeting

certification and enhancement of Marchigiana beef;

- Paolo Laudisio, of Bovinmarche, who described the aspects regarding the marketing of Marchigiana beef, between tradition and the future.

The talks were followed by a discussion with the breeders, moderated by Roberto Gatto, Head of the Animal Husbandry Service of the Marche Region.



Awards of breeders delegation coming from Holland

Shows

An exciting, record-breaking Romagnola at San Pietro in Vincoli!

by Matteo Ridolfi
Morphological Evaluations Office

The historic hamlet near Ravenna was the site this past 29th April through 1st May for a memorable National Romagnola Breed Show, reviving the splendours of the past and looking enthusiastically toward the future.

As mentioned in the magazine's last issue, San Pietro in Vincoli is a hamlet in the vicinity of Ravenna which is part of the history of the Romagnola breed, being, up to the 1960s, a point of reference for the supply of seedstock. Known since the early years of the last century, San Pietro in Vincoli took on a leading role starting in the 1930s, with the

setting up of the Herdbook. An integral part of the Ville Unite territory, characterized by estates of important landholding dynasties, San Pietro in Vincoli had become, together with the Estate of the Torlonia Princes of San Mauro Pascoli, one of the breed's strongholds. All the most important bull stud farms and the greatest sires, starting with Medoro, were in its district or neighbouring hamlets, and the Mercato Concorso dei Bovini Romagnoli (Market/Competition of Romagnola Cattle), which was held here each year in the Piazza del Foro Boario during the month of September, and sometimes in



From the left, Quarzo della Radice and Serpico, Senior champion bull and his reserve

Shows



Ulisse della Mezza Cà, Junior champion bull; Owner. Daga F.Ili – (FC)

November, featured hundreds and hundreds of animals.

The Mercato Concorso was visited by operators arriving from all over the breeding area, and also from outside the region, and there is no animal husbandry treatise that, in reference to the Romagnola breed, does not mention San Pietro in Vincoli, whose processions of herd sires along the central Via Farini were an event followed by the entire community. The last Mercato Concorso was held on 8 September 1961. Bringing the Romagnola back to this place, after 48 years from the last exhibition event, meant both reviving the collective memory and proposing the breed with its current value and significance, based on the enhancement of excellent production elements with strong territorial ties. The event was made possible thanks to the contribution of the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, the Region of Emilia-Romagna, the City of Ravenna, the Province, the Chamber of Commerce of Ravenna, and the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio of Ravenna, but a decisive factor was the enthusiasm of the numerous actors who worked locally, from the District of San Pietro in Vincoli, to the Citizens' Committee, the Pro Loco

(organization for promotion of the territory), the ASL (Local Health Office) of San Pietro in Vincoli, with a real driving force in Dr. Alfredo Marchetti, and the many volunteers who worked on setting up the structures. Special thanks must go, first of all, to the hosting Provincial Breeders' Association, whose director, Gian Marco Casadei, firmly believed in the project and worked toward its realization, constantly following the organizational developments. The functional arrangement of the shelters, the ring, and the exhibition areas, in addition to the collaboration of the personnel of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Ravenna, Forlì and Bologna – involved with us in setting up the show – enabled the event to take place in a well-organized and orderly fashion. In addition, the participation of the breeders was choral, demonstrating their great desire to return to the ring after the "empty" year caused by the cancellation of the 2008 National Show of Reggio Emilia, for health/sanitary reasons.



La Viola Ubaldo, Reserve, junior champion bull; Owner. La Viola; (RA)

Shows



At the left Tosca delle Querce, the junior champion heifer. At the right Unica della Mezza Ca', the reserve junior champion heifer of the show.

The 151 animals in the catalogue (including 3 calves at their mother's heels) say much in this regard, and were the basis of the highest participation of animals in a show in many years, with 119 animals presented by 27 breeders coming from the provinces of Ravenna, Forlì, and Bologna. The accurate logistics guaranteed a comfortable stay for the cattle and was completed by a spacious ring decorated with flowers. The judge for this much-awaited event was the writer, expertly aided by Giuseppe Bussi. The competitiveness of the cattle in the categories of both sections was extraordinarily high throughout the entire show, making the judging activity very stimulating and demanding, and promoting to the finals animals of great quality and worthy of detailed comments.

Junior Male Final

The four classes of the young males, even if numerically small, offered fine, competitive individual animals, bringing dignity to the final.

Ustinov, a son of Neff presented by the Mezza Cà farm, won in the 1st category by virtue of his greater breed typicality and

structural solidity, over Ubaldo Babini, a son of Martino presented by the Rivalona farm, worthy of mention for his larger dimensions.

La Viola Ubaldo, a son of Liuto presented by Gian Michele Graziani, was the winner among the competitors in the 2nd category, by virtue of his larger size, forequarter strength, and limb correctness, beating La Fattoria Ufo presented by Ottone Toschi.

Ulisse della Mezza Cà, a distinguished and muscular son of Calore presented by the Daga farm, won with his greater typicality, frame quality, and muscle uniformity over Fardini Uans, a son of Manso who stood out for his dimensions, but whose hocks were not as clean.

Fardini Taccone, presented by Marinello Mascheri, won the 4th category over La Viola Toso, a son of Palmiro presented by Gian Michele Graziani, thanks to his greater elegance and superior development, and for his more open rump at both the hips and the pin bones.

