

TAURUS

International

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

17th YEAR Number 1/2010

SUMMARY

1

Hot under the hammer at the autumn auctions

4

The Chianina rules at Tressa

7

The Romagnola at Fiera dei Santi

8

The wonderful Chianina Regional Show in Torrita

11

Splendid Marchigiana cattle at Castel di Lama

16

Italian beef cattle breeds in Colombia

CONTENTS

ANABIC

Associazione Nazionale
Allevatori Bovini Italiani da Carne

President:

FAUSTO LUCHETTI

Director:

ROBERTA GUARCINI

Taurus International

Managing Director:

Roberta Guarcini

With the contribution of:

Chiara Matteucci, Chiara Berti,
Matteo Ridolfi, Antonio Chavini,
Giannetto Guerrini e Stefano Donati.
Fabio Lupi

Translations By:

Itaca Servizi Linguistici, Bastia Umbra

Pictures by:

Pixmotion di Gaetano Panza,
Archivio Anabic, Fabio Lupi
Giannetto Guerrini

**Editorial Office, subscriptions,
advertisements:**

ANABIC

06132 San Martino in Colle

e- mail: anabic@anabic.it

internet: www.anabic.it

Perugia - Italy

Auctions

Hot under the hammer at the autumn auctions

by Antonio Chiavini
- Genetic Center -



Ulisse, Top Price of Marchigiana breed



Urlo Della Favorita, Top Price of Chianina breed

“Lucio Migni” Genetic Centre was once again packed from 22nd to 24th September 2009 for the autumn auctions for the current year’s third group of bulls leaving the centre. The Marchigiana, Chianina and Romagnola breeds showed bull calves that were extremely interesting in terms of their test performances, pedigree and morphological correctness.

Featuring in the opening auction on 22nd September, the **Marchigiana** breed presented 8 subjects from the Provinces of Ascoli Piceno, Macerata, Ancona and Perugia, 5 of which were suitable for AI and 3 of which were certified for NI. The lots were sired by Isidoro, Pergolo, Ponzio, Rodolfo, Daino and Rick. The

highest BSI of 112.8 was achieved by a bull calf from Ascoli called Uruguay, a son of Isidoro presented by Giuseppe Leonardi that opened the auction.

At 1,865 grams, the highest ADG was achieved by Umbro, a son of Rodolfo presented by Mario Marasca from Ancona and there were 4 bull calves at auction with a test ADG of over 1,800 grams! Finally, in terms of morphology, 3 subjects were given a score of 85 points or more and Ulisse, a son of Daino presented by the University of Perugia, obtained the highest score with 87 points, the best end-of-test score.

The auction opened with a welcome speech by the director of Anabic, Roberta Guarcini, who congratulated the breeders of Benevento for the fantastic show held in San Giorgio la Molara and for their

Auctions

great determination, thanks also to the reintroduction of public funding by the Campania Region for the purchase of sires and dams. Roberta Guarcini also reminded participants about the imminent payment of EEC funding, as a result of Article 68, for bull calves from meat breed bovines bred in Italy and registered on the relevant Herd Books. This funding crowns the efforts made by Anabic, determined to ensure that these community funds are destined to breeders that implement cow-calf lines.

After this brief introduction, the auction proper got under way and the top price was paid when the above-mentioned Ulisse, a son of Daino with the dam Erode, presented by the University of Perugia, went under the hammer and was adjudicated by the Paradiso Farm in Benevento for 5,450 euro. This strong and morphologically-correct subject was suitable for NI with a BSI of 99.3. The second highest price was paid for the bull calf from Macerata called Urbino, sired by Ponzio with the dam Erode, bred by Cristian Vissani and suitable for AI with a BSI of 110 and an ADG of 1,808 grams. Urbino was purchased for 4,200 euro by the Monticelli Farm in Terni. Just a little lower was the winning bid for Uruguay, a son of Isidoro with the dam Gomero, bred in Ascoli by Giuseppe Leopardi and bought for 3,850 euro by Spitoni Amerigo Farm in Macerata. This bull calf opened the auction with an ADG of 112.4, making it suitable for AI. The auctions for the Chianina and Romagnola breeds were held on 24th September and they too presented two groups of particularly interesting bull calves. The **Chianina** breed provided the largest group presenting 10 subjects from the Provinces of Perugia, Livorno, Siena, Florence and Padua, divided into 7

deemed suitable for AI and 3 certified for NI. The lots in auction were the offspring of a total of 8 sires including Lio di M.B., Pascià d. F., Pratico, Priamo, Giove d. F., Ronaldo, Iovoso and Rino di P. The bull calf with the highest ADG of 2,127 grams, was Uncino, a son of Giove d. F. presented by Mattia Cappello from Padua. We should also point out that 6 other subjects in auction had a test ADG of over 1,800 grams!

