

ISCOWP® News



In Memory of Big Shyam

Emergency: Water for the Cows!, Swine Flu, Calf Keeping, Edible Seeds Crops, 2nd European Cow Conference, & more



WWW.ISCOWP.ORG



Dear ISCOWP Members,

This spring and summer has been full of activity at ISCOWP. Every farm experiences its busiest time during these seasons. Not only is there planting, harvesting, preserving of produce, cow care, and fencing, but in our case there is also conducting tours for guests desiring to understand and experience cow protection. The touring experience is a new one for us and we are learning how to improve it with each tour.

Big Shyam, one of our most beloved oxen passed away in July. He was an older ox, 14 years old, as is half of our herd. His sweet and affectionate nature will be missed

Please help us fix the barn water system breakdown (page 3) before winter when it will be most difficult to deal with. Thanking you in advance for your help,

Yours, Chayadevi

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ISCOWP Profile

The International Society for Cow Protection, Inc. (ISCOWP) was incorporated in the USA, March 1990, as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt 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 Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Through their spiritual master's teachings, they have imbibed the practices and benefits, both spiritual and material, of lifetime cow protection.

Cow protection means enabling cows to live out their natural lives with love and affection. The tenets of cow protection are universal and nonsectarian, available to all regardless of race, creed, or nationality.

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Donations and Financial Reports

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Editor's note

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The cows favorite watering tank is not working.

Emergency: Water for The Cows!

This winter the water system in the geriatric barn broke. We tried a temporary fix which also broke before the end of the winter. After all attempts proved ineffectual, we used a hose connected to the nearest frostless hydrant, about 200 feet away. Of course, using a hose in the dead of winter won't work because it will freeze. We were lucky that we started using the hose near the end of winter when the weather was not so severe. We knew at this point that we needed to dig up some of the system to find the problem in order to fix it.

During the winter and up until a month ago, Big Shyam was staying there and we did not want to do any work there until he passed away. Now, we can do the work without disturbing any of the cows. Of course, we need to do the work before this winter. Our plumber, Tejo das, has estimated it will be about \$1,500.

The cows favorite watering tank is also broken. It was built in 1964 and

over the years we have tried fixing it but each fix was only temporary. It leaks, is not level, and the on/off button doesn't work. If the tank does not turn off properly, the well is drained. We need to replace this system. This would involve taking

down the old tank, building a new tank, pouring a cement pad, and moving the water line. The estimate for this is \$5,000.

To prevent further problems and maintain the entire water system in all the barns, we need to do a 10 year maintenance of the system that would involve in part to rebuild all the frostless hydrants of which there are four. This would cost about \$1000. The purpose of the maintenance would be to prevent further damage to the present system that was built 13 years ago.

We are asking for your help to achieve a stable water system by winter. Please click this [link](#) to donate on the ISCOWP web page. With your help we can bring the water system up to a good standard of operation. Thank you very much for your help!

Geriatric Barn water	\$1,500.00
Old Water Tank	\$5,000.00
10 Year Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Total	\$7,500.00



Sri and Priya drinking from the geriatric barn's watering tank that is now not working.

Letters

Cow Dung Floors

From: "Noma Petroff" (Hare Krsna dasi)
npetroff@bowdoin.edu
To: "Cow (Protection and related issues)"
Cow@pamho.net
Cc: iscowp@earthlink.net
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2009 12:15 PM
Subject: Cow dung floors -- Applications and Advantages

Over the years, I've heard various things about cow dung floors, but can't remember them all. Two things I'm wondering:

1. How do you make a cow dung floor - are there any special techniques or tricks for getting the best result?
2. What are all the advantages of a cow dung floor?

From: Rosalie Malik (Labangalatika dasi)
mailto:rsllmalik60@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 12:55
To: Noma Petroff
Subject: Re: FW: Cow dung floors -- Applications and Advantages

For cow dung floors you need a good hard well beaten mud or earth floor. On top swish a thick mixture of cow dung and water with a broom, let it dry mostly and then beat it down till smooth and hard. Then apply again when almost dry and beat again till hard and smooth. Again apply the mixture of cow dung and water by hand smoothly and let dry.

The benefits are that insects and snakes will not come in the house. It is very antiseptic and clean. All you need to do is sweep it. You can again apply a fresh coating every week or 2 weeks.

From: "Hrimati (dd) ACBSP (Mayapur - IN)"
Hrimati.ACBSP@pamho.net
Cc: "Cow (Protection and related issues)"
Cow@pamho.net; "Alexander Petroff"
petroffwvi@gmail.com;
iscowp@earthlink.net;

Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2009 9:32 AM
Subject: RE: Cow dung floors -- Applications and Advantages

Here we mix the cow dung with a little mud and water and actually wipe it onto the floor or wall with an old cloth. It makes it very fine and smooth. In Mayapur we do it fresh every Ekadasi. During the week it only requires occasional touch up. The nice thing about cow dung floors is that they are very cool to stand and walk on. On the walls it serves as very good insulation against the hot summer sun.

