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# ❖ THE ISCOWP NEWS ❖

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Volume 14 Issue 2

The International Society for Cow Protection

2004

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**T**his issue is primarily an update of ISCOWP activities. Since the last issue there has been much activity in developing the ISCOWP center. The goal has been to develop the center as a place that people can come to for training and knowledge of cow protection and related self sustaining skills. Although we have much yet to do for complete development, for the first time we officially opened the ISCOWP farm to guests by hosting the first annual Harvest Workshop. This is the beginning of more such workshops and seminars to be expanded and held in future years.

In these pages we honor the memory of Draupadi who recently past away and welcome Krishna and Balaram who have recently arrived after being saved from slaughter. We are honored to know and care for all these great souls in cow bodies. With your support we are able to continue this service. Thank you.

## First Annual Harvest Workshop September 4, 2004



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Krishna and Balaram Saved From Slaughter

# The International Society for Cow Protection, Inc. ISCOWP

## ISCOWP Profile

ISCOWP was incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., March 1990, as a non-profit educational organization. William and Irene Dove (Balabhadra das and Chayadevi dasi) are its managing directors. They are disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder Acharya of the International Society for Krsna Consciousness (ISKCON). Through their spiritual master's teachings, they have imbibed the practices and benefits, both spiritual and material, of lifetime cow protection.

ISCOWP's primary concern is to present alternatives to agricultural practices that support and depend upon the meat industry and industrialized, petroleum powered machinery. To this end, ISCOWP trains oxen (male cows or steers) to replace farm machinery and thereby show an alternative to their slaughter. The tenets of cow protection and ox-power are universal and nonsectarian, available to all regardless of race, creed, or nationality.

## ISCOWP Goals

- 1) To systematically educate all people in the practice of cow protection in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.
- 2) To bring the members of the Society together with each other, thus developing the idea within the members, and humanity at large, the great necessity and benefit of recognizing the cow as the mother who gives milk to the human society and the bull as the father whose labor in the field produces food for humanity in the form of grains and vegetables.
- 3) To teach and encourage peaceful dietary practices based on lacto-vegetarianism.
- 4) To establish branches of the International Society for Cow Protection Inc. and encourage any organization that complies with this charter.
- 5) To bring the members of society closer together for the purpose of teaching and establishing a simple agrarian lifestyle based on a cow-(wo)man-land relationship and utilizing the principle of cruelty free, lifetime protection toward all God's creatures, especially the cows and bulls.

6) To establish and maintain a traveling, educational program representing the relevance of the cows and bulls in society today.

7) With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, books and other writings.

8) To receive, administer and distribute funds and all other things necessary and proper in furtherance of the above stated purposes.

## ISCOWP Activities

### Cow Protection Seminars

Seminars are given in living classroom settings involving hands-on instruction at locations such as Russia, India, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, U.S.A. Traditional classroom educational settings are also available. If you wish to partake in such a seminar or wish to have one in your area, contact ISCOWP for seminar schedules.

### Training Teamsters and Oxen

Teamsters and oxen are trained worldwide either individually or in group settings. At Vrajapura Farm there are 6 trained ox teams available for the training of students. Contact ISCOWP for further information.

### Educational Materials

12 years in publication, the ISCOWP News informs its readers of cow protection activities worldwide. 10 years in existence, the ISKCON COM cow conference offers a forum for practical and philosophical discussions to over 80 members from 18 countries. Our web page offers a wide scope of information about cow protection. Various videos and literature are also available.

### ISCOWP Outreach

ISCOWP Travels to organizations worldwide interested or actively participating in cow protection for the purpose of establishing standards, presenting hands-on self-sufficient practices, and raising the awareness of the importance of cow protection. 5 years of travel with oxen throughout the United States' major cities and towns resulted in thousands of people receiving the message of cow protection and ox-power.

## Vrajapura Farm

ISCOWP's headquarters, consisting of 165 acres in West Virginia USA, provides a setting for seminars, hands-on instruction, ISCOWP's office, ox-power and life centered on the land and cows. At Vrajapura Farm, twenty-five cows and oxen are provided lifetime protection.

## ISKCON Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture

Since cow protection is an essential ingredient in the Krishna consciousness philosophy, in 1998, ISCOWP president William E. Dove (Balabhadra das) was appointed the ISKCON Minister for Cow Protection and Agriculture to advise and instruct ISKCON centers and devotees protecting cows.

## ISCOWP Contact

### To Give a Donation

All donations to ISCOWP within the USA are tax deductible. The tax number is 23-2604082.

### ISCOWP Mailing Address

ISCOWP

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### ISCOWP Phone

Phone: 1-304-843-1658

### ISCOWP Internet

ISCOWP@earthlink.net

ISCOWP@pamho.net

<http://www.iscownp.org>

cow@pamho.net (cow conference)

### ISCOWP 3x yr Newsletter

1) [http://www.iscownp.org/](http://www.iscownp.org/Membership%20Form.htm)

Membership%20Form.htm

2) Within USA \$21 check, Outside USA \$25 bank draft or money order to snail mail

### ISCOWP T-shirts, videos, info

1) Please inquire at above contact info.