The bull calf with the highest BSI of 128.3 was Urla, a son of Lio with the dam Fanfullo, presented by Danilo Migni of the Favorita Farm. In tests, its ADG had been close to 2 kg and it also had the highest morphological score at 87 points. The top price was paid for this particular bull calf, which stood out thanks to its size, length and marked typicality. It went for 5,250 euro to the Gerace Farm in Arezzo. Two other subjects, the bull calf from Livorno, Universo Melograni, and Uncino from Padua, both sold for 4,600 euro.

Presented by Fosco Mecherini, the first was sired by Priamo with the dam Dazzo; it was suitable for AI with a BSI of 114.9 and an ADG of 1,950 grams, whilst the second, Uncino, is the offspring of the sire Giove della Favorita and the dam Grido. Bred by Mattia Cappello, as mentioned above, it came to auction with a BSI of over 2 kilograms. With notable muscular development and a marked body capacity, Uncino obtained a morphological evaluation score of 86 points and was suitable for AI with a BSI of 111.2. Average bids for the remaining Chianina subjects were around 4,000 euro.

It was then the turn of the **Romagnola** breed to take to the auction ring presenting 8 subjects, 6 of which suitable for AI and 2 for NI. The lots came from 8 farms in the Provinces of Ravenna, Forlì-

Auctions

Cesena and Bologna and were sired by V.U. Sethi, Petrarca, Paride, V.U. Neff, V.U. Oz and L.V. Priamo. Presented by Giuseppe Mariani, Udinì, a bull calf from Forlì, son of V.U. Sethi and the famous dam Bice, had the highest BSI with a score of 123.3. The highest test ADG of 1,901 grams was obtained by Uranio from Ravenna, presented by Sandro Zampiga. We should add however, that 3 other lots had an ADG of over 1,800 grams. The highest morphological score of 87 points was obtained by Urone, offspring of the sire Sethi and the dam Inverno. It was presented by the Prato Farm run by Piero Tassinari and was also sold for the top price of 5,400 euro to CAF from Verghereto in the Province of Forlì and Cesena. Urone, strong, long and structurally impeccable, was certified suitable for AI with a BSI of 116.8. It scored 87 points thanks to its morphology and a test ADG that was almost 1,900 grams. Its pedigree includes important cows such as Luna, Sofia and Alba, well known to auction enthusiasts. The second highest bid for the Romagnola breed went for Usmas, from Mezza Cà Farm owned by the Daga brothers. It was sired by Ville Unite Oz and the dam Lubio and was deemed suitable for NI with a BSI of 100.5. It was purchased by Guido Marianini from Forlì. Briefly commenting on the three breeds presented at the autumn auctions, we should mention the renewed interest in the Marchigiana breed. Indeed, numerous farmers from various regions participated in the event and all were keen to purchase. The Chianina breed was also popular thanks to the quality of the lots and confirmed the devotion of its breeders who have always



Urone Del Prato, Top Price of Romagnola breed

attended events organized by the genetic centre. Although still far for its normal bids, the Romagnola breed returned to the auction with a good group of subjects, registering the second highest price for bulls of the three breeds that took part in these autumn auctions. We hope this helps to re-establish trust in the sector with regards to the breed, also in view of the auctions which will be held next winter.

Meeting

by Chiara Matteucci
- Shows Office-

THE CHIANINA RULES AT TRESSA **Plenty of innovations at the 3rd National** **Meeting of the Chianina Breed**



The 3rd National Meeting of the Chianina Breed was held at the venue of the local Sports Association in Ponte a Tressa on 12 September 2009. The event was organized by the Siena Breeders' Association and ANABIC, with the contribution of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Policies, the Region of Tuscany, ARSIA, the Chamber of Commerce of Siena, the Provincial Administration of Siena and the

Municipality of Monteroni d'Arbia. After a welcome by the authorities, ANABIC director Roberta Guarcini opened the session, briefly illustrating the agenda and introducing ANABIC president Fausto Luchetti. His speech focused on two especially important points. First was a report on the EU contribution pursuant to Article 69. ANABIC has fought hard for this allocation, which envisages bonuses for the sons of dams from the beef cattle breeds listed in the Herd Book,

Meeting

differentiating the sums for primiparae, pluriparae and calves for slaughter. The bonus, which has a duration of four years and starts in 2010, is a shot in the arm for our breeders who, following the long and favorable post-BSE period, are now in the midst of one of the most difficult commercial phases.