Flowers from ISCOWP

From: Talitha Wachtelborn
To: iscowp@earthlink.net
Sent: Saturday, August 09, 2008 9:51
Subject: Hi from NYC
Thank you again for showing us around and introducing us to all your wonderful cows and oxen. It was really great to walk around with them. They each have their own special personality! Thank you also for showing us your garden and giving us the beautiful flowers and

vegetables. I've attached some pictures of Radha-Murlidhar wearing the garlands made with your generous gift. They look amazing! Thank you again. Greetings to your family, both two- and four-legged!

Your Magazine

From: "Kravos, Ted"
tedforex@yahoo.com
To: iscowp@earthlink.net
Subject: Dear Sir, your magazine
Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 4:23

You have been sending me your magazine on the ISCOWP cows for some time, a few years. I would like to keep getting the magazine. I could not donate these past years because of problems with being a student and finances through school. I should be coming into some money the next few months and can support and send donations when the money starts coming in.

I am starting to be a vegetarian now. I just had hard time changing my diet at first since I was new at the Krishna movement and never knew much



Forms of Krishna in NYC wearing garlands made from ISCOWP flowers.

about it until I went to a temple and then started feeling guilty about eating meat every time I got your magazine.

Edible Seed Crops

From: lorenz schaller

To: iscowp@earthlink.net

Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2009 2:08 PM

Subject: FW: Jan 30 & 31/International Seed Swap Day & Talk with Lorenz Schaller of the Kusa Seed Society

Dear Friends (William and Irene Dove),

Thank you for your precious work with the bovines!

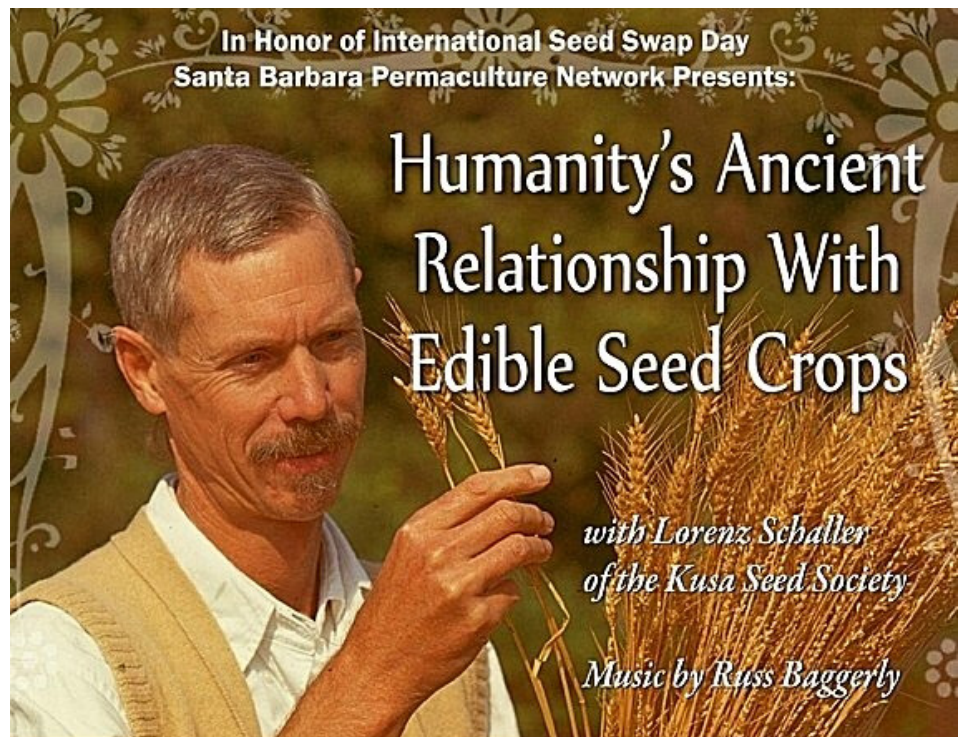
I have a public education event coming-up in Santa Barbara, Calif. and would like to place information about your organization (ISCOWP) on the table for people to take as free hand-outs. I will have tables with display information during the slideshow event, and if you can send me promotional materials on ISCOWP, I am eager to try and get those circulated. I can't promise that even one item will be taken home, but I will do my best to help people learn about your important work.

I am glad to pay the postage costs for shipping the material to me. If you have any questions you can telephone me at (805) 646-0772 or e-mail me. If it is not convenient for you to send materials, that's okay. I will still promote your work.

Love to you all, Lorenz

From the flyer for the event:

The precious edible seeds of the earth—the cereal grains, grain legumes, oil seeds and other precious edible seeds—have a history of small scale cultivation and utilization that dates back more than 10,000 years. Lorenz Schaller's work and the mission of the Kusa Seed Society is to increase humanity's knowledge and understand-



We met Lorenz when we traveled with the oxen in the early 90s.

ing of this very ancient relationship with edible seed crops.

Experience a colorful slideshow of humanity's relationship with sacred cereal grasses such as barley, amaranth, kamut, spelt, millet, oats, quinoa and other edible seed crops from around the world. Twenty years in the making, it is a pictorial tapestry woven from the threads of more than 400 international photo images of spectacular beauty from remote agricultural villages and fields in the Himalayan mountains of Asia; rugged Ladakh; the Kingdom of Bhutan; the Tibetan plateau; rural Korea; Turkey; India and many other lands.