2) <http://www.iscownp.org/T-Shirts.htm>

## ISCOWP Editors note

Details in non-editorial articles and quoted comments by those other than the editors do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the editors.

# Draupadi

We have some sad news to report. Draupadi, one of our most beloved cows, has passed away. Draupadi was fairly recently adopted by Mary Eshelman. Here is a letter from Balabhadra to Mary about Draupadi.

7/10/04

Dear Mary,

You are already aware that Draupadi has taken ill. When the vet came to check on her he could see that externally her lymph glands were swollen and to the side of her right eye there was a lump about the size of a swollen 1/2 dollar that he indicated was also common for her condition. He did an internal exam and said that a number of her organs were also infected with cancer. Among them were her lungs, uterus, and heart, to name a few. Because her lungs and heart were infected, it was causing her to have a hard time in her breathing.

The first evening (Monday) when she was not able to stand up, we managed to get her on a low sled and convey her to a flat area below the barn where she would be safe for the night. The hope was that after resting through the cool evening she would have the strength to again rise up in the morning and rejoin her herd mates. Unfortunately, in the morning she still was without the strength to get to her feet. At this time, we got the tractor and with five men we got

her back onto the sled and slowly took her up the hill to the barn. We have an area in the barn that we use for a hospital area. It is under roof and has large doors that open to allow for fresh air and sunshine. If the weather turns bad, we close the doors for the comfort of the cows.

Each day the rest of the herd came



DRAUPADI

to the barn and sat with Draupadi for several hours during the heat of the day. Draupadi kept trying to get up but was not able to as she was quite weak. I would check her every 3 or 4 hours during the day. The last check in the evening was at 10pm and the first check in the morning was 6am. She was getting a tablet called BHUTT every 12 hours, which is like an aspirin, and it helps with taking the edge off pain without being a narcotic or heavy painkiller. On each visit, she was offered water and hay. Sometimes she would eat and the hay was always

left in easy reach so she could nibble whenever she wanted. Sometimes she would drink between 3 and 6 gallons of water. However, she would usually only take a sip or two, which is a concern, as we did not want her to get dehydrated. We played nice music for her 24/7 during this time as well. During these visits we would clean up the area and when all the chores were done we would spend time with her, sometimes petting and stroking her and always talking to her and rubbing her

head. She still had the strength to remain in a sitting position as opposed to lying down. Sometimes I would kneel by the back of her neck and hug her and she would turn her head towards me and hug me next to her neck in return.

Yesterday (Friday 7/9/04) when I checked on her at 2:30pm she did not drink any water and she was not eating any hay either. We hugged again and when I came back at 5:30pm her head was down as if she was sleeping but she had

passed away. The vet said that there was a good chance that her heart would just give out as it was very infected with the cancer and she was having a hard time keeping up with maintaining her body's needs. I was very grateful that she had a quick and easy passing. She will be buried on the farm on Monday afternoon when the neighbor can bring his backhoe over.

When I used to milk Draupadi there were a number of families who would buy her milk. She was a favorite cow of all who knew her, well

**(Continued on page 15)**

# First Annual Harvest Workshop

**C**ity girls Visit the Country  
by Bhaktin Sara Bock

The first night we arrived at the farm I had to adjust to falling asleep to chirping crickets instead of zooming cars. In the morning, to step outside and see grass everywhere and happy cows was a joyful experience. "This is what the earth is supposed to look like," I thought. In such natural surroundings, I felt more myself. More creative and peaceful thoughts entered my mind and my energy was stronger.

Our hosts were selfless and giving. Lakshmi picked us up from the airport (a 2 hour drive each way!) and let us stay in her cozy home (built by the family themselves!) She also cooked delicious vegetarian meals using vegetables from their very own garden. Chayadevi and Balabhadra (and Rudra!) welcomed us warmly as we arrived at their self built home. They were very caring of our needs and patient as we adapted to country life.

The workshop began Saturday morning with a tour of the garden. I never knew that from one marigold flower one could gather hundreds? of seeds to grow more. I also never knew a zucchini could grow as big as the one I saw! I learned that volunteers are not people who come to help out in the garden, but plants that grow on their own. We saw and tasted varieties of tomatoes, asparagus, potatoes, bitter melon (that is an odd species), lettuce, and squash.

Then came the tough part - picking



**Top:** Jamie, Sara and Ginene help and learn how to make comfrey salve. Here they are holding the cheesecloth as Balabhadra places the mixture of comfrey and olive oil into the cheesecloth to drain.

**Bottom:** Balabhadra, Ginene, Bhakta Dave, Lakshmi, Sara and Jamie enjoy cutting tomatoes for drying as Balabhadra tells stories of his spiritual life in the Hare Krsna Movement. He was initiated by Srila Prabhupada in 1969. The dried tomatoes will be used as premiums for donors to ISCOWP.



the veggies. At that point us city girls had to rest! When it was time to eat the veggies for lunch our energy returned! How satisfying it was to eat such fresh and natural food cooked with love and devotion.