The competition of the calves' final came down to Daga's Ulisse and La Viola Ubaldo, Champion and Junior Reserve, respectively, of the National Show. The greater distinction, muscle development,

Shows

and width of his transverse diameters, in addition to the greater depth of his rib cage, enabled Ulisse to beat Ubaldo, worthy of note for his superior size.

Senior Male Final

This final showed values that it would not be an exaggeration to call “stratospheric”, and which had not been seen at Romagnola shows for years.

Titano, a muscular son of Petrarca presented by the Società Agricola Cenni, had no rivals worthy of concern in the 5th category, and easily placed 1st ahead of Ville Unite Tritone, a son of Ivanhoe presented by Piero Tassinari who, while being extremely distinguished and correct, was lower in tone and of smaller trunk dimensions.

Sarastro delle Querce, a son of Bandolero presented by Renzo Scozzoli, won among the young bulls of the 6th category for the superior proportions of his trunk, striking for its longitudinal and transverse diameters, and for his more accentuated muscle development, beating Sincero, a son of Ovest della Radice presented by the Polgrossi farm, who stood out for his refined handsomeness.

The 7th category, for bulls over 36 months of age, was one of the most shining gems of this National Show, with 9 animals of extremely high level competing for the most highly coveted positions. The competition was close for the first 4 positions, featuring the following animals: Quarzo della Radice owned by Nello and Olivano Mascheri, Serpico from the Fiumicello Poggioli farm, La Viola Ramiro owned by Gianfranco Carapia, and Ralf from the Ceroni farm. Worthy of note, for the first three, are the Junior Grand Champion titles won in previous editions of the national show. Beating the others by a whisker was Mascheri’s Quarzo della Radice, ahead of Serpico, like him a son of V.U. Navaho, owned by Giuseppe Perini; he won for his longer trunk, more accentuated muscle development, and firmer belly. The runner-up is noteworthy for his extraordinary typicity and a still youthful appearance, considering the fact that he had been competing in the adult category for only a few days. The judge’s decision in the final confirmed that of the 7th category, stressing the absolute value and wonderful condition of these two splendid bulls.



Fardini Quieta, champion senior cow and winner of “LUCIO MIGNI” trophy – Owner Mascheri Marinello (FC)

Junior Female Final

The heifers’ final summed up the best of the most youthful female categories, which had the most participants and were among the most competitive. The National Show of San Pietro in Vincoli did not disappoint the expectations, with 6 animals of particular value competing for the top titles.

The 9 heifers of the 1st category brought to the fore Ursula, a Rasmus presented by Franco Batani, ahead of Umbria and Umma, respectively, who shared the “della Radice” tag, being

Shows

owned by Renato Stoppa; their correctness was not sufficient to beat the superior muscle development and exceptional structural strength of the winner.



Sulmona, reserve champion senior cow – Owner Mariani S.S. (FC)

Just as numerous were the competitors in the great 2nd category, within which it was Unica della Mezza Cà, an elegant, muscular, and correct daughter of Boy, who won for her superior development ahead of Ursula Babini from the Rivalona farm, who had barely beat out Unca del Prato, owned by Piero Tassinari, one of the first daughters of V.U. Sethi to step into a show ring.

La Fattoria Utopia, a distinguished Abero owned by Emilio Donati, won for her superior femininity and trunk length, relegating Uganda della Radice, a daughter of Manso presented by Renato Stoppa, to 2nd place.

La Viola Tina, a vigorous, correct, and muscular Liuto owned by Gian Michele Graziani, managed to win in a hard-fought 4th category, ahead of Fardini Tettona, a daughter of Obrus owned by Marinello Mascheri, thanks to the greater strength of her forequarters, firmer back, and better rump structure. Tosca delle Querce, a stunning daughter of VU Navaho presented by Marinello

Mascheri, easily beat her rivals, becoming the clear winner in her category for her rare combination of femininity, muscle development, size, and structural strength. The fully deserving runner-up was La Viola Teddy, an extremely correct but less muscular and powerful daughter of Mambo.

For the most adult heifer category, the winner was La Viola Sonia, a Nembokid owned by Graziani, followed by Fardini Spagnola, Marinello Mascheri's Olmo, for her greater dimensions and more evident typicality. The state of advanced pregnancy shared by these two animals brought them to place higher than V.U. Tootsie, a New York owned by Daga, of great quality but younger in appearance.

The final of the heifers was a parade of stars. The judge's decision rewarded Tosca delle Querce followed by Unica della Mezza Cà, of a very similar model, for her singular vigour and the greater



Awards of La Viola Farm like best breeder, best shower and best breeding group of the 2009 National

complexity of her contours. The reserve was noteworthy for her particular femininity.

Senior Female Final

The cows of the senior final were veterans of the ring who had arrived at this appointment in impeccable condition, which raised the competition level.

Shows

Fardini Quieta, Mascheri's Naif, was in such a state of grace that she was sure to win 1st place from the moment she entered the ring with her femininity, power, body capacity, evident muscle development, and optimum state of pregnancy. Quieta also won the blue ribbon for the most productive cow. Her



Three generations of breeders. From left: Marinello, Mario and Marino Mascheri

reserve was Sulmona, Mariani's New York, the outgoing Junior Reserve of the previous National Show and a daughter of the multi-award-winner Dionira. Her superior femininity and better distribution of her trunk volume permitted the runner-up to beat the also noteworthy La Viola Rina in the 7th category, one of the finest of this show.

