

# Country report

By Miranda Lysell, secretary of the Swedish Hereford Association

## **New options for Swedish breeders.**

### Lineage scoring of females

This year has seen impressive results at both our shows and performance testing station. More about that further down, but firstly there has been a breakthrough with regards to lineage scoring of females on farm. For many years now the bulls at the performance testing station have been lineage scored, but no females have been officially scored on farm until this year. The two officials who have carried out the scoring, Karin Karlsson and Johan Sandström from Växa Sweden, have been judging first calf cows in lactation. However, at our farm they tried even scoring a few older cows to see how they would do in the computer system. There has been some teething problems with the computer system in which the scores are entered, but it's a start anyway. The main problems have been that a cow that should land on EX 90 will only get VG 80. This is due to the fact that the program has been developed for bulls and a cow can never reach the same score for muscling as a bull. The next problem has been the scoring for teats and udder. The system can't work out the score yet, so all cows get scored automatically 80 for mammary. But it is exciting to follow the progress.

### More DNA tests available.

This year, all the Swedish AI sires were tested for the polled gene. Many of them were homozygous for the polled gene which means that 100% of the offspring will be born hornless. However, remember that the gene for scurs is a different gene. The status of them is in our brochure on the website, or ask me for one and I'll send a couple of copies to you. All the AI sires have also recently been tested for Hypotrichosis (hairlessness) and thankfully, all are free! This year breeders sending bulls to the test station have been offered the chance to test for the polled gene, and also for Hypotrichosis. The testing has been done by a company in Denmark. How many breeders have done this I am unsure of at the present time. Some breeders in Sweden have been testing cattle with known carriers of Hypotrichosis for a couple of years in Sweden, via the Canadian Hereford Association.

## **Record price for a bull... again!**

There has been yet again a new all-time high price set at the performance testing station! **534 Buck of Folkestorp** was named Best In Test and was the high seller from 167 bulls of 6 breeds. He had an average daily gain of 1942 gr/day, BW 42kg, WW 335kg YW 635kg and linear score Legs 91 Muscles 89 Body 76 total 87. He is a son of Golden-Oak Fusion 3S. He has the same dam as the Swedish AI sire, VB Ares of Folkestorp who was best in test Hereford 2014. His breeder is a new Hereford breeder, Eva Nilsson at Folkestorp Herefords. He was sold at the auction for 115.000SEK to the writer of this report and husband Einar Lysell at Bårarp Herefords.



534 Buck of Folkestorp.

From the approved bulls at the test station, Viking Genetics chose two as AI sires. These are **VB Laf of Stendala** and **VB Ozmo of Oden**. **Laf** had an average daily gain of 1831gr/day BW 35kg WW 317kg YW 612kg. Lineage score: Legs 82 muscles 84 body 86 and 85 in total. He is by an approved performance tested bull, 8420 Brus of Ingemanstorp and dam is by Nobel of Munka ET (by Otapawa Skymate). Proud breeder is Mats Roos of Stendala Herefords.



VB Laf of Stendala

The second bull chosen, **Ozmo of Oden** is bred by our oldest polled breeder who in fact imported the first polled bull ever to Sweden from England. I think many of the older readers here will know him? Mr Olle Larsson from Oden Herefords. Ozmo had an average daily gain of 1740gr/day. BW 46kg WW 274kg YW 571kg. His lineage score as follows: Legs 80 muscles 83 body 80 and total 82. His sire, 304 Bårarps Kasablanka was Grand Champion both times shown and sire of dam 247 Bårarps Jaguar was the All-time high seller in 2007 at the performance testing sale and he was also the sire of the year (called SIRE-Prize here) in 2013 and was Senior Champion both times shown.



VB Ozmo of Oden

### **Unbelievable show results!**

This year the Champion Hereford Female at both our shows have become Best In Show Beef Breed Female (or interbreed Champion)

#### Mila

At the Mila show in February, the number of Herefords was very disappointing... Due to a couple of breeders dropping because of different reasons, there were no more than seven Herefords... but approximately 60 cattle of five different beef breeds in total. However, the Champion Hereford

female was named Best In Show from all beef breeds! This is the third time in a row that a Hereford female has won the title. The female in question this time was 7370 **Bårarps Tracy CL** owned and bred by my daughter, 14 year old Christel Lysell. Tracy is by Square-D Diesel and dam, 1 ÄPH Tracy Trix who herself has been Reserve Champion Junior female. Tracy is born in January 2014.



7370 Bårarps Tracy CL

### Elmia

At our Elmia show in October looking at the champions of the other breeds in the ring I suddenly realised it was possible to do it again. And we did. This time the heifer was **158 Amory Diesel of Brunared P**. As her name suggests, she is a daughter of Square-D Diesel to, and maternal grandsire is a Swedish AI bull called VB Nokia of Fiskinge. Amory is born in February 2014 and proud owner/breeder is Lars Dahlqvist, who took over the well known Brunared herd after his father a few years ago. Lars and his wife were at the European Conference in Switzerland if any of you may recognise him.



158 Amory Diesel of Brunared



Origo Rocky.

I must mention that the Supreme Champion Hereford (best in breed) was Origo Rocky. He placed second in the Best in Show! He is by Star Tohon and owned by Nils-Åke Johansson, Svanaholm Herefords.

I hope to see many Hereford enthusiasts at the WHC in Uruguay. Until then take care!