The canning workshop was fascinating. To be self sufficient, one must plan ahead for wintertime when the veggies do not grow. That means the family must can veggies to eat during wintertime. Lakshmi showed us how to can and even let some brave volunteers (people this time, not self growing plants) try it for themselves. Also interesting was the drying of vegetables. We cut tomatoes for a long time (it was fun as we all did it together!) and put them on sheets. The sheets went in the dehydrator and came out dried tomatoes. Then we bagged and sealed them. How thoughtful that the Dove family does this on a regular basis and sends the bags of dried tomatoes to the ISCOWP members.

Next on the agenda was learning how to make comfrey salve. I had no clue what comfrey salve was but it sure sounded like something from country life. It turned out to be a type of cream one can use on the skin for burns, itches, rashes, etc. Balabhadra taught us to make it. He mixed the ingredients of comfrey leaves, oil, and marigolds, let it sit overnight, and then simmered it until the beeswax melted and jarred it. We each got a jar as a gift. I gave some to my friend and her rash has since diminished.

Finally, we got a tour of the farm and my favorite part - the cows. The cows, when well cared for, are so happy and peaceful. It's just impossible not to love them. The Dove family is caring for 27 cows with as much love as parents give their children. It's a lot of work. It touches

one's heart to see people so dedicated to something without any ulterior or selfish motive. Seeing this living example of devotion in practice made me question the purpose of many activities I perform in my daily existence. It was very heart touching when



life. But on the farm, although the Doves work hard, life is somehow more peaceful, natural, and just how it's meant to be! Changes I made in my life since returning are taking better care of my health, planning on growing my own vegetables, and working on stopping the intake of dairy products as nearly all farms send their dairy cows to be slaughtered when they can no longer produce milk.

**Left:** *Bhakta Dave canning after watching the demonstration by Lakshmi.*

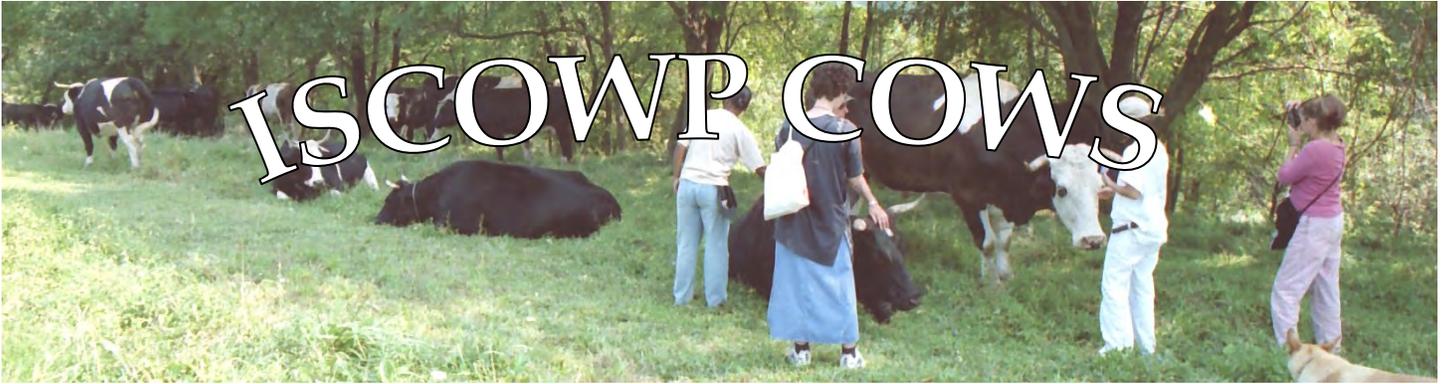
**Bottom:** *Bhaktin Sara visiting with her and her school's adopted cow Veda. Veda is usually shy, but he came right up to Sara to say hello.*



Veda, the cow which the school where I work has adopted, came right up to me. Chayadevi told me that he is usually shy to approach people. I wondered if this was a coincidence or the Lord in his heart directing him to me, the representative of his adopters. In any case, I felt special affection for him as he is our adopted "son".

Overall, I experienced an entire different way of living. I am accustomed to getting everything from convenient stores and living a super fast paced

The dove bird is a symbol of peace and the Dove family is a living example of inner peace. They were patient in educating us, tolerant of our city habits, giving, and honest. And the biggest impression on me was the fact that they started and continue this farm simply out of love for their spiritual teacher - I learned that love is not just something you say you have for someone but is shown by your practical work.