Ville Unite Pavona, Daga's Navaho, won in the 8th category for her greater distinction and more correct forequarters, ahead of Donati's muscular Nivea, who won the blue ribbon for the best productive career in this class.

La Viola Ilaria, Graziani's well-known Pupo, won for her more cylindrical trunk and superior muscle development ahead of Marina, Mariani's Ebro, correct and superior in size but slightly lower in tone because of her advanced lactation. The blue ribbon for the best career in the

category went, instead, to Montagnola ET, the veteran Boy of the ring presented by Marinello Mascheri.

The senior final repeated the verdict of the awesome 7th category in its top titles, with Fardini Quieta winning over Sulmona. The extremely modern type of these two cows sums up the extremely high content seen in this edition of the National Show.

Quieta was also awarded the trophy for the best career, named after Lucio Migni, who was remembered with particular affection in the ring by ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini, during the closing parade.

The experimental category for cows with their calves at heel, which is usually very popular with the youngsters in the public, was won by Giuseppe Mariani's Marina, accompanied in the ring by her calf, a promising 2-month-old daughter of Rasmus. Her reserve was Gianna, owned by the Mancini brothers. As for the traditional competitions for handlers, the Junior section was won by Marino Mascheri ahead of Michele Daga, while the ranking for the Senior handlers showed Gian Michele Graziani winning over Stefano Donati and Miriam Gaga, in that order. The competition for the breeding farm groups featured groups from 9 farms: Donati, Rivalona, La Viola, Mariani, Mascheri, Stoppa, Mezzacà, Zampiga, and Ravaioli, who stood in a circle around the centre of the ring. The group that won, thanks to its superior uniformity, was that from Gian Michele Graziani's La Viola farm; Graziani also won the coveted prizes for Best Breeder and Best Shower of the 2009 National. Together with the groups all lined up, the authorities present rewarded those who contributed the most to the brilliant success of the event. A special plaque was awarded to Carlo Ravaioli, a breeder

Shows

from Ravenna present with his cattle at San Pietro in Vincoli in the last, 1961, edition and a shower in the 2009 National, who also appeared at the end of the event with a farm cart drawn by two cows. Alongside the show's judge Matteo Ridolfi and assistant Giuseppe Bussi, other award winners included Armando Alvisi, Director of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Bologna, Fabrizio Benedetti, President of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Forlì-Cesena, and Giuseppe Liverani, President of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Ravenna, who stressed with heartfelt emphasis the need to safeguard the quality productions of our animal husbandry sector, for both their validity in defending the territory and the guarantee of healthfulness for consumers. He was followed by Gian Marco Casadei, Director of the hosting Provincial Breeders' Association of Ravenna who, in addition to thanking the breeders and the ANABIC, described this as a record-setting National Show, capable of adding a valuable page to the history of the Romagna at San Pietro in Vincoli. For the success of the show, much of the merit goes to the District of San Pietro in Vincoli, its President Davide Coralli, Maura Ortelli, the valuable and indisputable "soul" of the event, and Dr. Alfredo Marchetti, a veterinarian of the ASL (Local Health Office) and tireless person of reference for everyone on the fair grounds. Thanks also went to Angelo Cani, President of the Citizens' Committee who, together with the Pro Loco association, numerous volunteers, and the sponsors – first and foremost the Fondazione della Cassa di Risparmio di Ravenna – helped make the dream come true. The traditional red sashes, embroidered with the show's name, which Alfredo Marchetti had made and which

were placed over the backs of the Grand Champions at the end of the event, provided an image symbolizing an event worth framing.

Shows

THE JUDGE'S IMPRESSIONS

The beauty of the cattle that appeared at San Pietro in Vinci was before everyone's eyes, and the fact of judging "at home" gave me an additional emotion, which strengthened my determination to proudly carry out a commitment which I felt was important from both the technical and the affection standpoints. For the first time I had the opportunity to judge in front of my father and my family, something that gives the event a special meaning. The collective stress to do our best to turn the dream of a few into a success for all was palpable, both inside and outside of the ring, which featured numerous amazing animals, for which heartfelt thanks are due to the breeders. I liked the champions I chose very much, and the finals gave an indication of the breed's productive potential, in harmony with the selective guidelines hoped for. I decided to dedicate my judging to the memory of Corrado Giuliani, a master to whom I owe much of my knowledge and passion for the breed. The sight of the Romagnola making an appearance at San Pietro in Vinci after almost half a century was very exciting for the aficionados and a reason for pride for those who had worked to make it possible. It was a success from all standpoints, and the last animals who left the show to return home were greeted with applause, while some of those present had tears in their eyes from the emotion. It is my hope that the Romagnola may return soon to San Pietro in Vinci, to write other equally beautiful pages to add to its history.



