

# *International* TAURUS

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



YEAR XV Number 1/2008



# *Ville Unite Romagnola*

**Progressive genetics with a taste of tradition**

*Our results are built on passion,  
dedication and brood cows like this:*

## *Ville Unite Ira*

**Excellent 90 points (000M) Cow Index 117 Rank 97**

*(V.U. Eolo x V.U. Clara by Azzurro)*

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



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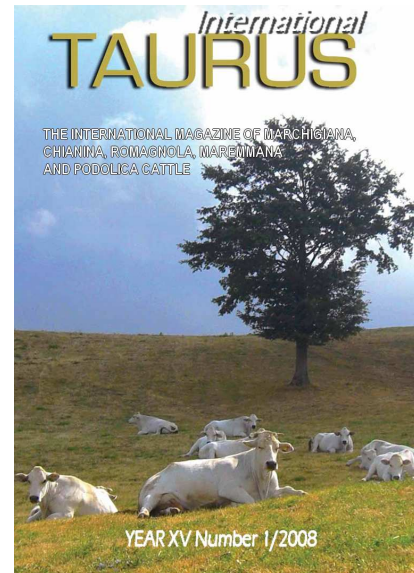
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# Genetic evaluations

## Revision of the Bull Selection Index

by Fiorella Sbarra <sup>(1)</sup> and Andrea Quaglia <sup>(2)</sup>  
Genetic Evaluation Office (1), National Herd Book (2)

In response to the need expressed by many for a revision of the current system used for indexing the sires of the Italian breeds, in June 2007 the Central Technical Commission began to devote attention to the subject, analyzing the transformations occurring in the breeding of Italian beef breeds. Having acknowledged the considerable changes that have taken place and the new needs of breeders, a process for the adjustment of the selection scheme was undertaken. In fact, the increase in the spread of open-pasture rearing systems and the indications arriving from the rest of the chain make it necessary to identify and evaluate new selection objectives and tools. Before introducing new genetic indexes for choosing sires, it was considered of primary importance to perfect and consolidate the current Bull Selection Index (BSI) which, in 20 years of activity, has proven its validity, bringing about a substantial evolution of the beef model in our breeds.

The work done does not entail, for the time being, any change in the selection objectives pursued by the index, which remain the capacity for growth (in terms of average daily gain) and muscle development.

The Genetic Evaluations Office, in collaboration with the University of Padua, thus conducted a thorough check of the Performance Index calculation system for the Marchigiana, Chianina, and Romagnola breeds, in order to

further improve the reliability of the index currently in use.

The BSI, in a process that lasted six months, was examined and verified; the calculation methods were then simplified and the software procedures used for its determination were rewritten. All the data of origin recorded from 1988 up to the present time at the Genetic Centre were also rechecked, in order to guarantee the maximum accuracy and soundness of the starting information.

The inheritabilities of the traits considered were again estimated and adjusted, adopting values considered more in keeping with the single breeds.

As a result, the scale of the index was considerably reduced: passing from the 50-150 interval of the old index to a current interval of about 65-130. The new system for estimating the genetic value of sires, while causing changes in the rank of some animals, does not alter in any substantial way the rank of the approved sires and their genetic value.

The Cow Selection Index (CSI), being composed 50% of the BSI and 50% of the Morphology Index, is also affected by the changes described above, being lowered proportionally. It nevertheless remains understood that, on the basis of the regulations in effect, the bull dams already approved on the basis of the previous indexes maintain their qualification. In light of the long, precise job done in collaboration with a group of some of the most qualified geneticists in

# Genetic evaluations

Italy, it is felt that the new system may better contribute to the choice of the sires and to genetic progress.

The use of the new procedures began on 5 March 2008, and the calves that will be presented in the March auctions have been approved using the new indexes.

Table 1 – Correlations between the new Indexes and ranks and the previous Indexes

	BSI	ADG	MUSC	RANK
Marchigiana	0.74	0.71	0.72	0.71
Chianina	0.86	0.87	0.83	0.87
Romagnola	0.85	0.88	0.80	0.83

# Genetic evaluations

## The New Central Technical Commission (2007-2009 3-year period)

by Fiorella Sbarra  
Genetic Evaluations Office

**O**n 28 November 2007, at 10.30 am, the new Italian Beef Breed Central Technical Commission met for the first time at the ANABIC offices; the names of the members are published to the side.