In springtime, Little Shyam was diagnosed to have a pinched nerve .in his hind quarters. Some other members of the herd have had the same condition and have managed to live with it for many years. We kept an eye on him and in late July, he was not following the herd up the hill to take shelter in the barn at the heat of the day. It was just too difficult for him to walk uphill. At that point, Chayadevi and the workers who were building the loafing shed, coaxed him up the hill and put him in an enclosed portion of the barn. A different diagnosis was reached after a different vet was called. Shyam's sacrum and hind legs were determined to be calcified and fused together. There is no cartilage there. The vet said that it was advanced and there is not much that can be done. Eventually he would not be able to stand up and he would deteriorate.

At first, he was very weak and did not move much. Then he seemed to gain strength. Everyday he received grain morning and evening plus hay and water. Then he seemed to get worse. We started to give homeopathy as instructed by Labangalatika dasi. The homeopathy has helped and now his condition is stable. The area we have him in is not far from a small pasture. On a cloudy day and in the evenings we walk him to the nearby pasture and he stays there for the day or evening. Then we bring him back to his apartment



where he can easily get water, grain, shelter and rest. We are not hoping to cure his condition but to make him as comfortable as possible for as long as possible. He is listening to Srila Prabhupada kirtan 24/7.

Nada dasi visited a petting Zoo in Pennsylvania and decided to save the two calves there from going to the

**Top:** Part of the Harvest Workshop crew visits the cows on pasture.

**Left:** Kirtiraja and Dhananjaya feed Krishna and Balaram their baby bottles.

**Bottom:** Bhaktin Jamie and Krishna exchange a sweet moment.



slaughterhouse as that is where the owner sends them when they are about 2-4 months old and have grown too big for the zoo. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, they arrived at the ISCOWP farm to begin their protected lives. Their names are Krsna and Balaram and they are beautiful Jersey bull calves.

Balabhadra is planning to train them as ISCOWP's new team. They are presently living in the barn apartment that Asha and Kamdhenu lived in last winter. They are a delight to all who visit them because they are friendly and beautiful.

Because of their young ages, they are still on bottles twice a day with a milk replacer. They have a grain mix of oats, corn and molasses that is being consumed at a rate of about 3 lbs per day between them. They also have a choice of 1<sup>st</sup> cutting hay or second cutting hay which hangs in hay bags in their feed area.

Krsna had a large scrape on his side when he arrived and that has cleared up completely with the help of comfrey salve. Their coats are a medium brown and getting to a nice condition. They are very frisky and like to race around their enclosure.

Krsna and Balarama are very affectionate and very alert and intelligent. They have a very close bond with each other and Balabhadra is watching them to see how they do things together to determine what side of the yoke each will be trained for working. When they come for their bottles Krsna is always on the side which would be the "off ox" position. Standing in front of them looking at their faces, Krsna would be on the left side. So most likely this will be the position in the yoke that he will be trained for working. This may change in the course of their initial training, but not likely.

The rest of the herd is fine. They are still roaming the pastures with plenty to eat on the green hillsides.



**Top:** Balabhadra is visiting with Vraja, the king of the herd, while Kalki, adopted by Jill Eisenbraun, is wondering who is behind the camera.

**Bottom:** Little Shyam has been having a hard time with his hind quarters. The allopathic vet said there was not much that could be done. We have been having some success with homeopathy in consultation with Labangalatika dasi. Nada dasi has adopted him and has been doing research on substances that can rebuild collagen. She will be sending us something soon and we will use it in the hope that the pads between the bones and vertebrae can be rebuilt.

The loafing shed is almost finished. This area became dangerous to the cows because of inadequate drainage which caused deep mud and potholes. It has developed into a nice barn where we can keep cows and oxen that are old and infirm. Especially during the winter months such cows need special accommodations to get through the cold months without any possible complications. It is on one side of this barn that we will place Shyam and on the other side where we will place Kamadhenu and Asha and a few old cows who normally stay with each other in the pasture.

Excavation began July 19, 2004 with the arrival of a small bulldozer. We had to dig down 24 inches to virgin



**Top:** The work site was excavated down to virgin soil and the new French drain was installed.

**Left Middle:** The French drain was covered with gravel.

**Right Middle:** The excavated site was then backfilled with shale.



soil in order to have a good solid base to work on. The bulldozer operator was an older gentleman who has been doing excavation work for forty years and was very expert. Within 4 hours, he had gotten down to virgin soil and pushed all of the manure and loose soil into a large pile by the silo. The rest of the first day was spent loading the double axel dump truck and hauling the manure to a different section of the farm where it was stock piled and will be spread on the fields and garden later in the fall.

The next procedure was to dig

**Right:** The support beams for the extended roof were put in place. Then wire mesh was placed over the shale as a reinforcement for the cement floor. A water hydrant was placed in the middle of the floor.