Awards of judge and his assistant

Side Events

Alongside the cattle competition, there were also several other side events of particular interest at San Pietro in Vinci, such as the fun drawing contest for elementary schoolchildren held the second morning of the show. Totally oblivious to the fickle weather and visibly

attracted by the cattle, which many of them were not familiar with, they showed their artistic talents, even guessing at the final results and rankings and watching the awards ceremonies of some of the categories, according to the indications of ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini.

Another well-prepared extra was a brochure on the show, full of period photos and containing some notes written by Davide Coralli, the District's President, Dr. Alfredo Marchetti, veterinarian of the ASL (Local Health Office), show judge Matteo Ridolfi, and Gian Marco Casadei, Director of the Provincial Breeders' Association of Ravenna. Also worthy of note were the postcards with period photos and the postmark prepared for the occasion, showing a Romagnola cow, and officially filed with the National Post Office Museum. Another interesting

Shows

initiative was the photography show set up in the District's conference hall, which included a display of period catalogues and numerous period photos of the competition market, as well as equipment and sashes provided by the owners of local public stud farms. The same hall



A moment of the meeting

was the venue, on the first evening of the show, of the meeting of the members of the Breeders' Association of Ravenna, while the following evening, 30th April, an interesting technical meeting was organized and held by the ANABIC for the breeders.



Awards of Dr. Davide Barchi, Head of the Services for Animal Production of the Region of Emilia Romagna

The Technical Meeting

After the greetings by the various authorities, ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini described the Association's activity, also highlighting the work done by the ANABIC for the reinclusion of the Romagnola breed among the breeds entitled to the bonuses envisaged by EC Reg. 1974/06, and the awareness-raising campaign carried out on the subject of Art. 68 and on the importance of restoring the regional grants for purchasing sires. The recent changes to the Herdbook regulations and the services the ANABIC



One of speakers of meeting: Prof. Arcangelo Gentile

intends to make available to breeders were the subjects of the presentation by Andrea Quaglia, from the ANABIC Herdbook Office, while Antonio Vagniluca, Head of the ANABIC Genetic Centres, described in detail the operational aspects of the restructuring of the Genetic Centre of San Martino in Colle, stressing the importance of the centre for the drawing and storing of the seminal material. Discussion of this concept was continued by Matteo Ridolfi, who explained the criteria that must regulate the use of the bulls tested young in populations of limited size. The next presentation, on the genetic defects in Italian beef breeds, was given by Prof.

Shows

Arcangelo Gentile, who teaches at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Bologna. After describing the various pathologies and the successes achieved up to now thanks to the studies conducted on the genome with regard to congenital pseudomyotonia, congenital ichthyosis, and the red colour gene, Prof. Gentile talked about spastic paresis and “Paunch Calf” syndrome, for which the genes causing them have not yet been identified, and which require the utmost collaboration of the breeders if they are to be conquered. The following report, presented by Dr. Matteo Frasnelli, from the Istituto Zooprofilattico (Institute of Animal Prophylaxis) of Lombardy and Emilia – Lugo branch, concerned the neonatal pathologies found most frequently on beef breeding farms in Romagna, dwelling on their etiology and prophylaxis. The meeting was concluded by Davide Barchi, Head of the Services for Animal Production of the Region of Emilia Romagna, who ensured the participants that in spite of current difficulties, the regional organization will continue to work to guarantee the necessary aid to breeders. In her closing comments, Roberta Guarcini took the floor once again for the usual acknowledgements, presenting awards to several persons who have made major contributions to the selection of the Romagnola breed. A plaque was



Awards of Dr. Giorgio Guberti

presented to Giorgio Guberti, head of the AI Bulls Centre of Campiano di Ravenna, which hosted many of the most important sires of the breed for decades, and which is involved in the current recovery plans for the genetic lines that are at risk. Another plaque was given to Annibale Raccagni, the former owner of a bull stud farm in the municipality of Gambellara, also rewarded as representative of the numerous stud farms that were in operation up until fairly recently. Lastly, at the end of the meeting, Mr. Barchi received a plaque for the constant support to the Romagnola breed received



from the Region of Emilia Romagna. A tasting of Romagnola IGP beef offered by the Consortium for the Protection of the Central Apennine White Bullock made for a pleasant wind-up of the interesting meeting.

Shows

The Chianina delights at the Madonnino!

by Chiara Berti
Research and Development Office

The 24th edition of the National Show of the Chianina breed, held this past 24th through 26th April at Braccagni, near Grosseto, at the same time as the annual edition of the “Fiera del Madonnino”, featured the participation of 122 animals representing 26 breeding farms

by its President Gaetano Dalia and his staff, for the support given to the ANABIC and the participating breeders throughout the entire event, for which other organizers included the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, the Region of Tuscany, the Chamber of



coming from the entire cradle of the breeds, which honoured the event with their showing of animals of extremely high level. Before going into the technical discussion of the show’s proposals, we must express our special thanks to the Provincial Breeders’ Association of Grosseto, the show’s host, represented

Commerce of Grosseto, Grosseto Fiere, and the Agricultural Consortium of Grosseto, which we would like to thank, together with all the Provincial Chianina Breeders’ Associations present at the show with their breeders. The Chianina returned to the Madonnino after the 2007 edition, which marked the breed’s debut