In the second part of his speech, Luchetti introduced the recent amendments to the regulations governing the PGI brand of "Vitellone Bianco dell'Appennino Centrale" (White Young Bulls of the Central Apennines). These amendments chiefly refer to enlargement of the typical breeding areas to other municipalities, a list of the foods that are prohibited during the final fattening phase, and the different processing of the sides of beef, with the proviso not to remove the covering fat and perirenal fat, in order to minimize the oxidation of muscle fibers, with particular reference to the noblest cuts. At the end of this interesting statement, the ANABIC director Guarcini spoke again to present a brief overview of the development of the Genetics Center since its foundation, dwelling on recently completed expansion work that was illustrated in detail during last year's meeting. The DNA Bank was also implemented and tests were defined to ensure that today's subjects with genetic defects such as congenital pseudomyotonia and ichthyosis cannot enter the Genetics Center. In order to promote and valorize bulls approved for artificial insemination, there is also an online auction catalog complete with photographs of the bulls, whose semen is also stored for mating plans. For a closer look at these issues, the director introduced Antonio Vagniluca, head of the ANABIC Genetics Center, who offered a

preview of the Chianina bulls that were subsequently announced during the auction of 24 September at the Lucio Migni Genetics Center. Matteo Ridolfi then took over and presented the young Chianina sires approved for artificial insemination and with semen available for planned mating, offering a detailed illustration of how the related IT program works. Ridolfi concluded by noting that the timely use of young bulls represents a decisive instrument to minimize the generation interval and augment genetic progress based on the traits undergoing selection work.

The ANABIC director then took the floor to introduce another important chapter in the activity of the Genetics Center, which envisages the andrological testing of outgoing sires by professors Maurizio Monaci and Lakamy Silla of the University of Perugia. Prof. Monaci was on hand to illustrate the results of over two decades of activity, explaining the characteristics of the semen and the most common pathologies that are found. In closing his report, Monaci suggested that breeders check the bulls that are already being used for natural service, above all when the percentage of pregnancies tends to decrease. Roberta Guarcini introduced the next subject: prophylaxis on farms that send cattle to the Genetics Center. She discussed the number and type of health checks performed on tested subjects from the time they arrive at the Center until they leave. This aspect was part of the presentation of Giovanni Filippini, veterinarian from the Istituto Zoo-profilattico Sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche, who underscored the importance of health guarantees offered by outgoing bulls thanks to the strict and

Meeting

systematic checks conducted by the Genetics Center. At the same time, Filippini underscored everything that has yet to be done among breeders that produce genetic material in order to arrive at the health requirements that are best for the sires sent to the Genetics Center. The final report during this intense morning came from Prof. Luciano Molteni of the University of Milan, who illustrated the results achieved during the systematic testing of incoming bull calves in relation to genetic anomalies, underscoring the benefits that research into genomes can bring to selection.

The Guidino Prize was awarded between the two speeches. Composed of a work by the artist Massimo Lippi, in keeping with tradition it was awarded to those who have best distinguished themselves for their activities supporting the Chianina breed. The mayor of Ponte a Tressa awarded the 2009 Guidino Prize, depicting a bull, to Mr. Galletti, former Provincial Councilman for Agriculture, who was commended for his sensitivity to the problems of Sienese Chianina breeders. The second part of the meeting commenced after the lunch break, naturally with Chianina beef. Matteo Ridolfi, Coordinator of ANABIC experts, presented and commented on several subjects kindly offered by breeders participating in the event, all of whom from the province of Siena and to whom we are extremely grateful: Giuseppe and Maurizio Fabbrini, Roberto Barbi and Emilio Massi. For the different subjects, he illustrated the general information, pedigree, genetic index and key morphological features. The visit of the German delegation was one of the

highlights of the 2009 meeting. The guests, who visited several Chianina ranches in the Province of Siena, were Limousine, Angus and Highland beef cattle breeders, and closely observed the cattle on show, underscoring the growing interest that Germany has shown in the Chianina breed. The breed and selection plan was illustrated to the German delegation, which also received an information package about Italian beef cattle breeds. At the end of the event, the breeders were commended by Roberta Guarcini, who also gave Paolo Montemerani, director of the Siena Breeders' Association, a plaque to thank him for the support in organizing an event that was especially important for Chianina breeders.



The Guidino Prize

Local Show

By Stefano Donati
-Doctor Veterinary-

The Romagnola at the Fiera dei Santi

On Sunday, 1 November, the traditional Fiera dei Santi was held at Civitella di Romagna (Forlì-Cesena), featuring about thirty head of Romagnola cattle from local farms.

In the MALE division, 6–9 months, first place went to VIM, a V.U. Rasmus from the Silvano Silvestroni farm presenting excellent muscle development as well as significant breed characteristics. In the category of 12–15 the winner was the bull calf UTTONE, a V.U. Sethi from the Stefano Soldati farm, purchased from the ANABIC Genetics Center. In the hard-fought category of bull calves aged 18–24 months, the winner was TOTTI, a V.U. Orione from the Giovanni Giordano Mancini farm and likewise purchased from the Genetics Center.

The winner presented excellent breed characteristics, good muscle development, good general development and solid perpendicularity of the legs. The runner-up, the bull calf SINCERO, an Ovest della Radice from the farm of Emilio and Paola Polgrosso, was characterized by a very long and cylindrical trunk.