**Page 9 Top left:** Frank and Richie lay the cement floor.



# Loafing Shed Project

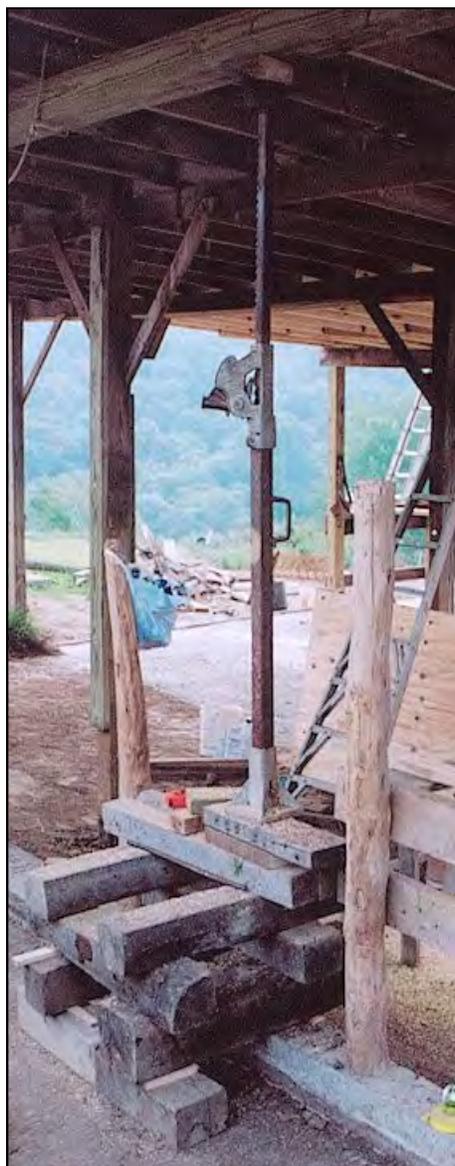


around the old section of the loafing shed and to remove the faulty French drain and replace it with a new French drain covered in gravel. On top of the gravel was placed a special fabric that will not let dirt get into the French drain and clog it up.

The third and fourth day was utilized in delivering shale and back filling what we had already excavated. We back filled a depth of 18 inches that leaves 6 inches for the cement slab that will bring us level with the existing cement floor.

July 23, 2004 we squared up the building site and located the points where the uprights will be placed. We drilled holes 3 feet deep for each of the uprights and proceeded to get the uprights in place and braced. We also removed the existing water station and rerouted the water line to where it will be located.

The next step was to build a perimeter form so that when we poured the cement floor it would be contained. After the perimeter form was made, we laid in place a heavy wire mesh that would act as reinforcement for the cement. After the wire mesh was in place, we were ready to pour the cement floor.



**Middle:** Three coal mine jacks were used to raise the roof.

**Top Right and Bottom:** After the roof was raised 30 inches the old roof and new roof meet each other. Filler blocks were measured and hammered in place where they were glued and nailed.



During these abovementioned steps the old tin siding was also removed from the back and side walls. This tin was used for the roof.

On August 9, we poured 20 yards of cement to give us a new floor for the

**(Continued on page 14)**

**A**mong the lush, green meadows and gently sloping hills of West Virginia, is nestled the grounds of Vrajapura Farm, where I received a much needed education in the finer points of organic gardening from William & Irene Dove (Balabhadra dasa & Chayadevi) along with their daughter, Lakshmi.

Upon discovering how much effort goes into cultivating such a resource, I realized the visions I'd had of growing my own food in the backyard were loftier than anticipated. I also found that if you can manage it, the benefits are enormously gratifying.



After a warm breakfast in Mother Chaya's bright kitchen, our group set out for a tour of the garden. Balabhadra instructed us in methods of cultivating everything from cilantro to squash; he taught us how and what to weed and made us all blink in disbelief at the potential of growing and selling seeds.

Row after row of tomatoes, peppers & beans lined the acre plot. A squash patch overflowed with perfect pumpkins, beautiful delicata squash and the most gigantic zucchini imaginable!

# Wealth From the Garden



**Top:** Bhaktin Sara and one of the huge zucchinis that when cooked taste great!

**Middle:** Cut up of zucchini, peppers and tomatoes for a canned vegetable preparation.

**Bottom:** Ginene and Balabhadra digging up Yukon Gold potatoes that grow in ISCOWP's garden and taste like butter.

Our quiet companion, Sara (1 of 2) held one up in the air in disbelief. There were rows of an unusual looking vegetable called bitter melon. Our adventurous Ginene learned the hard way where it got the name by taking a bite of one right there in the garden!. Asparagus, okra, chard, spinach and potatoes grew in abundance. A potato is a root vegetable, but I didn't know you could just dig them out of the ground like rocks!

It was time to roll up our sleeves and start picking! For myself, I picked an entire bushel of Roma tomatos...and that was just one row! By the time we were through, we had countless bushels and buckets full of produce. It occurred to me that this was only one of many harvests that take place in a season, which adds up to a staggering amount of food...the only question was, what were we going to do with all of it?

Fortunately, our hosts were ready for us back at the house. After a healthy lunch (served with fresh bread, compliments of Lakshmi), Mother Chaya took us to the root cellar where the preserved fruits and vegetables are stored. Shelves of jarred and dried food lined the walls. Dried? What a great idea! Drying vegetables and fruits to be used in everything from snacks to soups.