Shows

in an agricultural show of consolidated tradition, visited each year by over 35,000 persons. The arrangement of the fair grounds was perfectly functional for

showing the animals, which arrived from the provinces of Grosseto, Livorno, Arezzo, Siena, Florence, and Perugia. Making his debut as the judge in the National ring was Antonio Chiavini, a national expert and technician at the ANABIC Genetic Centre, who performed his task with determination and professionalism, with the aid of Chiara Berti, also making her debut as assistant. The ring activities began on the opening morning with the judging competition for students of agricultural schools (ITAS), coordinated by Matteo Ridolfi, which featured 5 competing teams from the ITAS Carlo Cattaneo of Cecina (Livorno). First place went to the team – whose verdict mirrored that of reference – with Martina Antinori as its speaker, while the best classification reasons were given, for his team, by speaker Filippo Minnozzi. In the afternoon of the same day, the show



Uefa, reserve junior champion heifer; Owner Luchetti Basilio e Claudio - PG

judging began; the judge based it on breed typicity, muscle development, and structural solidity, working quickly and bringing animals of particular interest to the various finals.

Junior Female Final

Uefa, a Sultano owned by the Luchettis and winner of the 1st category, showed



Teresa Melograni, junior champion heifer; Owner Mecherini Fosco - LI

style, muscle development, and great balance in all her parts, together with extreme bone quality. For the superior strength of her forequarters and a better rump structure, she won in the category beating Uvetta, a promising Pascià presented by Juanito Grigioni.

Uendi, daughter of Rocco presented by the Luchetti farm, won in the 2nd category for the superior distinction of her head and greater trunk length, beating Ustica, presented by Orlando Favilli of Livorno.

Fosco Mecherini of Livorno won the 3rd category with his Urpia Melograni, a

daughter of Romeo della Favorita who, thanks to her more evident muscle development, managed to prevail over the noteworthy Ully, a Lio from the

Luchetti farm who, however, boasts a slightly longer trunk.

Shows

The Luchetti responded in the wonderful 4th category by winning both first and second place with Talia and Ustica, daughters of Rocco and Moriero, respectively. Talia, thanks to her superior muscle development and class, won out over Unica, of slightly smaller dimensions than the champion.

Teresa Melograni, daughter of Priamo and the multi-award-winning Innata, presented by Fosco Mecherini, won in the 5th category for her larger size, greater muscle development, and width of her transverse diameters, surpassing Tania di Polledraia, another daughter of Priamo presented by Edilio Giannellini from Livorno.

Sulla, an impressive daughter of Moriero presented by Juanito Grigioni from Arezzo, won in the 6th category for her greater size and trunk length, beating Seriosa della Favorita, a muscular and distinguished daughter of Ianto presented by Ilio Lombardi of Todi.

The judge was very firm and authoritative in announcing the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the closely fought Junior final, awarding Fosco Mecherini's Teresa Melograni and the Lucchettis' Uefa, the youngest finalist. As



Olma di Maria Bianca, Reserve, Senior champion cow; Owner Mecherini Fosco - LI

for the other contenders, all very competitive, they are to be acknowledged for their general elegance, correctness, and excellent condition.

Senior Female Final

Before commenting on this final in detail,



Isa, Senior champion cow with her calf at foot; Owner Luchetti Basilio e Claudio - PG

we must first announce the result of the 10th category, reserved for cows with calves at foot, which aims to enhance the maternal aptitude and efficiency of the dams. In addition to the muscle development and functional udders, the general correctness of the cows' limbs was observed, while the calves, presented alongside their mothers, all showed excellent tone. In this competition the winner was Silvia Baroncelli's Il Colle Soraia from Florence, already the winner in category 6/B, with a promising daughter of Romeo at heel; runner-up was the well-known Sirena di Polledraia presented by Edilio Giannellini. As for the Senior final, it, too, featured noteworthy cows, which provided for a lively competition.

Silvia Baroncelli's Soraja won, as already mentioned, among the youngest cows for her impeccable tone and superior

Shows

structural correctness, beating out Scogliera, a Priamo presented by Lido Pecci.

Another “del Colle” cow, Rumba di Polledraia, daughter of Lio, won the most coveted place in the 7th category, being one of the loveliest in this National, ahead of, thanks to her superior dimensions, Lucchetti's Qualità, a stand-out for femininity, style, and structural correctness. Rumba also won the blue ribbon for the most productive cow in the category.

Olma di Maria Bianca, the powerful Lio owned by Fosco Mecherini, arrived at the National in great shape. Her superior vigour combined with considerable elegance led her to win in the 8th category, over Pazienza di Polledraia, a muscular daughter of Dazzo owned by Edilio Giannellini.

Isa, a Focoso from the Luchetti farm, won for her greater trunk length and evident distinction, beating out Luisa Melograni, the Dazzo owned by Fosco Mecherini, in a 9th category that featured cows of solid structure in spite of their advanced careers. Isa also won the blue ribbon for the cow with the best career in the category.

The Senior final was fought by two great cows, Isa and Olma; Isa won over Olma thanks to her greater distinction and longer trunk, even if her reserve showed superior tone. With the finalists still in the ring, Isa was also presented with the trophy for the cow with the best career, dedicated to the memory of Lucio Migni, a great Chianina expert as well as a brilliant technician of the Association.

The trophy

was presented by Matteo Ridolfi to Marco Luchetti, while the public paid tribute to Lucio's memory with a particularly heartfelt round of applause.

