

The BROUSSAUD Herd



Guy and Evelyne Broussaud live in **St Priest La Feuille (Lascoux, 23300)** in Creuse and have played a key role in the improvement of the Limousine breed. Through this interview you will learn a little more about their impressive herd and its history. Let's look back at their work...

JUNE 2015



After working for 40 years with the Limousine breed, Guy Broussaud relates the history of the herd he created on his own in 1974 when he was 18 y-o. He was joined by Evelyne, his wife, in 1981. Years after years they built one of the most notable herd of the Limousine breed.

The couple has now decided to retire and to sell the whole herd through an auction sale by KBS-Genetic on 31st August. After all these years Guy and Evelyne have deserved to rest, nonetheless their work will continue to exist through their carefully selected and bred animals.

In 40 years, Guy and Evelyne have built up one of the most remarkable herd of the Limousine breed

➤ How would you describe your herd management?

We are 2 on the farm as well as a part time employee (1day/week). We have 114ha of agricultural land in 3 different places.

We work with Herd-Book registered animals only. Concerning the management, the animals are outdoor most of the time. They are usually housed during winter time until mid-march.

(unless the winter is too rainy like this year). Inside they are fed with ad-libidum hay and grass silage. We have draining soils that would enable us to have the animals outdoors all year round, but it is often more convenient to have the animals inside (e.g. for treatments or sorting)

Most of the calvings are batched in autumn (70%) in the pastures that are closest to the farm.

Date to remember:

**31st August 2015
(St Priest La Feuille)**

Key Figures...

- 100-105 calvings/year
- 114ha of agricultural land
- Calving time: 70% in autumn (october-november), 30% between january and march



Dandy, 1st prize and championship prize at the national Limousine show in Limoges (2010)

Our main activity is the sale of livestock for reproduction. 50 to 60% of our bulls are sold after weaning or at 18 months of age. Most of our females are sold for herd renewal.

➤ **Can you tell us about the history of the herd?**

I started breeding when I was 18 (in 1974). I had 27 ha of land and a small herd of cows suited for producing veal calves. Right from the beginning I turned to animals registered in the Limousine Herd Book. For that purpose I bought some cows from the breeder for whom I had worked as a trainee

(Mr. Maurice Bourbon) and also with Jean-Luc Kress through the ELPA (one of the first breeders' group of the Limousine breed).

The herd size increased again in 1978, when I bought 12 cows from the De Blomac herd with J-L. Kress. This was really a major decision for the herd.

Evelyne joined me in 1981. This allowed us to increase the herd size again.

In 1987 we had 80ha of land for 80 cows. We decided to stop growing cereals and to focus only on grass production.

In 1994 we took over my father in law's farm (Mr. Gilbert Couturier) as well as half of his cattle. His herd was famous for its very good cows. As a result we reached a peak production of 140 calvings for 154 ha.

Starting from almost nothing, Guy and Evelyne increased the herd size fast during the first 20 years and reached 140 calvings in 1994!



➤➤ **« JOUEUR », most influent bull on the herd's genetics**

➤➤ With this workload we had to hire a full time employee. We continued at this pace until 2007. 1994 to 2005 were important years because we used new bulls such as JOUEUR or UDIN who both really stamped and improved the herd .

As none of my relatives or children were interested in breeding we decided to slow down from 2007. We gave up my father in law's farm (situated 16km from our farm) as well as 16 ha of land. That brings us to the current situation: 100 cows for 114ha of land.

➤ What are your main goals concerning breeding and selection?

My main selection criteria is morphology. I like working with heavy mixed type to mixed-breed type animals. Like all breeders I also look for very good maternal abilities.

However my criterias have changed a bit since 2002 . I joined the Polled Excellence group and started working with canadian semen and embryos imported by KBS.

It took some time but we finally got very good results. These polled bloodlines are still present in my herd today.

Currently 20 to 25% of the calves born on the farm are polled (either on their dam's or sire's side)

The « polled » gene is, in my opinion, the future of the Limousine breed. I wasn't convinced at first but 2 homozygous calves were born this year and they are

among the best of this years's calves.

However it is still crucial to focus on morphology and maternal qualities that are specific to the Limousine breed.



« NITOUCHE »: daughter of JOUEUR and DOROTHEE. The dam of many good females, one of whom made the top price at KBS auction « Prestige V »

The polled genetic is the future of the Limousine breed

➤ Concerning your partnership with KBS-Genetic?