After clearing up the kitchen, we sat around the table with paring knives in hand to commence cut up. While listening to stories from each person, we sat and cut enough tomatos to fill 27 dehydrating trays (that's about 3000 slices!), which were then placed in the dehydrators. In the meantime, Lakshmi had prepared another bucket of tomatos for canning.

In the delicate art of canning, the way you preserve acidic foods, like tomatos, differs from the way non-acidic foods, like zucchini, are canned. Careful and exacting, everything has to be clean and sterile and even the



slightest little crack in a jar could wreak havoc! We listened intently as Lakshmi instructed us in how to transfer the hot glass jar from boiling water to table top, how to ensure all of the air bubbles are out of a batch before filling it to the lowest thread at the mouth of the jar, and the proper way to seal a filled jar. Frantically scribbling notes, we were certain to have it all memorized, and then came the test...it was the Vrajapura Farms Canning Olympics replete with peer judges, scoring and an announcer who served mostly to make us nervous. It was fantastic!

Ginene, Sara (1), Sara (2) & Dave, my companions (and Canning Olympics rivals), made the experience all the more enjoyable. It was by their curiosity that I learned so much.

This workshop was enlightening and such a joy! Far from discouraging me in my ambition to grow my own food, it more fully prepared me for the work that goes into planting, harvesting and maintaining an organic garden that will provide sustenance. Balabhadra, Mother Chaya and Lakshmi are experts at this and it was an honor to learn from them.

By Jamie Moran

**Top:** After cooking the cut up on the opposite page, the preparation is placed in glass jars. In this way we have canned for this year about 500 jars of tomato chunks, tomato, zucchini and pepper vegetable dish, a tomato, kale and pepper vegetable dish and tomato chutney with tomatillos (Mexican vegetable).

**Middle:** The jars are then placed in a pressure cooker.

**Bottom:** The finished jars are then placed out to cool and when you can hear a "pop" sound you know that the jars have sealed.

**F**rom: Samba.SDG@pamho.net  
Sent: Friday, Dec 26, 2003 3:24 PM  
To: Cow@pamho.net

Does anyone have the details of Rudolf Steiner's recipes for soil treatments?

I used to live in Bangalore, working with Abhirama prabhu and managing the Sri Mayapur master plan office. I joined a local group called Eco-net, and I attended a talk given by a foreigner on Biodynamics, so that aroused my interest.

I just got a cow horn from one of our deceased cows, and would really like to get the details of the preparation made by burying the dung stuffed horn in the ground.

How deep to bury it, for how long and by how much to dilute the essence once it is ready? How much land can be treated by one horn's worth of the preparation? The cow has been dead for almost two years now. So is that horn ok to use? The other preparations seemed to be much more complicated.

I wanted to bring something else up that is also related.

When the Biodynamic representative gave his talk, he described how Rudolph Steiner had discovered that the cows channel 'cosmic energy' (sounds really cosmic huh!) into the ground. He said that the horns are like antenna, and the internal structure of the horn is designed in such a way as it receives the energy that is then grounded through the hooves. I wondered where he got that from, how he worked it out. Is it found in the Vedas? I liked the sound of it, but of course one has doubts when one hears these things from non Vedic sources. I guess the cosmic energy could be compared to prana?

He said that it is this structure of the horn that helps to amplify and create a super potent soil additive.

Very interesting...although by itself maybe a little far fetched... (or so I thought). But this guy had a lot of evidence to show that these preparations, which incidentally have been used since the 1930's or 50's (as far as I remember), are very effective. When something has been around for so long, and considering that Waldorf schools are so well respected, then it seems prudent to take notice.

From: JC <jnk@blr.vsnl.net.in>  
To: Cow@pamho.net  
Date: 1/1/2004 6:00:06 AM

Well, our farm is biodynamic since 1998 and I am part of the Indian Biodynamic association, conducting training and research. If I understand your question clearly I can try to give some putins.

I am putting down in brief the different preparations of Steiner for the regeneration of soil activity which are usually followed by any Biodynamic farmer.

Steiner's basic concept is to enliven the earth/soil. He had a lot of experience with the European healing herbs and likewise the eastern farming wisdom. Many (not all) of the Biodynamic (BD) practices are parallel to the Vedic farming systems. Like the personality touch to the land, cosmic influence on land and plants (especially the moon influence), importance of cows in the farming systems, the holistic approach and the concept of vitality in food for the development of human thinking, feeling and willing process. I have found many similarities in the Thaitirya Upanishad and even in Bhagavatam. However, BD practices

show result in an organic farming system compared to the chemical system. BD is all about the balancing of the four different elements connected to plants - Light/air, water, heat and earth elements.

