

# Resilient and robust EBVs

A red pitch by Pietikäinen



**faba**

# Me, myself and my farm

- Janne Pietikäinen, 41, 6th generation of Järvenpää farm in Pielavesi
- Member of
  - Faba's body of delegates and dairy cattle breeding committee
  - VikingGenetics' Breed Ambassador Group (VikingRed)
  - VikingGenetics' Genetic Ambassador Group (VikingRed)
- Dairy farm with ~40 Ayrshire cows, 80 ha field, 80 ha forest
  - Herringbone milking parlour
  - 12-month production 11 647 kg ECM (9967-5,17-3,82)
  - 1,4 inseminations/calving, calving interval 380 days
  - 55 % of pregnancies born in 2025 were beef crosses
  - gNTM +10,8



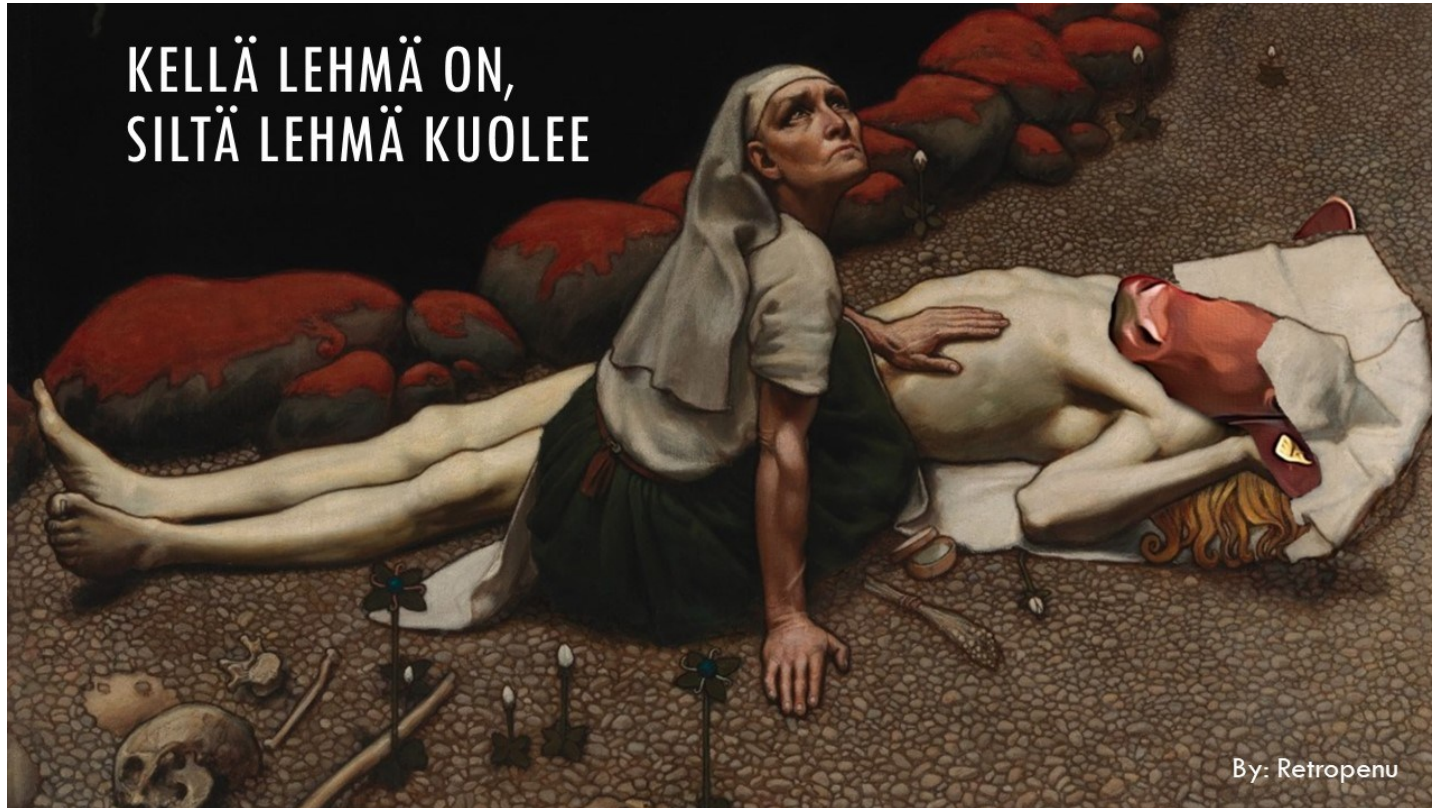
## Nordic EBVs

- Nordic countries are the only place in the world where the red breed shares the top position in economic bottom line
- Red cow's strength are the invisible traits, for which NAV is the forerunner in data registrations and EBV reliabilities
- Others want to be like us, so we need to level up to stay #1





# Cow survival / mortality



- Current longevity index describes the length of cow's herd life but not its final disposal site
- Cow survival index is needed
  - to improve animal welfare
  - to highlight the economical benefit of the red cow and the Nordic genetics in general
  - to win more earnings to farmer
  - to aid in minced meat shortage

# Reinforced resilience and robustness

- There are still untapped opportunities in health data
  - If cell count drops, did an udder quarter heal or was it dried off?
  - Mild spasticity, vaginal prolapses, retained placentas, etc. are currently not recorded if there hasn't been a treatment
  - Brix value for colostrum can now be registered in Finland but Brix or calves' treatment data are not used in health breeding yet
- EBE will develop new evaluation models in a few years → the time to discuss what registrations we need to collect is now