From the Kusa Seed website:

www.ancientcerealgrains.org/

Seeds are living forms which require on-going detailed care. The Kusa Seed organization's work is an effort to assure the survival of many ancient, rare, and endangered edible seed crop strains. The focus is on seed crops whose grain can be used as staple food and which can also be saved as seed. The success of this work is dependent on the participation of those concerned.

We offer you the "real thing"; planting-seeds for edible seed crops. In the view of the Kusa Seed organization, the plants themselves are teachers. Enroll yourself in a "study course" at your own home! Simply invite one of our esteemed faculty members to come and grow at your place; you plant the seed and the "study course" will unfold before your eyes. Our faculty hail from the far corners of the earth's storied mountains, valleys, and plains — from Afghanistan; India; Iraq; Italy; Japan; Korea; Poland; Russia; Tibet and other places.

The Kusa Seed organization believes that the rare, hard-to-get cereal seed stocks listed in this catalog carry within them the potential of a personal and social renaissance, due to their uniquely desirable grain for human nutrition. All proceeds from the sale of seeds and literature go to further the work of the non-profit Kusa Seed Research Foundation. Purchasing seed or literature is a way of supporting the work of the Kusa Seed organization and expressing preference for natural-genetic-pattern (non-GMO) seeds for human nutrition.

Rethinking the Meat Guzzler- Staggering Facts About The Meat Industry

From: Chaitanya das
chaitanya.rns@gmail.com

Date: Wed, Apr 16, 2008 at 5:47 PM

Subject: Secret Information: The real taste
of meat.

Here are a few excerpts from a recent
New York Times article about the
effects of meat eating.

Click here for the full article:

[www.nytimes.com/2008/01/27/
weekinreview/27bittman.html?
_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/27/weekinreview/27bittman.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)

but hey, it still it tastes good, right?

Highlights from NYT article:

The world's total meat supply was 71
million tons in 1961. In 2007, it was
estimated to be 284 million tons.
Americans eat about the same amount



This feed lot in California can accommodate up to 100,000 head of cattle (photo by Gary Kazanjian for The New York Times)

of meat as we have for some time,
about eight ounces a day, roughly
twice the global average. At about 5
percent of the world's population, we
"process" (that is, grow and kill)
nearly 10 billion animals a year, more
than 15 percent of the world's total.

Rain forest depletion due to meat industry:

Just this week, the president of Brazil
announced emergency measures to

halt the burning and cutting of the
country's rain forests for crop and
grazing land. In the last five months
alone, the government says, 1,250
square miles were lost.

Land waste:

Growing meat (it's hard to use the
word "raising" when applied to
animals in factory farms) uses so
many resources that it's a challenge to
enumerate them all. But consider: an
estimated 30 percent of the earth's ice-
free land is directly or indirectly
involved in livestock production,
according to the United Nation's Food
and Agriculture Organization.

...And greenhouse gas machine:

This organization also estimates that
livestock production generates nearly
a fifth of the world's greenhouse
gases — more than transportation.

Better then a hybrid: (and cheaper too)

If Americans were to reduce meat
consumption by just 20 percent it
would be as if we all switched from a
standard sedan — a Camry, say — to
the ultra-efficient Prius.

Poor starving children:

Though some 800 million people on
the planet now suffer from hunger or
malnutrition, the majority of corn and

soy grown in the world feeds cattle,
pigs and chickens. About two to five
times more grain is required to
produce the same amount of calories
through livestock as through direct
grain consumption, according to
Rosamond Naylor, an associate
professor of economics at Stanford
University. It is as much as 10 times
more in the case of grain-fed beef in
the United States.

Good for water supply too:

The environmental impact of growing
so much grain for animal feed is
profound. Agriculture in the United
States — much of which now serves
the demand for meat — contributes to
nearly three-quarters of all water
quality problems in the nation's rivers
and streams, according to the
Environmental Protection Agency.

Antibiotics for flavor:

But it causes enough health problems
that administration of antibiotics is
routine, so much so that it can result
in antibiotic-resistant bacteria that
threaten the usefulness of medicines
that treat people.

Cancer, Anyone?

Those grain-fed animals, in turn, are
contributing to health problems
among the world's wealthier citizens
— heart disease, some types of cancer,
and diabetes to mention a few.

Plenty of Protein:

We each consume something like 110
grams of protein a day, about twice
the federal government's
recommended allowance.

Click the link to see the full article.
And please ask yourself: does it really
taste that good?

Funny thing is, the author isn't
vegetarian...



Big Shyam licking Balaram. He was huge teddy bear, affectionate to cows and humans.

In Memory of Big Shyam

Big Shyam passed away Wednesday night July 1, 2009 at approximately 10:15 PM. Balabhadra and I went to visit him at 8:30 PM and spent about a half an hour with him. We felt the end was near, but we were feeling that for some time. We left as we saw the Brahmans coming into the barn. We knew he would have companionship as they always sat near him to keep him company. Balabhadra went back about 10:15 PM and found he had passed away.