We have to go back in time. I started working with Jean Luc Kress when I entered the ELPA (breeders' group) in 1978. I was very young and able to improve a lot on the genetic and commercial aspects. I kept on working with Jean-Luc and KBS-Genetic when it was created in 1998. This was really helpful for selling animals abroad but also to improve the selection on polled animals

I wasn't very used to shows back then because I didn't have time to prepare the animals and because I didn't think that it was useful. However, from 2003 onwards I started to take part in KBS auction sales (both as a seller and as a buyer), I had to train the animals selected for the sale, so I started taking them to shows too.



PAULETTE, daughter of JOUEUR. She is the dam of "FABLE" (sold to Wales), "BOUFFY" (sold to Lagautriere) and "APPOLON" (sold to Pimpin) but she also produced very nice heifers such as "TOUCHANTE" or "VICTOIRE"

I took part in a few national shows and local shows (in Creuse or Indre) with some satisfying results (e.g. with Dandy, page 2).

➤ Finally, a few words about the sale...

The whole herd is for sale. 80 animals will be offered for sale during an auction runned by KBS-Genetic. There will be approximatively 40 cows, 10 in-calf heifers, 14 yearling heifers and 17 calves.

Everybody is welcome to attend, especially all the breeders who have been my colleagues and also my friends throughout my life.

Genetic aspects

According to Guy, the bull that has most stamped the herd is « JOUEUR », purchased at Lanaud, a son of Vainqueur (from the Faye brothers' herd). He was a heavy mixed type bull who produced nice weaning bulls but also big mixed type cows with good maternal qualities (see « Nitouche » and « Paulette » on page 3). He was used for 4 years and was eventually sold to Spain.

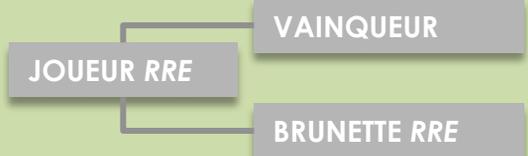
Another major bull for the herd was « UDIN ». Bought from Mr Dessalas (from Charente) at Prestige VI auction sale, he produced very good mixed type females with a wide pelvis and excellent maternal abilities. Udin was a son of Romarin (from Mr. Gaultier) and Finette, an Otan daughter, the famous KBS AI bull.

More recently Mr Broussaud gained even more recognition with « Dandy ». Born in Mr. Peryrot's Farm the bull won the first prize at the national show in Limoges in 2010 (as seen on page 2). He also produced outstanding breedy type females.



UDIN is a OTAN bloodline, he produced outstanding breedy type females

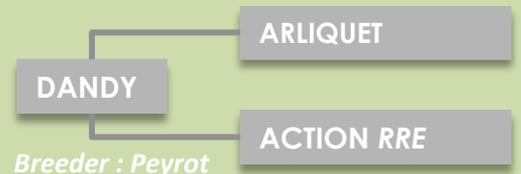
Généalogie des taureaux clés de l'élevage



Breeder: Lanaud



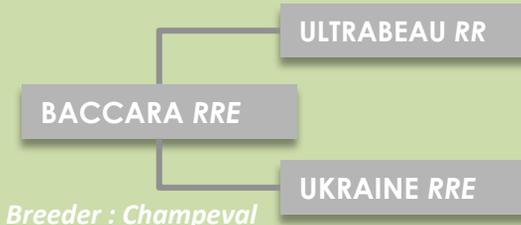
Breeder: Dessalas



Breeder: Peyrot



Breeder: Broussaud



Breeder: Champeval

Baccara was born in Champeval herd (In Corrèze). He is a qualified bull and was more beefy type than the other previously used. He brought a lot of muscle to his progeny. He also won a prize at the national Limousine show in 2011.

Concerning polled genetics, Mr Broussaud worked mainly with Clovis who was born on his farm. He is a son of the famous Ryde Uranos: a Danish bull bought by the Polled excellence group years ago. Afterwards he went to Mr Lesage's herd.

Among the animals that will be for sale you will find the following bloodlines: GALANT and HERCULE Z (from Mr. Zerger in Haute Vienne), DALTON (from Mr. Bourbouloux, in Corrèze), GAMAY (from Lagautrière, in Creuse), HULK (bought from Mr Demont at Prestige XVI) or HERTZ; a polled son of Clovis who was also born on Broussaud's farm.



Clovis: A polled bull born on farm (son of Ryde Uranos, from Danmark)

Program:

30 August: Visit of BROUSSAUD's herd (animals can be seen from 2pm)

31 August:

- ✓ 10am-1pm: Auction sale (1st part)
- ✓ Lunch
- ✓ 2:30pm-5pm: Auction (2nd Part)

More information about the auction to be found online. The catalogue will be posted in the coming weeks

www.kbs-genetic.com



EARL Broussaud (june 2015; St Priest La Feuille)