There were numerous items on the agenda and all of considerable importance; among these was the evolution of the breeding system of Italian beef breeds, the improvement of the efficiency of the selection system, the revision of the Bull Selection Index, the Kinship Coefficient, and the Herdbook DNA bank.

Opening the meeting, ANABIC President Fausto Luchetti expressed his thanks for his appointment as President of the CTC and joined Roberta Guarcini in thanking the outgoing members for the results obtained over the past three years, expressing his congratulations to Prof. Francesco Panella for his appointment as Vice President.

### TOPICS DISCUSSED

Evolution of the breeding system. An analysis of the data contained in the Herdbook archives, combined with the butchering data provided by the Consortium for the Defence of the Central Apennine White Bullock, provided a picture of the current state of the breeding farms and the butchering characteristics of the animals reared.

An initial check was conducted on the type of breeding practised on the farms registered. With the Marchigiana breed, historically characterized by permanent stall-feeding, 71% of the farms are still classified in this category, but only 50% of the animals are actually bred that way, while 38% of the animals are open-pasture-reared or summer-grazed.

The Chianina uses extensive methods on 44% of the farms and for 47% of the animals, while 30% of the farms (for 40% of the animals) employ loose housing.

For the Romagnola, open-pasture rearing and summer grazing account for 51% of the farms and 69% of the animals. Maremmana and Podolica are a different story, having always been open-pasture-reared or summer-grazed, with these methods accounting for 95-97% of all farms and animals. It is also noted that numerous closed-cycle farms have changed over to an open cycle, with the selling of feed-lot calves.

# Genetic evaluations

Breed	Farms				Animals			
	Perm.	Loose	Summer	Open-P	Perm.	Loose	Summer	Open-P
Marchigiana	70.92	6.28	19.16	3.64	49.65	11.6	29.4	9.33
Chianina	25.19	30.49	41.21	3.11	12.54	39.8	41.4	6.28
Romagnola	34.52	14.12	49.15	2.21	16.41	14.4	65.1	4.11
Maremmiana	0.53	2.63	5.79	91.05	0.12	0.88	2.94	96.1
Podolica	0.87	0.87	14.38	83.88	0.71	0.3	12.9	86.1

In the Marchigiana breed, in 2007, 34% of the animals were butchered by farms other than that where they were born, while this percentage rises to 50% in the Chianina and 79% in the Romagnola. The average butchering age and weight of the carcasses of male animals were

643 days and 448 kg for the Marchigiana, 632 days and 491 kg for the Chianina, and 658 days and 452 kg for the Romagnola. These figures show an excellent carcass weight, but a type of animal that is rather late-maturing.

BUTCHERING AGE AND WEIGHT											
Butchering year 2007	No. of animals butchered	Coming from (no. of farms)		Butchered by (no. of farms)	Fattened on farms of origin	Average carcass weight		Average butchering age			
		M	F			M	F	M	F		
Marchigiana	2701	233	4	367	822	537	1779	447,9	309,9	643,7	584,0
Chianina	4743	349	7	1246	842	645	2339	491,5	344,4	632,8	571,7
Romagnola	1878	148	0	398	154	119	379	452,2	346,6	658,8	639,8

Improvement of the efficiency of the selection scheme. A check was made of the efficiency of the selection scheme, identifying the aspects to be improved, and the restructuring and expansion plans for the Genetic Centre of Perugia were presented.

The plan was drafted in order to significantly increase the health and

safety aspects of the centre and the number of calves tested.

The restructuring envisages the subdivision of the two currently existing performance stalls into four separate, totally independent modules (for both the feed and the excrement removal paths). Also to be built are two new stalls for testing two groups. Each group will start and finish the test within the same

# Genetic evaluations

module, separated from all the others. At the end of each cycle, it will thus be (“all-out”)

and proceed with the total cleaning and disinfection of the area.

Also planned is the creation of a covered auction area and an area for receiving the breeders and distributing the disposable sanitary materials necessary for access to the Genetic Centre. One last module will be used to receive the animals after their performance testing, for the drawing and packaging of the seminal material. The start of the work is planned for May 2008 and is expected to conclude by the end of 2008.