It was approximately 2 weeks since he could not walk. During that entire time he had Govardhan Sila looking over him from the hay loft above him, and Srila Prabhupada chanting continuously from a CD player. Chaitanya Bhagavat would sometimes place Govardhan Sila on his

head and give him water in a squirt bottle from several holy rivers in India. Big Shyam would take the squirt bottle in his mouth and with his teeth squeeze the bottle to get the water.

The babies (Brahmans) would sit next to him for hours at a time, sometimes licking him and he licking them in return. Soon after the babies came to the farm, Big Shyam was put in with them so he could have companionship and not have to traverse the hilly terrain. They all became fast friends.

Big Shyam had developed a hip and back leg problem in the fall of 2008. We discovered him limping and then brought him into the geriatric barn. The vet said he would either heal or get worse and there was nothing more he could do. Up until 2 weeks before his passing he was able to walk

somewhat, even pasturing on the private pasture connected to the geriatric barn. We had been giving him various homeopathy medicines that seemed to help and aspirin. He was lucky that he had the Brahmans as companions, which helped him accept his limited physical abilities. He was 14 years old and one of the older members of the herd.

Big Shyam was known for his huge size, (1 ton and 6 feet tall) and affectionate nature. He was like a huge teddy bear. Never was he pushy or aggressive, except when it was time for his grain, even though he could easily be so due to his size. A friend to all, Big Shyam will be missed.

He was adopted by Kirtana-rasa d., Beth, Clair Chaitanya, Nathan Kesava, and Oliver Rupa Mausert.

ISCOWP Update



Laughlin Memorial Chapel brought a group of young teens from Wheeling, West Virginia to learn about cow protection.

Since the last newsletter we have experienced spring and summer, both of which bring a lot of activity on the farm. This is typical on any farm and the farm residents are often overwhelmed with service to the animals and the land. Here is a report on these activities.

Cows

In early spring the weather remained cool and rainy, which produced lots of grass on the hillsides for the cows to eat. The weather was unusually cool but the cows loved it and the green, lush pastures. This is one of the most enjoyable times for cows. There are

hardly any flies and the fresh grass is such a delight after months of hay. When the cows are on pasture in the spring we like to clean the barns of all the bedding of manure and straw. This composted material is put on the gardens and fields.

The summer was short with hot weather consistently here only in August. There was plenty of grass from the rainy spring, but now it is very dry and the hillsides are turning brown. We hope to see rain soon.

Balabhadra showed Navawipa from MISCOWP a few pointers in ox training with Madhava who



Balabhadra is cutting tomatoes, placing them on the drying tray to dehydrate them in the dryers which are behind him. These are your favorite gift premiums. We also had a good crop of Corella (Bitter Melon) potatoes, beans, squash, cucumbers, carrots and beets. In the spring we had lettuce, spinach, sweet peas and more. We were able to dry enough for your premiums and sell some surplus. Lakshmi canned a lot last year of which we still have many jars. Next year we plan to can again.

remembered his commands after 6 months of no ox training activity. Madhava was also exemplary when a group of young teenagers came from the Laughlin Memorial Chapel. Even when the teens gave him the voice commands, he listened and followed them. A unique experience for teens from Wheeling, West Virginia.

For your gift premiums, we dehydrate the tomatoes, Corella and other produce that we grow and send it to you. The caption and picture on the previous page explains.

Staff
Chaitanaya Bhagavat became a part time member of the staff during the

spring and summer. Janardana das came to do a lot of the heavy work, like the fencing. James did the firewood and Ray is finishing our attic into the new ISCOWP office. Ray has helped with the cows in the winter.

Balabhadra has become the supervisor and instructor. He has been officially diagnosed with coronary artery disease, spinal stenosis, arthritis, and other bone degeneration in his knees and back which is not reversible in this case. The doctors advice is to stop all hard labor and physically slow down. This will help prevent any further critical health events and slow the degeneration. It has been a hard adjustment for him but with the addition of staff, he has been adjusting to the role of supervisor and educator instead of dynamo laborer.

Lakshmi is slowly recuperating from the pulmonary embolism, hypertension, emergency cesarean delivery, and her increased asthma. Also, now she has a baby to care for. She has been able to spend some time in the ISCOWP office doing the accounting



Since the last newsletter, Lakshmi had a baby, Balaji, on May 21.

Balabhadra and Chaitanya Bhagavat have been training the Brahmans. The first step was to get them use to wearing halters and having the lead ropes on them. Developing a relationship with them is important and one way is daily brushing. In the opposite picture, Chaitanya is brushing Sri who enjoys it immensely.

Garden

Although the weather has been enjoyable for the cows, it has not been good for the garden. The erratic changes in the weather make it difficult to grow a garden. Much of the produce needs heat and rain. Many farmers were not able to grow tomatoes, apples, and other produce. We got lucky and our tomatoes produced well. However; our apples and green peppers are practically non existent compared to last year.



Chaitanya Bhagavat, who has been training with Balabhadra on and off for several years, helped to begin training of the Brahmans. Here he is brushing Sri who enjoys it immensely. He is now in charge of the NV temple cow barn.