In the FEMALE division, in the category of 9–12 months first place went to ULTIMA, a very correct and elegant daughter of Ponente with good breed characteristics and strong legs. Her worthy runner-up was USTICA, also sired by Ponente, with a well-structured pelvis and good muscle development. Both are

owned by the Polgrosso farm. In the heifer category aged 15–18 months, first place went to USA, a daughter of Pierpaolo from the Soldati farm, combining muscle development and size. In the category of heifers aged 24–36 months, the winner was TRIADE, the exceptional daughter of Piro from the Dell'Amore farm, which stood out because of size. In the category of cows aged 24–36 months the Polgrosso farm again had a winner with SVEGLIA, a highly typical daughter of Ovest della Radice, whereas in the category of cows aged 3–5 years the winner was SENTENZA, a V.U. Neff with notable breed characteristics and excellent pigmentation; she is owned by the Livio Nannetti farm.

Lastly, in the category of cows over the age of 8 years the top prize went to MORELLA, a daughter of Guru, owned by the Antonio Bezzi farm: despite her age, she showed a powerful structure and great vigor.

In closing, I would like to thank those who allowed this event to take place: the Breeders' Associations of Forlì-Cesena and Rimini, the Municipality of Civitella, the local tourist office, the Province of Forlì-Cesena and the Chamber of Commerce of Forlì-Cesena. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the breeders whose great efforts have kept interest high in this marvelous beef cattle breed, which represents a value to be safeguarded with determination.

Regional Shows

by Chiara Berti
- ANABIC Research and Development Office -

The wonderful Chianina Regional show in Torrita



The 5th Tuscan Regional Show for the Chianina breed, held at the Val di Chiana Service Centre in Torrita di Siena last 3rd and 4th October, saw 72 subjects presented from 14 farms from the Provinces of Siena, Arezzo and Livorno. The event was organized by Siena APA (Provincial Breeders' Association of Siena), under the aegis of ARSA (Regional Agency for Agricultural Development Services) and Siena Local Health Authority District 7 and with the funding of the Municipality of Torrita, the Tuscany Region, the Province of Siena and the Municipal Administrations of Montepulciano, Sinalunga, San Casciano

Bagni and Trequanda, as well as the "Cities of Chianina Association" and the "Friends of Chianina Association".

The morphological level of the subjects presented was particularly high and the privilege of judging them went to Marco Luchetti, assisted by Chiara Berti. The female section opened the show with a number of extremely prestigious subjects. In fact, warmest congratulations went to the breeders both in terms of the livestock they presented and their professionalism in the ring. Without distinction, all the heifer categories were worthy of note, whilst with regards to the categories for cows we should mention the 8th category,

Regional Shows

won by Quota di Pergo, Senior Show Champion. Although fewer, the male categories also presented important individuals, as also emerges from an overview of the champions and reserve champions:

-Junior Male Champion: N. 22, Uranio di Polledraia, Lido Pecci Farm, SI

- Junior Male Reserve Champion: N. 5, Vittorio di Pergo, Giovanni Pucci Farm, AR

Uranio di Polledraia, a distinguished son of Pascià presented by Lido Pecci, imposed its particular typicality and structural correctness both in the category and in the final, where it preceded Vittorio di Pergo, a promising Icarus ET presented by Giovanni Pucci, which was correct and balanced and more than other finalists respected the characteristics of a champion.



Serafino, Senior Male Champion- Livio Mercatili Farm

- Senior Male Champion: N. 29, Serafino, Livio Mercatili Farm, LI

- Senior Male Reserve Champion: N. 28, Tedesco, Ottorino Vanni e F.lli Farm, AR

Thanks to its superior distinction, trunk

length and clean limbs, the bull final was won by Serafino from Marcatili Farm, ahead of Tedesco owned by the Vanni brothers.

- Junior Female Champion: N. 70, Tullia, Juanito Grigioni Farm, AR

- Junior Female Reserve Champion: N. 74, Tania di P., Edilio Giannellini Farm, LI

The heifer final was particularly exciting, with 6 protagonists worthy of the leading breed shows. To come out on top was Tullia, a Lio owned by Juanito Grigioni, reserve junior champion in the last edition of the Tuscan Regional Show. It won thanks to the superior strength of its forequarters and trunk length compared to the nonetheless interesting Tania di Polledraia, a distinguished Priamo owned by Giannellini, outgoing junior champion of the Inter-Provincial show held in Bibbona.

- Senior Female Champion: N.87, Quota di Pergo, Juanito Grigioni Farm, AR

- Senior Female Reserve Champion: N.84, Ruvida di Polledraia, Juanito Grigioni Farm, AR

The final for cows was also very tight, with Quota and Ruvida owned by Juanito Grigioni Farm the most experienced contenders. The superior distinction of Quota, a daughter of Mandrillo, had the better of the younger Ruvida, a Lio with a particularly marked structural correctness.

Regional Shows

THE GRAZI TROPHY

The four overall show champions challenged each other for the trophy named after Mario Grazi, former director of the APA Siena (Provincial Breeders' Association of Siena) and a great admirer of the Chianina breed. Winner of the coveted prize was Tullia, owned by Juanito Grigioni, which gave particular prestige to the quality of the group presented by this young and enthusiastic breeder from Arezzo, adding weight to the participation of the team from Arezzo that repeated the brilliant results achieved in the previous edition.