Junior Male Final

The young males also included quality animals in all classes, leading to a very interesting final:

- Umbro, son of Rocco from the Luchetti farm, won in the 1st category over Urpino dei Colli, a son of Quinto owned by Francesco Fedeli, thanks to his more powerful forequarters and more accentuated muscle development. The reserve deserves mention for his superior dimensions.

Urano Melograni, a muscular and correct son of Dazzo owned by Fosco Mecherini, was the winner in the 2nd category, beating Urpino, a son of Oalo presented by Simona Magini from Grosseto.

Uragano, a son of Dazzo presented by Lido Pecci from Siena, won the 3rd category uncontested, while he would have deserved to have some good competition.

Unas dei Colli, a son of Quinto presented



From right, Unas dei colli and Umbro, junior champion bull and his reserve

Shows

by Francesco Fedeli, beat Ilio Lombardi's Tempo del Palombaro in his category thanks to his superior distinction, trunk length, and limb correctness, proving that he was extremely competitive also in view of the final.

The judge awarded the victory to Fedeli's Unas over Lucchetti's Umbro for his greater trunk length and representativeness in this final. The reserve was noteworthy for his accentuated breed typicity.

Senior Male Final

The bulls' final, in line with the general values observed in this National Show, also featured high-level animals which honoured the breed and kept the competition close right up to the very last: Talamone, a son of Quiro reared by Lido Pecci and presented by Giuseppino Ronconi from Grosseto, won the 5th category uncontested.



Rocco, senior champion bull – Luchetti Basilio e Claudio farm - PG

Titano, a distinguished and muscular son of Nino Melograni presented by Rossano Sbarbati from Livorno won in the 6th



Titano, riserve senior champion, bull – Luchetti Basilio e Claudio farm - PG

category over Serafino, a son of Lento presented by Giampiero Marcatili from Livorno, thanks to his greater maturity and representativeness in the class.

Rocco, the multi-award-winner from the Luchetti farm, won among the more adult bulls, beating his traditional rival, Francesco Fedeli's well-known Quinto Melograni, thanks to his superior style and gigantism, as well as to the greater cleanness of his joints.

The victory in the Grand Championship went to Lucchetti's Rocco, who won over Sbarbati's Titano for his greater style, superior dimensions, and greater limb correctness. These two animals fully ennobled one of the finest senior finals in recent years. Rocco of the Luchetti farm thus enters Chianina show history as the only bull to have won the title of Grand Champion of the National in three consecutive editions, and concluding his brilliant career in the ring at a still-young age.

Shows

After the individual competitions came the competition for breeding groups, each made up of three animals born on the shower's farm and of which at least two are younger than 36 months old. The representatives of 4 farms were featured: Orlando Favilli, Edilio Giannellini, Fosco Mecherini, and Basilio Luchetti. The winner of the coveted prize was the Luchetti farm of Perugia, rewarded for the superior uniformity and distinction of its group, beating Fosco Mecherini's and Edilio Giannellini's groups, in that order. Taking advantage of the lovely backdrop formed by the various groups all lined up, the Luchetti farm was also presented with the trophies for the Breeder and Shower of the Year, both for the productivity of the dams present on the farm and for the numerous and brilliant placings achieved during this fine edition of the National Show. Once the scheduled competitions were over, the heifer auction was held on the final Sunday morning; 9 young females coming from 7 farms were on the block. Under the beating hammer of ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini, all 9 lots in the auction were sold, and the top price was attained by Uilly, a Lio and daughter of the well-known Penny, who ranked 2nd in the 3rd category, presented by Basilio Luchetti and won for 3,750 euro by Ilio Lombardi of Todi. The last award given was the "Breeder of the Future" prize, for the youngest handler in the show, 8-year-old Riccardo Ferrone, who gave a fine performance in handling his heifer. Among the senior handlers, a special mention goes to Lorenzo Ugolini from the "Il Colle" farm for the obstinacy

and determination with which he returned to compete in the ring after a slight accident he suffered on the opening day.



The best breeding group– Luchetti Basilio e Claudio farm - PG

Here ends the comment on the 2009 National Chianina Show, during which the breed confirmed all its value once again. The relaxed atmosphere backstage and the tasty tidbits popping up miraculously from the "magical" trunks of the breeders also contributed to a merry and pleasant environment.



The judge and his assistant

Events

Marchigiana, Romagnola, and Podolica at the agricultural fair of Foggia

by Romano Palazzo
ANABIC Genetic Centre

From this past 29 April through 4 May, the 60th edition of the Agricultural Fair was held in Foggia, repeating the success of the previous edition, and becoming the first to bring the cattle back into the show ring after years of exhibition



absence caused by health emergencies. The event, held with the sponsorship of the Foggia Trade Fair Organization, the Region of Apulia, the Provincial Breeders' Association (APA) of Foggia, the Province and the Chamber of Commerce of Foggia, featured the AIA (Italian Breeders' Association) in the forefront with the Italialewa section, a showcase for numerous species of interest in animal husbandry. Here there was also room for some of our breeds, like the Podolica, which is taking back the Apulian area, and the Romagnola which, in the

province of Foggia, is finding fertile ground for conquest. In an exhibition event historically typical of the spring season, which is renewing itself to revive the splendours of the past, alongside the Provincial Show of the Italian Holstein there were also the Interregional Show of the Mediterranean Buffalo, a Meeting on sheep breeds, and the usual Cunavisud, a historic showcase of the bird and rabbit breeding industry of Southern Italy. The most significant novelty regarding the Italian beef breeds was, however, the