Jayanti, a cowherd from New Talavan Farm, came to visit the ISCOWP cows. Jayanti is not only a hands-on cowherd, but also the efficient record keeper of New Talavan's herd of 98. We discussed the rewards and obstacles of cow care,

work. Physically, she has to still take it easy compared to what she used to do.

ISCOWP Outreach

In groups of an average of three, approximately 75 guests have come to ISCOWP to visit the cows since spring. Kanti and Jack, members of ISCOWP, came to visit for a few days. They stayed in the cabin and had this to write about their experience: "Thank you so much for the opportunity to share your little corner of the spiritual world for a few days. These are the experiences we carry in our hearts while working day to day – the cows peacefully grazing on the ridge with the sun going down behind the hill. We appreciate the work and dedication you all put in to create this sheltering environment for the cows."

Rasikananda came to film Balabhadra and the cows for the film *Lost Village*. From the film's synopsis: *Lost Village* aims to explore that simple way of life that is crucial to the solution of ecological problems and social dilemmas. "Is that simple village life destined to die?" is the call of millions throughout the world.

The trailers, previous to Balabhadra's participation, are available at www.lostvillagemovie.com

Monoram and Radha Krishna, residents of the ISKCON farm in Hungary, came for a visit and appreciated the cows and atmosphere at the ISCOWP farm. They are traveling about to



Jos & Arjuna Einhorn came from California to see protected cows.



Guests came from Columbus, Ohio, Washington, DC, Gitanagari, Pennsylvania, Marietta, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida



After he read about ISCOWP in the BTG magazine, Vedant Trivedi told his mother that he would like to adopt a cow rather than have a birthday party. They adopted Amrita and here he is brushing her with his mother and sister brushing Sri and Priya.

describe and inform audiences about their progressive self-sufficient farm.

Every guest gets a hands-on experience whenever possible. Stephen Scanlon and daughter Lucy came just when the cows had broken out of their pasture and were on the road. They got to participate in a "round-up" with Balabhadra and were successful in herding the cows back where they belonged. Whitney Sanford, an assistant professor at the University of Florida, helped Balabhadra with farm chores around the farm and observed him train Madhava. Prema Vilasa das (Dr. Gupta) spent a day touring the ISCOWP cows and farm.

Part of the ISCOWP Outreach is to clean up the farm for touring guests. We now have a sign at the head of the lane so you, are guests, can find us. After a mile down the lane, there is a large sign that tells you that you have found ISCOWP. We thank my brother Henry for the original logo design that is very attractive on the sign. More signage is needed about the farm that we are presently working on.

The barns have been painted. What a difference some paint will make! Two old vehicles have been sold for junk and a significant area in the hay barn has been cleared to contain ox power implements sitting in various places throughout the farm.

Q & A: Calf Keeping

From: Sebastian Becher
To: iscowp@earthlink.net
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 7:33 AM
Subject: Calf keeping

Dear Balabhadra Prabhu.

Thanks for your encouragement. I will consider everything carefully and bring it into our cow protection program.

Regarding our new cow and calf, I have a small question. In the moment they are both together in a separate barn and they are fine. I would like to keep the calf for another week with the mother and then bring them to the other cows and oxen. Yasoda gives approximately 12 to 15 liters of milk a day. But when the calf - she got the name Bhumi - will grow she will need more milk. Right? What can I do to get our needed milk for temple and devotees and still keep them together? Bhumi is the only calf.

Thanks for your help.

Ys Sebastian

From: Iscowp
To: sebastian.rns ; wendashehata ; varnasrama.lok
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2008 9:16 AM
Subject: Re: Calf keeping

The first thing that is important for you to realize is that Yasoda's milk is for

baby Bhumi and what is left is for the Deities (worshipable forms of Lord Krishna in the temple) and then the devotees.

Generally if the mother is giving a lot of milk, 1 teat



Protected mother and calf at the Czech Farm.

or 1 quarter is given to the calf. If the mother is not a big milker then 2 teats or quarters are given to the baby for suckling. The health of the calf comes first.

Over feeding milk to the calf will cause "scours" or light colored diarrhea which is debilitating for the calf. So, it is a gentle and sensitive balance.

So for the consumption of milk by the devotees it will also be a balancing act as too who gets what milk products. Of course Lord

Narashinghadeva (form of Lord Krishna in the temple) will get some sweets and maybe yogurt in the summer and hot milk during the cold months. Maybe a little curd (milk curdled) in the Lord's

veggie preparations as supply allows.

The children and elderly can take milk first as well as pregnant and nursing mothers. The men can take milk last.

Srila Prabhupada said that milk should be drunk "sipping hot," not cold. In this way it goes to the brain to nourish it. The milk will simply turn to urine in the body if it is colder than "sipping hot." I was sitting next to Srila Prabhupada in Berkley, California when he said this.

Srila Prabhupada also said a cup in the morning, a cup in the evening is sufficient."

So, you have 1 calf who gets milk first according to health and growth needs.....the rest as I have explained.

Don't be afraid to turn Yasoda and Bhumi out with the rest of the animals. Everyone will accept Bhumi without a problem. With Yasoda there might be some positioning in the pecking order with the other bigger animals but this will quickly be established and everything will settle down.