Tullia, winner of the Grazi Trophy



Senior champion and reserve heifer

THE AUCTION

Once the work in the ring had been completed, the auction for young females took place and resulted in the adjudication of 9 extremely interesting pedigree heifers presented by some of the best breeders in Tuscany. Urania, the offspring of Eugenio owned by Juanito Grigioni and winner in the 4th category, achieved the top price selling for 3,150 euro to Ottorino Vanni from Arezzo.

THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY

On the last afternoon, the prize-giving ceremony was held in the presence of the local authorities. The most important moment coincided with awarding of the Grazi Trophy to Juanito Grigioni, who really stole the show in this edition. With regards to this important show event, which focused on the Chianina breed in its land of origin, we wish to renew our congratulations to all the breeders that presented animals, the staff of the host Siena APA and the other breeders' associations for having given life to a particularly prominent show event.

Local Shows

By Fabio Lupi,
-Coordinator of Ascoli Piceno National Association of Breeders-

SPLENDID MARCHIGIANA CATTLE AT CASTEL DI LAMA

A great success for the Provincial Breeders' Association of Ascoli Piceno too, lead partner in organizing the 15th Tronto Valley Agricultural Show in Castel di Lama



From 3rd to 6th September 2009, the Piattoni area of Castel di Lama hosted the Fair of the Holy Cross, “15th Tronto Valley Agricultural Show”. Over 5,000 operators were invited to take part including breeders, farmers, various companies, local authorities, local and regional institutions, professional organizations, producers’ organizations, other Italian Provincial Breeders’ Associations (APA) and the entire breeders’ system. Needless to say, the response in terms of attendance was extremely good. The Castel di Lama event crosses regional borders and offers an excellent overview of agriculture in the Marche, a fundamental component of the economy

of the entire region. Each year, the Agricultural Show becomes increasingly important, not only on a provincial or regional level but on a national level too, leading to a considerable increase in the number of visitors and expressing the territory’s renewed interest in zootechnology, agriculture and local traditions. By visiting the various halls, the numerous visitors were able to meet the area’s leaders in the agriculture and food sectors, providing an extremely important educational experience particularly for younger generations. In our area, agriculture has always represented a key resource, thanks also to its varied production and the presence of a significant number of farms and operators

Local Shows

that have succeeded in maintaining ancient traditions and combining them with modern cultivation methods, thus preserving the quality of the products offered to both the distribution network and directly to consumers. The rural reality of the Piceno area proved to be an extraordinary showcase that, alongside various animal species of zootechnical interest and the Marchigiana cattle breed above all, presented many other agricultural, food and artisan products, as well as agricultural machinery and much more besides. This fair is not only an important event for the local community, but also a means for promoting the importance of zootechnology and agricultural activities on the territory. All this interest means that, with all probability, from next year the Tronto Valley Agricultural Show will become the Rassegna Agricola Picena (Picena Agricultural Show), in order to appropriately promote the excellences of the Piceno area, from Macerata to Teramo.

The show offered a number of important events and meetings that focused on various aspects of regional zootechnical production and agriculture and there

were many aspects that interested the general public, starting on the morning of 3rd September with the arrival at the fair of the various cattle, sheep, pork, horse and poultry and rabbit breeds. The afternoon included an attempt to make it into the Guinness Book of Records by producing the “world’s largest Pecorino cheese”, weighing more than 500 kilos. On 5th September attention focused on the bovine sector with the hosting of the 7th Inter-Provincial Show for Marchigiana breed cattle.

Splendid subjects bred, following selection, in the Provinces of Ascoli Piceno and Fermo paraded before the judge Romina Bastari and her ring assistant Marco Luchetti.

The evening ended with the prize-giving ceremony for the best subjects and proclamation of the show champions.

The 7th Herd Book Inter-Provincial Show of the Marchigiana breed

Over 60 subjects took part in the show from 17 farms from the Provinces of Ascoli Piceno and Fermo. Judging them was Romina Bastari, along with her assistant Marco Luchetti. The judge warmly congratulated breeders for the For the young males section, the following subjects came first in the various categories.

level of animals on show in the various categories, in particular with regards to the heifers aged between 18 and 24 months, highlighting their quality and morpho-functional beauty, with marked feminine characteristics.