In the meantime, the drawing of semen specimens from bulls being tested has been intensified, in order to increase the number of bulls available for artificial insemination, thus accelerating genetic progress.

## Revision of the current Bull Selection Index

The Genetic Evaluations Office, in collaboration with the University of Padua, conducted a thorough check and revision of the Performance Index calculation system for the Marchigiana, Chianina, and Romagnola breeds, in order to improve the index currently in use. The Index, in a process that lasted six months, was examined and verified; the calculation methods were then simplified and the computer procedures used for calculating the index were rewritten.

These new procedures will be used starting with the March 2008 auction.

The new indexes will be the subject of a more in-depth discussion in the next issue of this magazine.

## Kinship coefficient

A system for evaluating the kinship of animals with the living population has been presented. This system, once defined, will make it possible to identify the genetic lines least present in the population and to evaluate the spread of the pedigree of each animal as compared to the others.

## DNA bank

The Central Herdbook Office has decided to render compulsory the filing of a biological specimen for all animals registered with the Herdbook in order to guarantee the origin and traceability of the animals. Specimens must be drawn from all animals born starting on 1 January 2008 and filed with ANABIC. (See specific article.)

# Shows

## An attendance boom at the Verona Fieragricola 2008

by Gaia Martuscelli  
Research and Development Office

Visitors to Verona's 108<sup>th</sup> Fieragricola reached a total of 140,000, a 4% increase over 2006, an important sign of the recovery and return of the sector and non-sector operators to the agro-livestock world. This year the international fair of mechanics, services, and products for agriculture and cattle breeding was able to count on an exhibition area of 80,000 square metres, almost 19% more than the previous editions, hosting 1,230

exhibitors, including 210 foreigners coming from 24 different countries.

The opening ceremony featured the presence of the Minister for Agricultural, Food, and Forestry Policies, Paolo De Castro, who stated that, according to the latest ICE (Institute for Foreign Trade) data, agro-food exports totalled a value of 24 billion euro, in spite of a strong euro that is braking flows abroad.

Fieragricola's role is a fundamental one, having become in recent years a point of reference for agriculture and cattle breeding in Italy and abroad, for the great dynamism and attention devoted to new opportunities in agriculture, such as bioenergies, "precision farming", and multifunctionality.

Precisely with regard to the various themes connected with the sector, 120



*Breeders and ANABIC technicians at Fieragricola 2008*

meetings and workshops were organized and held at the Fair Organization's Congress Centre.

Attention was focused in particular on bioenergies, devoting the entire Pavilion 3, with an exhibition area of around 7,000 square metres, to the exhibitors of energies from renewable sources in agriculture.

Like every year, Pavilion 9 hosted 750 head of cattle broken down among the various species and well coordinated by the Italian Breeders' Association with the Itallialleva mark. The Fair, in addition to hosting the 40<sup>th</sup> National Show of the Italian Brown breed and the Dairy Show for the Friesian breed, featured the appearance in an educational ring,

# Shows

created especially for the occasion and equipped with a maxi-screen, of numerous animals representing the various Nationals, where it was possible to present each breed accompanied by a technical comment. The ANABIC took part in the event, presenting 16 animals

representing the various breeds: Chianina, Marchigiana, Romagnola, and Maremmana. Unfortunately it was not possible to have representatives of the Podolica breed for health reasons that prevented them from being moved and handled.