When you do turn them out with the other animals stay with them for some time until everyone is settled into their herd positions and busy grazing again. I always turn new animals out with the herd when they are grazing, as the tongue will win out over fighting sooner than later.

I have included Wenda and Varnasrama Prabhu as receivers of this letter. Wenda is expert in many ways. Varnashrama Prabhu is the TP in Czech Republic farm and I consider him and the devotees in Czech farm as highly qualified in herd management and providers of loving devotional Krishna Conscious cow care.

I hope this has answered some of your questions.

Balabhadra das



Balabhadra and several of the cowherds at New Vraja Dham, in Hungary

2nd European Farm Conference

Balabhadra attended the second ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) European farm conference held at the ISKCON farm in Hungary in May. As ISKCON Minister for Cow Protection and Agriculture, Balabhadra was encouraged to see this conference continuing to encourage and network the European farms where cows are protected for their entire lifetimes. Next year's conference will be held in England at the Bhaktivedanta Manor.

As at the first conference last year, Gaura Sakti gave a fascinating tour of the farm operations at the New Vraja Dham farm in Hungary where the conference was held. One interesting new topic was the reed bed sewage system to accommodate the large and growing population of the farm, approximately 130 people at present.

The reed bed system is a series of shallow ponds which collect the water

from the houses and other buildings on the farm. In the beginning of the system is a collection tank which collects the solid waste and lets the water run to the ponds. The reeds in the ponds are like filters and collect

the impurities from the waste water. As the water goes from pond to pond it becomes cleaner and cleaner and after the last pond the water is considered to be pure enough to be released back into a stream or lake. At regular intervals the reeds will be cut as they will lose their capacity to absorb anymore waste. The reeds will again grow and become productive filters for purifying the waste water.

The system is in process of being connected to all of the buildings on the farm and should be up and running by the end of the summer.

There were several presentations made by the attending devotees. The farm in Czech Republic brought us up to date on their progress of working with the oxen and horses.

Three centers from Italy were represented, all with progressive reports.

Wenda Shehata, from Hugglits Farm in England, presented two topics. The first topic was cow care using Ayurvedic and Homeopathic methods. The second was utilization of cow manure in which she discussed the production of cow dung patties to support cow protection.



Sivarama Maharaja and some of the 32 devotees at the conference looking at reed beds.

All About You



ISCOWP members, Rupanuga and Jayanti

Ron and Norma Robinson grew up in the same rural community in Mississippi, and married shortly after Ron took his bachelor's degree in engineering, in 1968. After living for five years, first in Chattanooga, Tennessee, then in Knoxville, they bought a hillside farm about an hour's drive north of town. There, they lived simply in a three-room shanty on a hillside, complete with a spring, a wood heater, a wood cook stove, and an outhouse.

When they read an article in *The Mother Earth News* about the Hare Krishna community (New Vrindavan) in West Virginia, they decided to contact the community and find out more. A visit to New Vrindavan around 1974 convinced them that the community's lifestyle was a bit too restrictive for middle-class-kids-turned-hippies; so they returned to

Tennessee, but with an armload of books. It was the Bhagavad-gita As It Is that convinced them that they should return to the occupation and lifestyle for which their earlier lives had prepared them. By that time, their second child had made his appearance.

The regimen of an 8-to-5 job was difficult for Ron, after having spent three years as a free-wheeling, hippie-type back-to-the-lander. So, in his distress, he called out to Krishna to please send him some other devotees. Shortly after his furtive prayer, Ron and Norma met a couple in nearby Knoxville, who were to befriend them and encourage them in their newfound spiritual path. Jim and Barbara had just received first initiation from Srila Prahupada in a ceremony held at the Gita Nagari community, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and had been given the

names, Jivananda das and Bhakti-lata devi dasi.

Ron and Norma, taking first initiation from His Holiness Tamal Krishna Goswami Maharaj in October, 1980, and second initiation about a year later, became known as Rupanuga das and Jayanti devi dasi. They moved to Dallas, Texas, along with their friends Jivananda and Bhakti-lata. There a community founded in the early '70s was being re-constituted. Thus began the process of finding out what a Krishna-conscious community was all about. They helped to collect funds for purchasing over twenty adjacent properties, rebuilding the temple room of Sri Sri Radha-Kalachandji, and establishing Kalachandji's Restaurant, all in the early '80s.

returning to college (at the age of 51) to get a master's degree in Education, so that he could continue teaching, but this time, at the local colleges. Jayanti took seriously the request of her spiritual master to keep the gurukula alive. She became the administrator and one of the school's teachers.

Because they could not live in the country and participate in a cow protection program, they decided that they should at least provide some financial assistance to those who were doing so. Thus, they began sending monthly donations to Balabhadra and Chayadevi in 2002. During this past year, they also began helping to fund the cow protection program at New Talavan, the Hare Krishna farm in Mississippi.

Because they could not live in the country and participate in a cow protection program, they decided that they should at least provide some financial assistance to those who were doing so.

