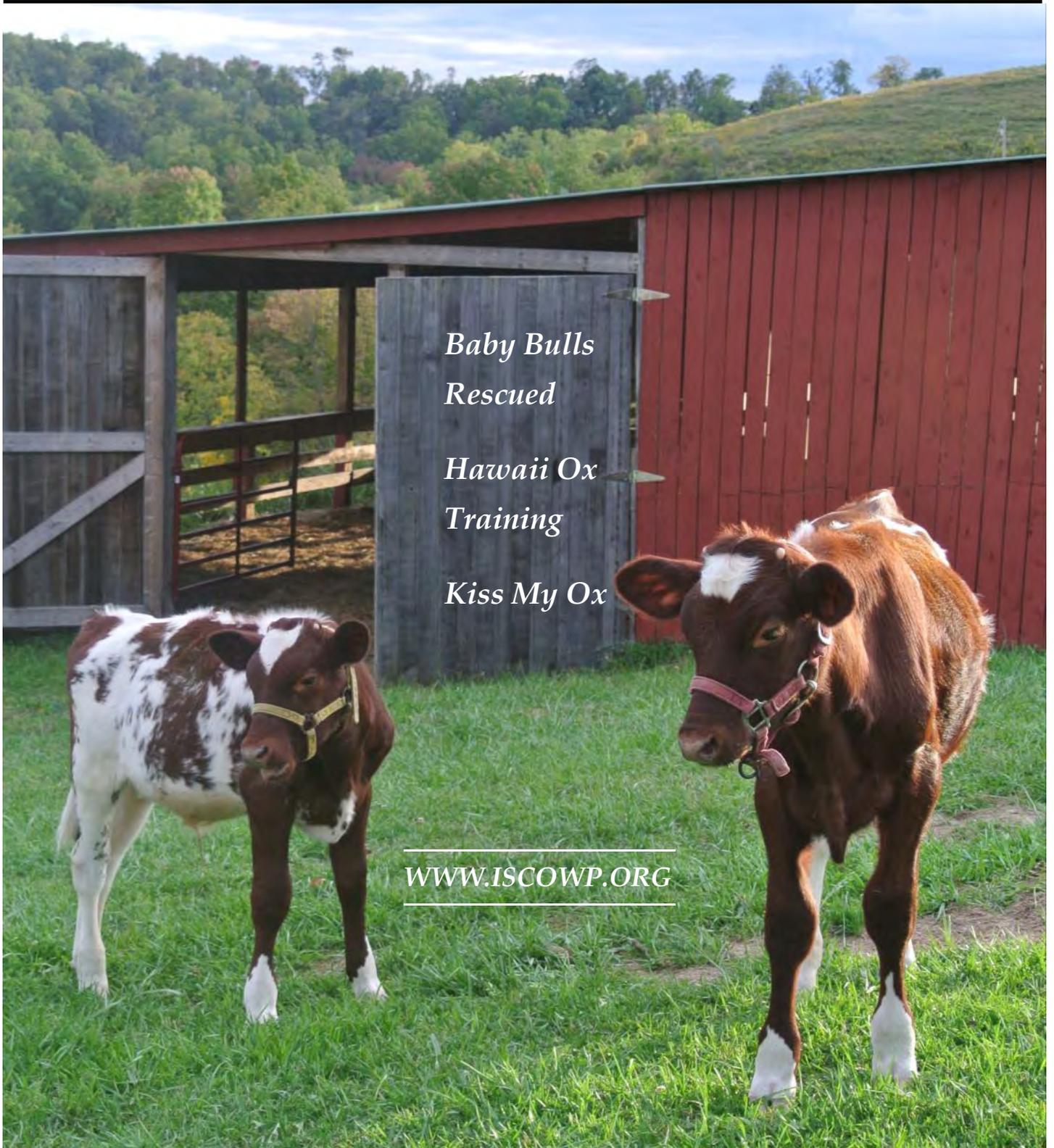


ISCOWP News



*Baby Bulls
Rescued*

*Hawaii Ox
Training*

Kiss My Ox

WWW.ISCOWP.ORG

Dear ISCOWP Members,



Aloha Friends,

We were able to teach ox training in Hawaii due to the sponsorship of LEAF Hawaii whose mission is to develop self-sufficiency based on the land and cows in Hawaii. We wish them all success!

A report on the success of the "Ganda Needs Your Help" campaign can be found in the "ISCOWP Update" article. Thank you so much for your help in making this campaign a success.

We have been blessed with the presence of Nara and Narayana, two bull calves we saved from slaughter on July 3rd. They are a delight for all of us here at ISCOWP and you can read their story in this issue.

In order to save more cows, we need to increase our pasture. Read about how you can help us do that on page 15 and please contribute what you can. Thank you!