*The animals present at the 108<sup>th</sup> Verona Fieragricola*

BREED	CATEGORY	NAME	REG. NO.	OWNER
Chianina	Heifer	Trotta	IT051990020629	Az. Vanni F.lli A.G.O.
Chianina	Cow	Orietta	IT051000021648	Az. Vanni F.lli A.G.O.
Chianina	Bull Calf	Sfuggito	IT051990019131	Az. Vanni F.lli A.G.O.
Chianina	Bull	Poldo	IT052000455423	Az. Vanni F.lli A.G.O.
Marchigiana	Cow	Rena	IT043990009235	Az. Agr. Mei di Mei Marco
Marchigiana	Bull	Ralf	IT044990005255	Az. Agr. Mei di Mei Marco
Marchigiana	Cow	Novella	IT042000033133	Az. Agr. Smargiassi Piero
Marchigiana	Calf	Telemaco	IT042990016354	Az. Agr. Smargiassi Piero
Marchigiana	Bull Calf	Socrate	IT042990007698	Az. Agr. Smargiassi Piero
Romagnola	Heifer	Serena	IT040990017633	Az. Agr. Stoppa Renato & C.
Romagnola	Cow	Nuvoletta	IT040500012918	Az. Agr. Stoppa Renato & C.
Romagnola	Bull Calf	Selvaggio	IT040990017297	Az. Mascheri Marinello & C.
Romagnola	Bull	Manso	IT039666669847	Az. Mascheri Marinello & C.
Maremmana	Heifer	Terilla	IT048990020211	Az. Agnolotti Donero
Maremmana	Cow	Quadriglia	IT053990022730	Az. Agnolotti Donero
Maremmana	Cow	Quisquilla	IT053990022725	Az. Agnolotti Donero
Maremmana	Calf	Tobia	IT048990020212	Az. Agnolotti Donero

The animals were ably handled in the ring by their breeders: the evergreen Ottorino Vanni for the Chianina, who has been an



*The ANABIC show team*

affectionate guest of the fair for 25 years now, Gilberto Mei and Piero Smargiassi, veterans of the Marchigiana breed shows, the inseparable Marinello Mascheri and Renato Stoppa for the Romagnola, and the delightful Donero Agnolotti for the Maremmana. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of them for their professionalism and the impeccable work done in the preparation of the animals, who appeared at their best, attracting the attention of numerous persons.

I would also like to mention the representatives of the other Nationals, with whom we share the long days spent on the fair grounds and discuss the activities of our associations: an

# Shows

affectionate salute goes to Luigi Roberti of ASSONAPA, Guido Garnerò and Mauro Molinero of ANABORAPI, Gianni Menta of ANAPRI, and Fulvio Rossignoli of ANACAITPR.

On Sunday, the customary procession of the animals in the centre ring closed the event, complete with a short technical-historical presentation of the breeds and applauded by a packed audience. Great

attention was devoted to the white beef breeds, which showed all the vigour, docility, and great charm typical of these breeds. The Fair was an important event for the promotion of and education on the Italian beef breeds, which captured the interest of many sector operators, and which we hope can be repeated in 2010, with the new appointment offered by the Verona Fieragricola.



*Nuvoletta and Manso, Romagnola Champions at Fieragricola*

# News tidbits

## Let's make sure we're ready before setting out on a trip!!!

by Emanuela Tesei  
Doctor Veterinary

Throughout its entire period in force, Directive 91/628/EEC, with its subsequent amendments, has played a fundamental role of reference for solving problems concerning animals' welfare during medium- and long-distance transport operations.

The constant reoccurrence of serious cases of mistreatment, suffering, and mortality of transported animals has made indispensable an evolution of the pertinent legislation, with substantial changes to the existing regulations.

On 5 January 2007, Council Regulation (EC) no. 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and the correlated operations took effect, modifying

Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) no. 1255/97, and



repealing Directive 91/628/CEE.

The regulation extends responsibility for the welfare of animals to all persons who

take part at any time during the process, including the operations preceding and following the actual transport. All parties concerned are obliged to supervise the compliance with the legislation during the operations falling under their responsibility.

This includes transporters (as in the preceding regulation), transport organizers and drivers, as well as the keepers of transported animals (personnel of the assembly centres, markets, slaughterhouses, and breeders). All operators and their personnel must receive adequate training. In particular, drivers and attendants must have a certificate of competence granted after a complete training on animal welfare during transport and sanctioned by the passing of an exam by an independent body designated by the competent authorities.

“No person shall drive, or act as an attendant on a road vehicle transporting domestic Equidae or domestic animals of bovine, ovine, caprine or porcine species or poultry unless he holds a certificate of competence pursuant to Article 17(2). The certificate of competence shall be made available to the competent authority when the animals are transported. (...)

Training courses shall be available for personnel of transporters and assembly centres...”