They never lost sight of their earlier goal of a self-sufficient, agricultural lifestyle; but because they could not abandon the project established by their guru, they had to sacrifice their desire for the tranquility of the countryside. Rupanuga found himself teaching for four years in the community gurukula (school), then

Now, with all five children grown and maintaining themselves, Rupanuga and Jayanti find themselves moving into the latter stage of life, still trying as best they can to serve the lotus feet of Their Lordships, Sri Sri Radha Kalachandji, and preparing for their next lifetime, hopefully, in the beautiful forest of Srimati Vrinda devi.

Swine Flu

Chand Prasad, Ph.D.

Wars and terrorism are just some of the karmic reactions that result from animal slaughter. It gets even worse. "The material world is itself a place always full of anxieties, and by encouraging animal slaughter the whole atmosphere becomes polluted more and more by war, pestilence, famine and many other unwanted calamities" [1]. Meat industries are helping to create pestilence in the form of numerous animal diseases that are infecting and killing humans. Seventy five percent of emerging diseases in humans are of animal origin [2], and humans are at risk of being killed in large numbers by cross-species transmission of illnesses between, pigs, humans, birds, and other animals.

Human society pays a high price for animal slaughter, based on the laws of karma. In the realm of material science, it is understood that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Actions have consequences. This is true on a gross level as well as on a subtle level, in the short run and in the long run. Violence begets violence. The laws of karma dictate that when a human unnecessarily causes violence and suffering to other living beings, the aggressor must experience equivalent violence and suffering - in the short run or in the future.

"In the Western countries such as America, many people proudly proclaim themselves to be most pious religionists and sometimes even prophets or representatives of God. Boasting of their religiosity, such foolish people experience no fear or doubt in cruelly slaughtering innumerable animals in

slaughterhouses or on hunting trips for their whimsical sense gratification. In the state of Mississippi there are sometimes pig-killing festivals, in which entire families enjoy watching a pig cruelly butchered before their eyes" [3].

Swine flu is the latest animal disease to receive widespread attention. Swine flu is a respiratory disease that usually affects pigs but is now infecting humans. Various flu viruses

already spread as far as New Zealand, and within one week it had been confirmed on five continents. Given travel patterns in the world today, and given that the disease is spread through casual contact, any time such threats are recognized, they already are beyond containment.

On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the threat alert to the highest level, and declared that swine flu is now classified as a pandemic or global epidemic. WHO is now recommending that flu vaccine makers begin producing swine flu vaccine. A key drug manufacturer, GlaxoSmithKline PLC, said they could commence large-scale production of

Meat industries are helping to create pestilence in the form of numerous animal diseases that are infecting and killing humans.

are widely present in humans, birds, and pigs, and they tend to be transmitted within and across these three species. Different viruses from different animals are capable of recombining to form new diseases that the human immune system does not quickly recognize or fight.

The situation becomes even more dangerous when the new hybrid flu strain can be transmitted from human to human through casual contact. Modern transportation flows mean that containment is virtually impossible, and hence the virus will spread faster than the news of the virus. Although it is not certain, swine flu may have originated in the Veracruz area of Mexico. From Mexico, the virus easily moved to new locations -- within two days of the Mexican government having issued a health alert, swine flu had

pandemic vaccine in July, but that it would take several months before large quantities would be available.

Why didn't WHO respond faster? There are 2 main explanations for why WHO is only now catching up with the facts. (1) The decision might have been made much earlier if WHO had more accurate information about the spread of swine flu through Europe. Indeed, the chief of WHO was forced to call an emergency meeting with flu experts due to the concerns that countries such as Britain were not accurately reporting their cases. The consensus from the meeting was that the true extent of swine flu was more widespread than what was being reported. (2) According to many health experts, WHO's pandemic declaration could have come weeks earlier, but the agency was hampered by politics. In May, a number of countries urged

WHO not to declare a pandemic — they feared it would cause social and economic turmoil.

WHO stated that "the virus is now unstoppable", but it also described the virus as "moderate", since most cases are mild and require no treatment. However, WHO's assessment may still be too optimistic, since about half of the people who have died from swine flu were previously young and healthy — people who are not usually susceptible to flu. Although flu viruses generally disappear with warm weather, the swine flu is proving to be resilient, and that is another cause for concern. Finally, the swine flu virus may mutate into a more lethal strain in the future, producing carnage equivalent to a major war.

Various countries are attempting to develop a coordinated response to these animal diseases, as they tend to spread from one part of the world to another. However, containment strategies are exceedingly difficult to implement in part because they depend critically on international collaboration. Detection, containment, and eradication mechanisms require cooperation from countries that possess neither the administrative structures nor the political will to enforce these measures. In addition, there is the immense logistical challenge regarding the distribution and effective administration of medications. With modern air transportation, diseases can spread globally in a matter of days or even hours, and it will be necessary to efficiently move anti-viral medications to areas where it is needed, in an environment that maintains its effectiveness. Detection and communication will inevitably lag behind the transmission of the disease.

Government planning commissions and task forces fail to recognize the value of following basic regulations that include vegetarianism. Instead,

health authorities have hastened to assure the public that eating pork is safe. The swine flu pandemic is not good for the profits of commercial livestock industries, and pork producers would prefer to give the disease a different name, such as H1N1. This rather obvious propaganda ploy does not change the fact that the disease is a product of industrial farm animal production.