Shows



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organization of the 1st Interprovincial Show of the Marchigiana Breed, present in Foggia with 28 competing animals coming from 10 farms of the provinces of Benevento and Avellino. In addition to these, there were also around ten bull calves put up for sale for natural service by the Azienda Mei Marco in Macerata. The Marchigiana thus returned to Foggia with a group of a certain substance, also confirmed in the show ring supervised by Matteo Ridolfi, Coordinator of the Herdbook experts, with the assistance of Romano Palazzo, a technician at the ANABIC Genetic Centre. In spite of the limited number of animals, the show featured, in the three finals, some that were definitely interesting. Among the Junior Males was Valerio, a son of Lupo presented by Antonio Paradiso from Benevento, who, by virtue of his more solid structure, particularly at the level of the rear limbs, won over Vito, son of Pennello, presented by the same breeder. On the other hand, among the heifers of the Junior final, the champion proved to be Una, presented by Dante Leppa from Avellino, who, owing to the greater distinction and strength of her forequarters, beat her Reserve, Unica, a

ists in the final of the cows, winning the titles of Champion and Senior Reserve with Lerone and Sitea, daughters of Falco and Pennello, respectively. The greater dimensions and muscle development of Lerone enabled her to beat her rival, who is worthy of note for her impeccable rump structure. The awards ceremony was attended by numerous personalities, including the Commissioner of the ARA (Regional Breeders' Association) of Campania and President of the APA of Foggia, Sergio Pompa, the Director of the same ARA, Francesco D'Orsi, ANASB (National Association of Buffalo Breeders) Director Angelo Coletta, Matteo Totano, Vice President of the APA of Foggia, and Donato Matassino, who watched the entire judging of the Marchigiana. Mr. Pompa and Mr. D'Orsi also received an ANABIC plaque thanking them for their support in the organization of the event, thanks which we would also like to extend to the staff of the APA of Foggia.

(photos courtesy of Silvana Gioia – AIA)

Shows

Splendid Chianina at the umbrian regional fair

by Chiara Matteucci
ANABIC Shows Office

The month of March traditionally marks the start of the exhibition season for our breeds, and there could be no more appropriate venue than Agriumbria, held at Umbriafiore this past 27th through 29th March, to set the tone for a show calendar that is sure to be exciting and full of important appointments. Even though Umbriafiore is in the midst of restructuring and renovation and while it is not hosting the National Show, scheduled for 2009 in Braccagni, near Grosseto, Agriumbria has maintained its attraction as a true Chianina “temple”. The flow of important

visitors, the logistics, the contents, and the tradition of this exhibition event arouse the interest of both operators and breeders, always determined to show their best, as seen by the 131 animals registered, of which 94 were present, by 15 showers coming from the provinces of Perugia and Terni. Organized by the Umbrian APAs (Provincial Breeders' Associations) and in particular by that of Perugia, acting as host of the event, the show also availed itself of the technical support of the ANABIC and did not disappoint expectations, proposing animals of great interest, many of whom

accustomed to being in the ring at national shows. The event is traditionally part of a great animal husbandry event that comprises the showing of the various species and breeds within the framework of the AIA-ItaliAlleva section. In Bastia Umbra even the Italian Holstein enjoyed an important



Shows

showcase, represented by the interregional show of Central Italy. As for the other beef breeds, worthy of note in this edition was the participation of the ANACLI (National Association of Charolais and Limousine Cattle Breeders) with a large number of animals representing the Charolais and Limousine breeds (around twenty), while the Red Dappled breed, whose presence at Agriumbria has by now become customary, was also present with a group of animals. The prologue to



A moment of the judgement

the Regional Chianina Show on the opening Friday was, as per tradition, the judging competition for students of agricultural school (ITAS), which featured the participation of 14 teams representing 5 different schools. The competition was, as usual, very lively, and was won by the ITAS Vegni of Cortona, followed by the ITAS S. Anatolia of Narco and the ITAS of Siena.

The show then went into full swing with the entrance of the male categories into the ring. Acting as judge in this fine edition of the Regional Show was Matteo Ridolfi, assisted in the ring by Romano Palazzo. The

competitiveness of the animals was evident immediately from the bull calf categories; even though these animals were not very numerous, there were a number of particular interest, who were featured in the Junior Males final. The four top competitors were, by order of age, Ultras and Urone from the Luchetti farm, Ternano delle Logge from the Bosi farm, and Ilio Lombardi's Tempo del Palombaro. The winner was Ultras, son of Icarus ET, followed by Urpino dei Colli, son of Quinto from the Fedeli farm. The verdict of the final repeated that of the first category, emphasizing two animals who, in addition to well-known fathers, boast mothers of the calibre of Sasha and Nabira, respectively. The final of the adult bulls, spectacular for the dimensions of the contenders, was no less impressive, and was won by Luchetti's Rocco, followed by Fedeli's Quinto Melograni, his reserve in the 7th category, thanks to the greater distinction and cleanness of his limbs, continuing a rivalry that has been going on for years now. The other finalists, who had placed first in the 5th and 6th category, respectively, were Tex, son of Raio, owned by the Gobbi brothers, and Siro di S. Anna, a son of Mandrillo, owned by Ottorino Lombardi. With regard to the