# News Tidbits

As a veterinarian, breed expert, and trainer of drivers and attendants, I would like to call your attention, dear readers, so that you will not travel unprepared and find yourselves victims of one of the numerous checks that will start being made officially in January 2008.

I recommend that you read carefully Regulation 1/2005, which can be found in its entirety on the Web

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:003:0001:0044:EN:PDF>

It is currently possible to take the courses and obtain the authorization for drivers and attendants necessary for transporting live animals at Assottravel in Passaggio di Bettona (Perugia).

The courses have been broken down into two separate types:

- a 6-hour course, plus final exam, for those who already hold the permit issued under Directive 91/628/EEC (scheduled for 21/12/2007);
- 12-hour course, plus final exam, for those who do not yet hold any authorization (scheduled for 11 and 12/1/2008).

For information, contact directly Assottravel, by e-mail to [info@caponicarlo.it](mailto:info@caponicarlo.it) or phone to +39(0)75 9869269.

The regulations are very clear: for journeys of over 65 km, transporters must obtain the authorization for drivers and attendants from the Member State in which they are "established or represented". In order to be granted the above-mentioned authorization, the applicant must give evidence that the necessary staff and equipment are available and that the adequate operational procedures have been implemented.

For long journeys (lasting more than eight hours), the applicant must also provide:

- specific documentation: certificates of competence for drivers and attendants, certificates of approval for the means of transport that will be used, details on the procedures used to trace and record the movements of the road vehicles under their responsibility, contingency plans in the event of emergencies;
- proof of use of a satellite navigation system, starting from 1 January 2007 for new vehicles and 2009 for all vehicles.

The above-said authorizations have a validity of five years, are in a standardized European format, and are registered in an electronic database accessible to the authorities of all Member States.

In the case of long journeys through several Member States, transporters must also have a journey log established by the transport organizer on the basis of a standardized form, and which contains various information on the journey (identification of the animals and persons handling them, places of departure and destination, checks carried out at various times throughout the transport, etc.).

The regulation envisages equipment of better quality on the transport vehicles, in particular a device for regulating temperature (mechanical ventilation, recording of temperature, alarm system in the driver's cab), a permanent possibility for watering the animals and improvement of the transport conditions on ships (ventilation, watering devices, approval systems, etc.).

It is prohibited to transport certain animals, such as very young ones (calves less than ten days old), unless the journey is shorter than 100 km.

The regulation also prohibits the transport of pregnant animals during the last

# News Tidbits

gestation stage and during the week after calving.

The provisions concerning the length of the route and the spaces provided for the animals remain unchanged from those of the previous regulation. As for the length of the transport, the regulation envisages different lengths depending on the type of animal, for example: unweaned animals, which receive milk (9 hours of travel, then an hour's rest for watering, then 9 hours of travel), bovines, ovines, and caprines (14 hours of travel, then an hour's rest for watering, then 14 hours of travel). The above-described sequences may be repeated if the animals are unloaded, fed, watered, and left to rest for at least 24 hours in an approved control post.

In my opinion, the regulation is very clear and precise, as is the regulation on the checks and penalties envisaged in the cases of non-compliance.

If you decide to make use of outside transporters, make sure they have all their documents in order before allowing them to start the journey, remembering to provide them with the old Form 4 guaranteeing the animals' state of health at the time of departure. Leave up to them all the duties having to do with



loading (their responsibility), stepping aside while supervising closely to guarantee the animal welfare that has inspired all managerial decisions made up to today in the chain of Italian beef producers to which you belong.

# News Tidbits

## South Africa's Minister of Agriculture visits the Anabich

by Bernardetta Sensi  
Secretariat of the direction

This past 16 and 17 November, the ANABIC received the welcome visit of a prestigious delegation from South Africa, made up of Agriculture Minister Ms. **Lulama Xingwana**, the South African Ambassador to Italy Mr. **Lenin Shope**, Mr. **Sibusiso Gamede**, special advisor to the Minister, Ms. **Noluthando Mantungwa**, personal assistant to the Minister, and the representatives of several important South African beef breeders' associations: Mr. **Matsepe Matlala**, President of the *NEFU - National African Farmers Union* and Mr. **Aggrey Mahanjana** of the *NERPO - National Emergent Red Meat Producers Organization*. The South African

delegation also included Ms. **Njabulo Nduli**, Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs of the South African Embassy, and Ms. **Loredana Federici**, personal assistant of the Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs.