In the category for bull calves aged 6 to 9 months the winner was “Vertiginoso” from the Marchionni Farm, which also won the

Local Shows

title for Junior Show Champion. In the 9 to 12 months, the winner was “Ulso”, a son of Birbo from the Massimo Vecchi Farm in Monte San Pietrangeli. This subject was appreciated for its marked meat breed characteristics, the convexity of its profiles and its considerable chest depth. PGI registered for several years, Massimo Vecchi Farm also owns “Raika”, a cow that is in the top 140 in terms of its Cow Selection Index. In the category for bull calves aged 12 to 15 months the winner was “Urto”, a son of “Paolo”, who won thanks to its excellent forequarters and muscular, convex and well-set shoulders. It is owned by Rosella Micheli of “Cartofaro” Farm in Ascoli Piceno. This is an agri-biological farm that has a PGI butcher’s and its own oil mill. The fourth category for bull calves, those aged between 15 and 18 months, was won by “Unicorno”, a son of Paniere from Nazareno and Giancarlo Marchionni Farm. It won thanks to the correctness of its limbs and its fine skeleton. The only representative in the bull category over 36 months, “Soffione” from Nazareno and Giancarlo Marchionni Farm, was proclaimed Senior Champion.

For the junior female section the following calves came first in the various categories.

In the category for female calves aged 6 to 9 months, the winner was “Vanja”, a Quebec from Ezio Sartorelli Farm in Amandola that has given various calves to the Genetic Centre, including “Ulivo”, son of Quebec certified for AI and sold at the ANABIC auctions last June. The strengths of “Vanja” included its typical characteristics, with a more accentuated and marked pigmentation, and its feminine characteristics. In the category for calves aged 9 to 12 months the winner was “Upa”, a Mirino from Enrico Natali-Scaramucci Farm in Rotella. This farm, which breeds its livestock in the open range, has recently given a male to the

ANABIC Genetic Centre. “Upa” was noted by the judge for its marked typicality, wide and deep chest and superior body capacity. The winner in the 12 to 15 months category was “Umbrà”, a Gigante from Vito D’Ignazio Farm in Venarotta. “Umbrà” came out on top because of its superior muscular development around the withers, back and loins and its well-supported abdomen. Vito D’Ignazio Farm is PGI registered and has livestock with excellent morphological qualities. A special mention should go to this farm’s young handler Vito, an enthusiast of this breed who takes part in numerous events and historical commemorations with his cattle, including the important Fair of Sant’Emidio.

In the category for heifers aged 15 to 18 months the winner was “Unica”, a Damasco from Domenico Ciabattani Farm in Monsampolo del Tronto, a veteran farm that has been raising this breed for many generations. “Unica” stood out thanks to the great strength of her forequarters and overall harmony.

First place for heifers aged 18 to 24 months went to “Unity d’Aquino”, a daughter of Lupo, from Massi & Fusco farm in Offida. The result of the twinningraising this breed for many generations. “Unica” stood out thanks to the great strength of her forequarters and overall harmony. First place for heifers aged 18 months went to “Unity d’Aquino”, a daughter of Lupo, from Massi & Fusco Farm in Offida. The result of the twinning of the two most important zootechnical realities in Offida and Frosinone, this farm also bred “Uragano d’Aquino”, a son of Pergolo certified for AI, which left the ANABIC Genetic Centre last June and was purchased at auction by the Bull Centre of Macerata. “Unity d’Aquino” won thanks to its accentuated muscular development and particular fineness. “Tundra” won in the category for heifers

Local Shows

(that have yet to give birth) aged 24 to 36 months. Presented by Livio Mercatili from Montepredone, it was also proclaimed Junior Show Champion.

The young cows aged 24 to 36 months category was won by "Tabitha", a Pergolo from Antonio Antonini Farm in Appignano del Tronto. The Antonini Farm, a traditional centre for Marchigiana breed selection, has provided the Genetic Centre with numerous calves, three of which have been certified for AI. This cow presented better perpendicularity, cleaner limbs and more vertical pasterns compared to its contenders. Once again this year, Regina won the category for cows aged 3 to 5 years. Waving the flag for Giovanni Maurizi Farm in Appignano del Tronto, it was also proclaimed Senior Show Champion. In the 5 to 8 years category, first place went to "Pilma", a Lupo owned by Antonio Antonini Farm in Appignano del Tronto. Pilma showed a strong dorso-lumbar line, an accentuated dual convexity and more marked transverse diameters. The veterans' category - over 8 years of age - was won by Miriam, offspring of Birbo from Enrico Natali - Scaramucci Farm in Rotella.

Despite its age, this cow won thanks to its well-supported stomach and greater opening and the better definition of its rump, which was cleaner at the tail.

After assessment of the various categories, the judge proclaimed the Show Champions, highlighting the subjects that best respected breed standards. For the male section the title of Junior Show Champion went to Vertiginoso, 7-month-old son of Paniere bred by Nazzareno and Giancarlo Marchionni in Franca Villa d'Ete. The judge considered it to be the most representative in terms of its size compared to its age, its marked muscular development and the notable correctness of its limbs. The results achieved with

great passion by Marchionni Farm are clear, both in terms of the morphological level of the cows and their high genetic indexes: in fact, three cows from this farm have a CSI that places them among the first 112 females in this breed on a national level. For the second time running in this edition, Senior Show Champion went to the bull "Soffione", a son of Nido aged 3 and weighing 1200 kilos, from Nazzareno and Giancarlo Marchionni Farm, Francavilla d'Ete. It was appreciated for its muscularity, accentuated in all its parts and particularly at the rump and buttocks, with marked dual convexity of the back-loins and evident gibbosity of the neck. Furthermore, this champion's marked characteristics of masculinity, excellent level of fitness and constitutional robustness were also highlighted.