"Organized slaughterhouses are ghastly places for breeding all kinds of material afflictions to society, country and the people in general" [1]. Indeed, industrial livestock farming systems are incubation centers for disease outbreaks. The best way of eliminating swine flu is to eradicate the "modern" meat industry. The swine flu pandemic is simply the latest piece of evidence that nature takes revenge for the unnecessary slaughter of animals.

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The full references for this article are available upon request.



During the sspring, Janardana learned how to build a fence line. Here he is splitting a log for fence posts.

Forest Bounty

One of the attractions to purchasing our farm was the sufficient acreage of forests. From these forests we can acquire wood for firewood to heat our buildings. The logs are gathered from our forest, hauled up to our farm area and there cut into the appropriate sizes for our two homes.

Another benefit of owning forest on your property is that fence posts can be obtained from select trees. The choice of wood for fence posts in this part of the country is locust. Locust fence posts, when allowed to dry properly, will outlast several applications of wire over the years. If the job is done correctly, the fence will be sturdy and will last as long as the posts don't rot away which could be as long as 50 to 75 years depending on the quality of the fence posts.

This summer we finished fixing the entire fence line except for a small part that has sticker bushes along it. These bushes create a real deterrent to any cows that contemplate pushing through the fence.

ISCOWP News

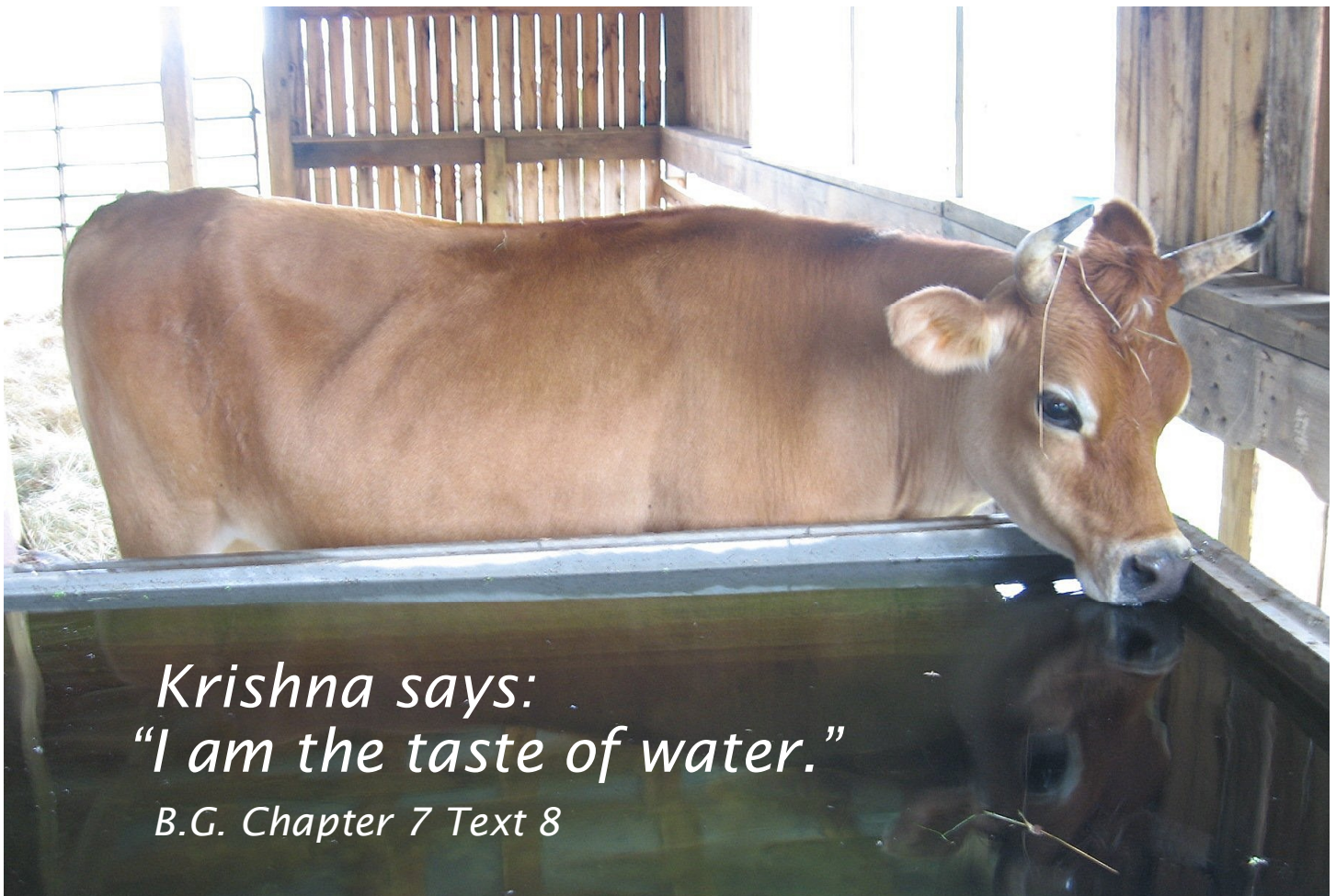
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*Krishna says:
"I am the taste of water."
B.G. Chapter 7 Text 8*