BD Preparation 500 (Cow Horn Manure)

Fresh cow manure (preferably from one fed on organic grass and fodder) filled in cow horns, buried under the ground, about 1 to 1.5 feet deep in winter and removed at spring time. By then the dung would have changed into rich humus. One need to use only 25 grams of this for an acre of land, after potencing the water by stirring which is similar to the making of homeopathic medicines. This is sprinkled over the land in the evenings at spring time and at autumn. It is supposed to improve the microbial and earth worm activity in the soil. Helps build the top soil.

BD Preparation 501 (cow silica)

Quartz crystals (silicon dioxide)- In India you get it along the banks of river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh)- is pulverized and filled in a cow horn, buried in the ground in the summer and removed in the autumn. The is a very powerful form of silica which can improve the photosynthetic ability of leaves when it is spread like a mist over the leaves at sun rise. Plants treated so can be quite free of fungal attacks and it improves the quality of fruits and grains. About one gram of this is sufficient for an acre crop.

BD Preparation 502

(Yarrow flowers- Achillea millifolium), 503 (Chamomile flowers- Matricaria chamomilla), 504 (Stinging Nettle leaves- Urtica dioica), 505 (Oak bark- Quercus robur), 506(Dandelion

flowers- Taraxacum officinale) and 507 (Valerian flower extract - Valeriana officinalis)

These preps are decomposed in certain organs of domestic animals and then added to the compost for soil regeneration. Each of these plants are supposed to bring in certain micro nutrients and the influence of certain planets and zodiacs into the soil. Lot of research has gone into these different preps and many microbes beneficial to the soil have been identified and more are yet to be identified.

We have had some good results with these systems. Of late I do have some apprehensions about the spread of BD farming as it involves the use of cow horns and a few other organs. I am not quite sure if we devotees can follow this system fully, and I would appreciate comments from some experienced devotees.

Of course we can use the standard Indian practice of using Panchagavya (the five products from cow), amrith pani- a decoction of honey, ghee and cow dung and also just milk is good enough to give a strong microbial activity for soil regeneration, provided you have moisture and a good soil cover.

It doesn't matter how long since the horn was removed from the cow, you can still use them as long as they are not damaged badly. Cow horns have a vital part to play in its digestion process and in receiving the cosmic influence into it which makes the cow an ideal farming companion with its complex microbial growth- the intestine. The cow horn even though removed from the cow still has some potency which is used to convert the cow dung in the buried horn into rich humus and to

draw into it the earth energy which is active below the ground in the winter season. This energy 'springs out' in the spring in the form of active growth - So I guess everything makes sense. You can notice that the tips of the cow horn has a filling where as the bulls horn is hollow right through.

*From: Syamasundara@pamho.net*  
*Sent: Thursday, Jan 01, 2004 10:10 PM*  
*To: Cow@pamho.net*

I am not sure it is right in saying that the bull horn is hollow right through. One of our bulls lost his horn and his inner horn was significantly smaller than the outer horn. Unfortunately we never found the outer horn and so I cannot say for sure but it seems that the outer horn must have had some filling in the tips much to the same degree as a cow.

Do you or others on this conference have any experience in this matter.

*From: JC <jnk@blr.vsnl.net.in>*  
*Date: Saturday, Jan 3, 2004 3:15 am*

As a BD practitioner I have to go through many horns - cows, bull, buffalo. You could tap the tips of the horns and you can make out the hollowness at the tips in case of the bull and the filling in the case of the cows horn. That is one way to differentiate but again the calving marks on the cows horn is very obvious. The filling at the tip of the horn is something surely to do with the reproductive activity of the cow and the milk generation. Someone once told me that the

cow eats green grass which is a nitrogen and protein material and it gives a calcium rich material called milk. So how does that happen?? - I am still wondering!!!

This must be due to the micro-floral growth in the digestive system and again the cosmic influence through the horns.

Lots of research has been done and it is an accepted fact that the urine and dung from a cow is better than that of the bull. This again will reflect on the digestive system and the filling in the horns of the cow.

Especially of a lactating cow - its very special. Even a chromatography done on a filter paper with silver nitrate shows better strength in cow manure compared to that of the bulls.

Many villagers allow their cows especially when it is in the later stages of its pregnancy, to walk around their land as they believe that their land becomes reactivated by the hoof prints of the cow. The relationship of cow to land is a very complex and unique one.

*This discussion is from the cow conference: cow@pamho.net. The cow conference has been in existence since 1993.*

# Cow Horns for Fertilizer

**(Continued from page 9)**  
**Loafing Shed Project**

expanded loafing shed. We started at 6a.m. so we would have advantage of the cool morning and we finished the pour at 1p.m. We had six men on the job that day as cement work is hard work and once the pour starts you only have a certain time period to get everything done before the cement sets.