In the female section, the title of Junior Champion went to "Tundra", a daughter of Picasso aged 27 months from Livio Mercatili Farm in Montepredone. This small farm stood out thanks to the high linear scores of its livestock. Tundra, Junior National Show Champion at the recent Agricultural Show of Central Italy held in Villa Potenza, reconfirmed her worth thanks to her great class, marked breed characteristics, harmony and elegance of movement, superior trunk length and correctness of the rump, along with powerful limbs and general fineness. Like last year, the title of Senior Show Champion went to the cow "Regina", a daughter of Cirio born in 2005 at Giovanni Maurizi Farm in Appignano del Tronto. Regina stood out for her marked femininity, along with highly-developed udders, correct inclination of the rump, which was wide and muscular, and solid limbs. We should point out that Maurizi Farm has given various calves to the Genetic Centre, two of which have been

Local Shows

certified for AI. Also from this farm is the well-known bull “Pergolo”, a bull sire with a high genetic index, now at the Bull Centre in Macerata.

Of the other participating farms, those which stood out thanks to good placing of their livestock included Francesco Simonetti from Appignano del Tronto, a veteran and great enthusiast who has been breeding Marchigiana cattle on his farm for generations, Giuseppe and Vittorio Vitali from Amandola, a PGI registered farm that has sold various male and female subjects for breeding, Orazio Castaldi from Venarotta, owner of a farm that has various subjects with high morphological scores and Pietro Apostoli from Roccafluvione, whose farm is run by his daughter Agostina, a young agriculturalist and great fan of the Marchigiana breed. This farm will soon open a PGI-certified farm butcher’s shop to sell the meat it produces.

The event ended on Sunday afternoon with the prize-giving ceremony for the winning animals and farms. Both public and breeders-exhibitors appreciation of first-time judge Romina Bastari was extremely favourable and they fully agreed with the places awarded to the respective subjects.



A moment of assessment

Abroad

by **Giannetto Guerrini*** and **Filippo Rapaioli**** -

* National Expert of Marchigiana cattle breed, ** Tropical Zootechnical

Italian beef cattle breeds in Columbia

Columbia is a presidential republic situated in the north-west of South America. Its capital city is Bogotá and the country covers a total surface area of 2,070,408 km², bordering to the east with Venezuela and Brazil, to the south with Peru and Ecuador and to the north-east with Panama. It is the only country in South America that stands on two oceans – the Pacific to the west and the Atlantic to the north.

According to the last census, carried out in 2005, its resident population amounts to 45,000,000 inhabitants who mainly live in the big cities overlooking the Cordillera of the Andes - Bogotá, Medellín, Cali and Pasto - and on the north coast in Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Cartagena de Indias. The country is divided into five regions that are quite distinct in terms of the distribution of mountain ranges and rainfall. To the south lies the Amazonian region that covers almost half of the country and is a completely flat area with abundant rainfall. To the east is the region of Orinoquia, which takes its name from the Orinoco River. It is also flat and has two rainy seasons that alternate with long periods of drought. The central part of the country is covered by the Cordillera of the Andes, which in Columbia takes shape starting from three distinct cordilleras - the western, central and eastern cordilleras - that come together

near the city of Pasto, before continuing down to the Patagonia region of Argentina. To the north is the Caribe region on the Caribbean Sea, where the country's most popular tourist destinations are situated; Santa Marta, Cartagena and Barranquilla are all cities that retain their Colonial Spanish style. Finally, to the west is the Pacific region, covered by a tropical rain forest where temperatures soar to close to 40°C.

In terms of productivity, Colombia has an annual per capita income of 8,600 dollars and its primary production sectors are coffee (Columbian coffee), bananas and, of course, cattle breeding.



The stand of Anabec and Appex at Agroepò in Bogotá.

Abroad

According to estimates drawn up by the National Department of Statistics (DANE), in Columbia cattle breeding accounts for 3.6% of GDP and represents 27% of the GDP of the agricultural sector. This 27% can be divided into equal parts with regards to the dairy and beef cattle sectors. Given that sectors such as energy and hotel accommodation account for 3.4% and 2.2% of GDP respectively, we can see that the cattle breeding sector in Columbia is an important part of national production and not relegated to the lower levels of the production chain, as often happens in industrialized countries.

The national bovine inventory consists of 23 million head of cattle, of which almost 60% are beef cattle, 38% dual purpose cattle and the remaining 2% in the specialist dairy sector. The national inventory consists of 56% females and 44% males. There are two areas that excel in the cattle breeding sector - the north coast and the Orinoco Valley to the east. Both these areas are totally flat and particularly fertile, so cattle can graze outdoors all year round without the need to use any supplements or stalling. The highest concentration of specialist dairy stables is in the Cundi-Boyacence Plateau (Bogotá) area.