After the welcoming address by ANABIC President Fausto Luchetti and Director Roberta Guarcini, the meeting continued with the presentation of the Association's activities by Francesco Filippini, head of the Research Office, and by Matteo Ridolfi, head of the Morphological Evaluations Office. Afterwards, the delegates visited the structures of the Genetic Centre, where they were able to admire a showing of the best animals of the Marchigiana, Chianina, and Romagnola breeds that had finished the

performance tests. Later the group, accompanied by Mr. Ridolfi, visited the Luchetti farm to admire the Chianina livestock, taking interest, in particular, in the breeding technology, the tourist farm activity, and the direct selling of the meat produced on the farm, elements that are particularly important and typical of the farm's management. Over lunch at the restaurant run by the Luchetti family, which also included the participation of



*The South African Delegation during their visit at the Luchetti's farm*

# News Tidbits

the Mayor of Collazzone, Alberto Borioli, who came to welcome the guests on behalf of the Municipal Administration, it was possible to enjoy a prized "Fiorentina" style steak, which was greatly appreciated by those present. The next day, again accompanied by Mr. Ridolfi, the South African delegation went to Gian Michele Graziani's "La Viola" farm in Ravenna, which has over 600 Romagnola dams, which have been joined, in recent years, by a group of Chianina cattle, as well as an intensive production of pheasants for hunting purposes, another distinctive characteristic of the farm's production. It should be remembered, in this regard, that Romagnola and Chianina cattle have been present in South Africa for over a decade already, and that contacts have been underway for some time between the South African breeders of the two breeds and the ANABIC. In fact, the visit is a natural consequence of the relations established between the ANABIC and the Republic of South Africa beginning in March 1995, the year when the first Romagnola animals were exported there. Since then, the ANABIC has gone to South Africa a number of times, where it was received and taken on a tour of the local farms by the Club of South African Romagnola breeders, one of whose most active promoters is Armando Balocco. In addition to the good level of the animals present, it was found that there is great confidence in the potentials of the breed, appreciated for its capacity for growth, confirmed by performance tests carried out on-site, the liveliness of the calves at birth, the speed of growth of the products of crosses with the native breeds, the muscle development, and the docility combined with a strong protective instinct toward the calf.

The South African breeders' great interest was also seen on the occasion of the World Congress of Beef Breeds, held in Gubbio in May 2005, at which the South African delegation was the most numerous one. Together with the breeders, there was also another government official, Mr. Ephraim Matiuda, with whom the hypothesis of South Africa's candidacy as the possible venue for the next World Congress was discussed. In 2006 and 2007, sizable quantities of Chianina embryos and semen were also exported, purchased by Mr. Christiaan de Jager, a breeder who took part in the World Congress and returned once again in 2007 to visit the Chianina Regional Show in Ponte a Tressa (Siena). Expressing her satisfaction over the reception and the visits to the farms, the Minister, Ms. Lulama Xingwana, warmly thanked the ANABIC for its courtesy and hospitality, stressing her intention to intensify the technical-economic relations between our two countries, also expressing the desire to return to Italy to deepen her knowledge of the white breeds and their breeding system.



*The visit of the South African guest to "La Viola" Romagnola Herd*

## Gratifying confirmations under the tree for the Christmas auctions

by Antonio Vagniluca  
ANABIC Genetic Centres

On 11, 12 and 13 December, the year-end auctions organized by the ANABIC were held with great enthusiasm at the Genetic Centre facilities.

The December auctions have by now come to be considered the end-of-the-season, or rather end-of-the-year, classics, and following tradition, they did not fail to surprise this year either.

In reality this is only a “gratifying” confirmation, considering the huge interest in the Italian beef breeds and the cattle-breeding system connected with the genetic improvement activity pursued for years by the National.

Numerous confirmations arrived with this latest 2007 auction, and they concern, in particular, various aspects regarding both the bull calves on the auction block and, in general, the large audience and numerous interested technicians that characterized these three ANABIC days.