During the pouring of the cement, another man was trenching a 400 ft. ditch from the edge of the loafing shed down to the closest gulch that already was the site of a natural spring. In this ditch was laid 4-inch PVC drainpipe that will carry the water from the French drain and gutters away from the loafing shed. After the 400 ft. of drainpipe was laid and connected, the ditch was covered with dirt and two major parts of the project were completed in the same day.

rough cut poplar and the nailers that the roofing tin is nailed to is 1x6x16 rough-cut poplar. After the new section of roof was framed up, the tin was put into place. We then had to change the pitch of the old roof to meet the pitch of the new roof. This meant that

hours and five men working very carefully to raise the old roof. When the old and new roof joined in the desired configuration, we cut 6x6 filler blocks and glued and nailed them in place so the 6x6 support beams were now going to hold the weight of the



**Top:** The hay storage deck is in place and walls are being framed.

**Left:** Harvest workshop guests inspecting hay storage area which now has a new tin roof, sliding door and siding.



The crew needed a couple of days off to fulfill other commitments which was good as the cement needed time to set up and cure before we could walk on it again.

The next phase was to frame up the roof. The rafters we used are 2x6x16

the back of the old roof needed to be jacked up 30 inches. We used three coalmine jacks and took the weight off the back of the roof. We then cut the 6x6 support posts freeing up the roof so it could be lifted in place. Inch by inch the roof was raised to meet the pitch of the new roof. It took 4 1/2

roof. After this was done the coal mine jacks were removed and the roof was solid and complete.

The shelter part was almost complete but we needed to add a section for hay storage so that the cows could be fed in this new barn through out the winter season. Almost at road level and 12 ft. from the back of the loafing shed, we laid 6x6x16 pressure treated beams. We then attached 2x6x12 ft pressure treated floor joist every 2 ft from the back of the shed to the 6x6x16 beams. After the floor joist were in 3/4 inch plywood was nailed down to give a floor space of 12 ft x 62 ft for hay storage. This area has also had sides added to it and a roof erected to give the loafing shed a very nice area for hay storage.

As of the writing of this letter most of the siding has been nailed in place. We used 1x6 inch rough-cut poplar boards. On the road side of the hay storage area an 8ft high by 12 ft. wide sliding door was built

We had ordered a 500-gallon cement tank that arrived on Sept 3. It took five men 2 hours to slide into place on pipes. Now the cows will have a nice water tank for cool clean water.

There are still a few things that need to be accomplished:

1) Electrical service needs to be established for lights and receptacles. In addition, a separate dedicated line needs to be run just for the water heater for the tank so the water will not freeze during the cold winter months.

2) The feed isle needs to be built so the cows can eat the hay but cannot get into the feed isle.

3) Three sets of gates need to be purchased and hung.

4) The siding needs finished.

5) The gutter needs hung and connected to the downspout.

6) Total clean up of the area so no construction material or nails are left behind to harm the cows

7) Bedding needs to be laid down for the comfort of the cows.

All of these things are scheduled to be accomplished by the end of September.

***(Continued from page 3)***  
***Draupadi***

appreciated, and loved. She would be classified as an "honest cow". This term means that whatever she ate was turned into milk and not fat. Whatever she took for her sustenance she kept only what she needed to maintain herself and the rest was given back in milk. Even when she was milking she

never was a fat cow but maintained a slender figure and pleasant loving demeanor. I looked forward to milking her in the afternoons. I would go and get her from pasture and bring her to the house or barn. She would get her grain and give her milk. It was a time of reflection for me as it would take about 20 minutes to hand milk her. I would be sitting next to her with my head resting on her side. No matter what time of year she always had such a wonderful fragrance, sweet and fresh as an early spring morning or what the air smells like during hay season.

Draupadi was a great soul and she will be greatly missed.

With great appreciation for your help in protecting the cows,

Sincerely, Balabhadra das (William E. Dove)

## ***Rudra Babaji the Garden Protector***

May, 2004

We went to the local pound to look for a replacement for Mela, our Akita/Shepard mix watchdog who protected our garden. Just the other day we found deer tracks in our garden. Nothing is large enough to eat yet but we took it as a warning. After observing the dogs available, we settled on a puppy of Collie/Shepard mix. He is now home and already barking at noises in the valley. He seems to be exceptional: intelligent, positive, alert, loyal, protective. Before coming to us, he had spent his whole life in a cage. You can imagine how happy he is to be able to have so much space to explore. Now we have to train him to chase the deer, not the cats or cows. He has not yet seen a groundhog. We named him Rudra, which

is another name for Lord Shiva who is the destroyer. We were thinking of him removing (destroying) the deer and ground hog population. Babaji is his middle name and means someone who dwells alone in one place, performing severe austerities and penance.

June 2004

Rudra is following in the footsteps of Mela. He barks at all the animals but not the cows or humans. He chases the deer and groundhogs and barks most of the night. We did not see deer footprints in the garden since he came but just the other day we saw that possibly rabbits ate the urd dahl. That part of the garden is far away from the house. Rudra is not tied up and can go where he likes but desires to stay near the house.

Late August, 2004

Rudra caught his first groundhog!



*Balabhadra and Rudra Babaji*



## THE ISCOWP NEWS

The International Society for Cow Protection  
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*Saved From the Slaughterhouse*

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