The National Department of Statistics estimates that the total surface area used for cattle breeding is 51.5 million hectares. The country has 496,147 livestock farms, of which 48% have less than 10 animals and 1.1% more than 1,000. The average Columbian farm, representing 38% of the entire sector, has between 100 and 500 animals.

With regards to genetic heritage, 71% are Bos Indicus cattle, 15% Bos Taurus and 13% Creole breeds imported by the Spanish at the time of the conquest and crossed with local breeds over the centuries. With regards to the beef chain, each year an average of 3,754,000 head are slaughtered in Columbia with a carcass production of 806,000 tons. This covers domestic beef consumption and exports to Venezuela (the main importer of Columbian beef). The extraction rate is about 15%, with an average slaughter age of 4 years and a live weight of 400-430kg.



Giannetto Guerrini presents a plaque to Eudoro Acevedo, breeder of Romagnola Cattle in Colombia

The history of Italian beef cattle breeds in Columbia began at the end of the 1970s when a group of breeders from the north coast and the Magdalena Medio region imported a nucleus of pure Chianina breed cattle from the United States. The

Abroad

rearing conditions (outdoors all year round without any kind of protein supplement) and a lack of knowledge regarding the breed, coupled with the birth of calves weighing 70kg, meant there was no follow-up and breeders began to consider it unsuitable for tropical conditions.

New imports were not registered until the mid-1990s when two brothers, Eudoro and Alfredo Acevedo, travelled to Houston, Texas to participate in a Romagnola exhibition and imported 2 full-blood bulls and 8 in-calf females. Given the results achieved, the Acevedo brothers imported another 3 full-blood bulls and 22 in-calf females from nearby Venezuela in 2000. Their farm currently has 800 full-blood Romagnola breed cattle and about 2,800 head crossed, between F1 and $\frac{3}{4}$, with the Brahman breed, the most popular in Columbia for beef production. In difficult conditions linked to the temperature (an average of 35°C), fodder (brachiaria) and rainfall, at the Acevedo farm the Romagnola breed - both full-blood and cross-bred - is offering a carcass yield of 58% (national average 48/50%), with slaughter at 24 months (national average 48 months) at a weight of 480kg (national average 430kg) and an average daily gain of 800g (national average 380g).

The results achieved meant that in September 2008, the Acevedo family

became aware of the work of ANABIC and through the company APPEX, initially imported 700 doses of Romagnola breed semen from Italy. Thanks to their success, 15 other breeders are currently purchasing Romagnola genetics (bulls and bull calves) and experimenting on Brahman cattle. We can estimate an inventory of Romagnola breed cattle in Columbia, inclusive of crossbreeds, amounting to around 4,000 head.

If we exclude the experience of the late 1970s, the Marchigiana and Chianina breeds are not well-known in the country and in light of the interest shown by breeders since 2008, APPEX has begun to diffuse and promote Italian breeds in Columbia.

APPEX is a Columbian company established in February 2009 in Bogotá. It operates primarily in the field of reproductive biotechnologies and in particular, aims to raise awareness and diffuse Italian beef cattle breed genetics in Columbia. It has four founding partners and close links with Italy through its sales manager, Filippo Rapaioli, a University of Florence graduate in tropical zootechnology.

APPEX began its activity to diffuse awareness of Italian cattle breeds by taking part in the International AgroExpo Fair 2009, held last year in Bogotá from

Abroad

16th to 26th July, where the company had a stand. AgroExpo is the third largest fair in South America in terms of the number of visitors (300,000 last year), the number of exhibitors (856) and the volume of sales and brings together the zootechnical, agricultural and agricultural machinery sectors.

Diffusion and awareness of the breeds was further boosted by the 1st International Seminar on Italian Beef Cattle Breeds held on 23rd July on the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce stand at the same fair. It was attended by Giannetto Guerrini, a Marchigiana breed expert and ANABIC collaborator, Roberto Duchi, a vet at the AVANTEA laboratory in Cremona and Roberto Vilhena Vieira, a Marchigiana breed expert and technical manager for the Marchigiana breed in Brazil.

The collaboration of Italian experts and Giannetto Guerrini in particular, along with the work carried out in the past by APPEX, led to 350 contacts with breeders and sector experts, the publication of articles on Italian cattle breeds in the leading national newspapers (El Tiempo, La Republica) and the production of three television programmes, each lasting about 30 minutes, broadcast by the main national channels (RCN, Canal 1, CM&). APPEX is currently following-up the work carried out during the trade fair with the breeders who showed a particular interest. Its short-term objective is to continue to diffuse and raise awareness about the cattle breeds in Columbia, whilst its medium-term objective is to set up the Association of Italian Cattle Breeds in Columbia and take part in trade fairs with full-blood cattle, in order to show the adaptation and production possibilities that Italian cattle breeds can offer Colombian breeders.