The proclamation of the junior champion heifer

Shows

female section, the competition was

extremely lively right from the very start. All of the Junior classes, which are generally numerous, were marked by an impressive quality and numerous striking individuals, which were concentrated in a final worthy of the most important major occasions. Appearing in the ring for the top title were, in order of age: Uendi and Umbria from the Luchetti farm, Giancarlo Marcucci's Tata and Tiria, both tagged "di Moglie", and, lastly, Seriosa della Favorita, presented by Ilio Lombardi. The judge's decision was in favour of the very young Umbria, followed by Uendi, of a very similar model and, like her, a daughter of Rocco, thanks to her more powerful chest and a greater convexity of her contours. The following female final, reserved for cows, was an exciting one, and featured four extraordinary cows: Senna from the Luchetti farm, Giancarlo Marcucci's Ramona di Moglie, and Olimpia and Isa, presented by the Luchettis. These are all "important" cows, who have also won awards in the National Show ring, as is the case of Senna and Olimpia. The top title was won by Ramona, Giancarlo Marcucci's Lio, who arrived at Agriumbria in amazing shape. Her superior typicity and trunk length led her to win over Basilio Luchetti's extremely valid Qualità, another striking contender and her reserve in the 7th category, who approached her model more than any of the others. Ramona di Moglie also won the title of Best in Show, receiving the trophy dedicated to the memory of Lucio Migni and presented to Giancarlo Marcucci by young Leonardo Migni, nephew of Lucio, who was remembered by Gaia Martuscelli, this edition's speaker, with unchanging

affection. The competition reserved for breeding farm groups saw Giancarlo

Marcucci's group win, beating Basilio Luchetti's group, which in turn topped

Felice Giulivi's group, by a whisker. The next competition for the Chiacchierini trophy featured the progeny of the bulls working at the Perugia Bulls Centre. The nine fathers of the contenders, all well known, were: Mandrillo di Polledraia, Eugenio, Nurso di Moglie, Priamo, Fabio, Icarus ET, Ruben, and Romeo, the last three tagged "della Favorita". The winner of the trophy was Umbra, a daughter of Romeo presented by Felice Giulivi. This heifer calf, the runner-up in the 2nd category, also reached the top price during the heifer auction held on the last morning, which featured 9 animals; she was won by the Luchetti farm for 2,900 euro. Another competition traditionally held at the end of the event is the one for the young handlers. The nine young handlers who took part on this occasion provided for a lively, hard fought event, which was won by Amedeo Garau followed by Lorenzo Antonelli and Leonardo Migni. The Regional Chianina Show of Bastia also featured several particularly important technical moments, such as the meeting on genetic anomalies held on Saturday morning at the Umbriafiere Conference Centre. Moderated by ANABIC Director Roberta Guarcini, the meeting featured such speakers as Prof. Arcangelo Gentile, of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Bologna, Prof. Luciano Molteni of the University of Milan, and Andrea Quaglia, of the ANABIC Central Herdbook Office. The meeting provided the opportunity to report on the state of the art with regard to congenital pseudomyotonia and ichthyosis, with regard to which the ANABIC envisages entry into the genetic centre only for animals that are not carriers, in addition

Shows

to identification of carriers among the bulls tested with available semen. The results of the research are also updated continuously and can be consulted through the ANABIC website. After presenting the main genetic anomalies found in cattle breeds, Prof. Gentile discussed the determinism of congenital pseudomyotonia in the Chianina breed, explaining and commenting on the results of the most recent tests arriving from the University of Berne. Prof. Molteni, on the other hand, gave a detailed presentation on ichthyosis, for which he is the advisor at the University of Milan. Both speakers encouraged the breeders to report any cases that might appear on their farms, stressing the maturity of those who have contributed, through their reports, to the achievement of the results attained. The closing presentation, made by Andrea Quaglia, described the services ANABIC makes available for breeders, and which mainly use electronic media for their delivery. Another moment of good information consisted of a practical demonstration of functional hoof trimming conducted and explained by Prof. Loris

de Vecchis with the collaboration of Paolo Rocchi, an expert from the ANABIC Genetic Centre. In spite of the fickle weather, the flow of the visitors to the fair was sizable, and the Chianina ring was always surrounded by a large viewing public. Even the ANABIC booth, shared with the Consorzio Carni Bovine Italiane (Italian Beef Consortium) was a constant destination for interested operators, and the satisfaction visible on the face of Lazzaro Bogliari, the Umbriafiore host and organizer, at the end of the event said more than a thousand words. At Bastia Umbra the Chianina had an important showcase, mainly thanks to the breeders who honoured it with their beautiful animals, as well as to the fine organization by the Provincial Breeders' Association of Perugia, with its President Luca Panichi, Director Stefano Pignani, and the entire technical staff. Lastly, the pleasant morning breakfasts offered "get-together" moments that helped create a spirit of unity and camaraderie, and it would be wonderful to see such spirit become a standard feature of the shows.