Also to be pointed out is the splendid physical shape and presentation condition of the animals on the block, which received signs of approval from the great majority of those present.

Another positive confirmation comes from the prices reached by the bull calves which, even if without thrilling records, achieved decidedly important values

capable of enhancing the genetic potential.

As usual it was the Marchigiana breed that opened the auction cycle and, this time, featured a large group of extremely valid sires, which appeared in the best of shape in both muscles and dimensions, making the “Marchi” an enviable example of a breed with a formula both modern and future.

In fact, the majority of the animals expressed themselves best in their trunk length, skeletal correctness, and transverse diameters, characteristics which place it at the top of world beef breed rankings.



*Scudo, by Birbo, Top Price Marchigiana bull*

# Sales

Nine animals, five approved for A.I. and four for N.S., took turns in the ring and, among these was the Top Price fetcher



*Sarastro delle Querce, one of the highest Romagnola sellers*

**Scudo**, a vigorous son of Birbo with an ADG of almost 2,000 grams a day, won by the Zitti farm of Filottrano (Ancona) for €5,050. Extremely interesting in both dimensions and breed traits was **Sentinum**, a correct son of Mugello who, won for € 3,150 by the Conforti farm of Castelraimondo (Macerata), received numerous signs of approval from those

present. Among the animals qualified for N.S., **Sole**, an extremely correct son of Paestum of the Caucaso line, characterized by an ADG of 1,800 grams a day, was knocked down for € 3,700 by the Grilli farm of Castignano (Ascoli Piceno).

The next morning it was the Chianina's turn to show its value in the ring, and the results speak for themselves: not only was the average of the winning values of the previous auction confirmed, but the large public that participated contributed to the success of this breed.

Eleven sires passed through the ring on Wednesday, 12 December, and among all of them, the auction Top Price winner **Saturno Della Favorita** stood out for his correctness, muscle development, and extremely valid indexes, with an ADG of almost 2,000 grams a day. This vigorous animal, of the Priamo line out of Ammiraglio, coming from the Migni farm, was purchased for €6,650 by the Poggiovalle farm of Fabro (Terni).

Also noteworthy was the performance of **Saviter**, another son of Priamo out of Lento del Boccaccia, who "enchanted" the public with an ADG of 2,244 grams and a Bull Selection Index score of 143.0 points, purchased by Soc. Agricola Casa Bianca S. Agata of S. Agata di Mugello (Florence). Another highlight was the performance of another animal from the Migni farm, **Sobrio Della Favorita**, a splendid Mandrillo out of Falorno, who was won by the Fosco Mecherini farm of Bibbona (Livorno) for €5,500. Another noteworthy performance was that of **Serafino**, a vigorous and solid son of Lento del Boccaccia out of Nilo, who combined dimensions and muscle development with an impeccable skeletal structure. This last animal was sold to the

# Sales

Marcatili farm of Piombino (Livorno) for €4.550. The winter session of the auctions ended on Thursday, 13 December with the Romagnola breed which, in spite of the fact that the “line-up” featured only six animals, proved it could amply maintain the genetic value given in the catalogue, reaching high average knockdown values of €4,800. After an exciting hand-raising sequence, the auction’s Top Price was taken by the Silvio Russano farm of Strongoli (Crotone) with **Sharif**, a young and promising son of V.U. Ivanhoe out of Boy, who combined muscle development, breed traits, and considerable dimensions, thus combining salient traits of the breed with deeply rooted genealogies in the pedigree. Worthy of

note was the particularly appreciated performance of **Salerno Babini**, a vigorous son of Quotto out of Giosuè, purchased by the Cooperativa CTA of Premilcuore, and the fine return to auctions of the Renzo Scozzoli farm, which brilliantly won **Sarastro delle Querce** for € 5,700, another vigorous animal “produced” from the recovery of the old bloodlines, where the genealogy is characterized by Bandolero out of Ivan. Overall, the Christmas auctions confirmed the positive trend of the previous 2007 sessions and we would like to remind you of the appointments for the first auctions of 2008, which will be held on 18, 19 and 20 March 2008 at 10.30 a.m. at the Association’s Genetic Centre facilities.

*“Saturno della Favorita”, Top Price Chianina bull*



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