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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Editor's note

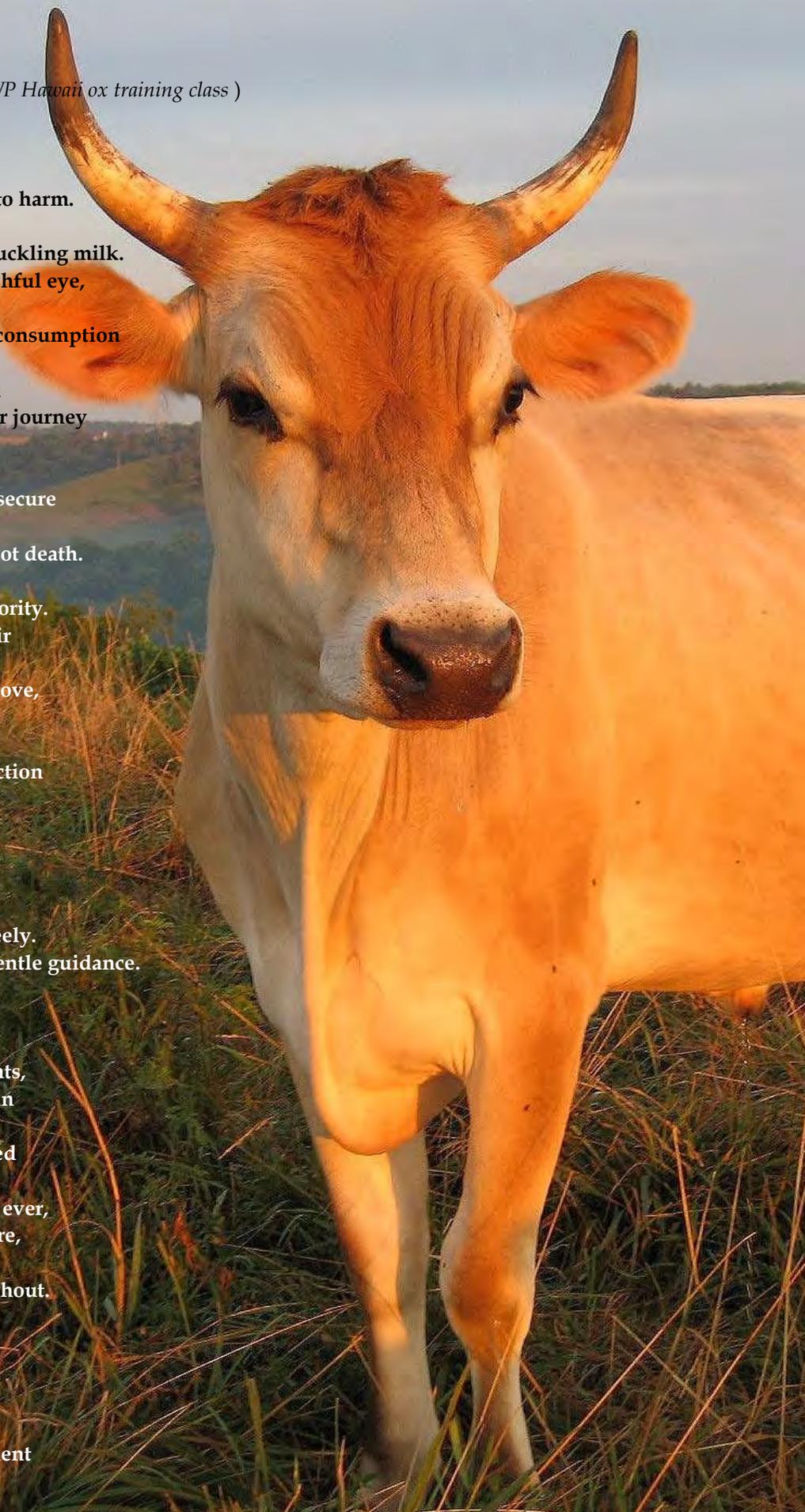
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KISS MY OX

By Sade Rusden (student at ISCOWP Hawaii ox training class)

You enter.
Lucky for you,
Your surrounding is not of one to harm.
Yet one who's land and care is
As sweet as your mothers rich suckling milk.
The humans that provide a watchful eye,
Keep your heart safe from those
Who lash out with violence for consumption
Of just careless satisfaction.
You see these humans that walk
Along with you throughout your journey
Of life,
As your friend.
One who will always keep you secure
In a haven of safety,
A place in which provides life not death.
For that trust,
You will surrender to their authority.
Recognizing you must obey their
commands and instructions.
With the training of those who love,
You crave for their praise,
And because of your obedience,
They will shower you with affection
That you deserve,
Young one,
With gentle eyes that sparkle
For more of a rub,
That,
They will give endlessly and freely.
You are trained with stern yet gentle guidance.
And because of it,
The land is nourished with you
Being alive.
The land drinks up your nutrients,
Creating more growth of green in
A serene environment.
Your friend and master is pleased
With your solid work.
Your heavily stronger now than ever,
With the strength of what you are,
Majestic and freely living,
Your help keeps flowing throughout.
You continue to give openly,
And for that they are grateful,
Forever thankful they will be,
Just as you are to them for
Giving you a life that could
Have been stolen from the moment
You were born.





Candrakanta and Shambu learning the command "Get Up" in Hilo, Hawaii.

In August, ISCOWP was commissioned by LEAF Hawaii to go to Hawaii to give a seminar on ox training. The seminar was part of an overall course on organic gardening and training people to be productive members of the agricultural community in Hawaii. I, (Balabhadra) was a main contributor to the curriculum development.

Different aspects of agriculture were brought to the attention of the fifteen students who participated in the class. Permaculture was the main subject matter covering seventy-two hours of classroom discussion. Site evaluation and preparation, choice of plants to be grown, recognizing local herbs and how to use them, bee keeping, seed saving, the importance of non GMO seeds, how to set up a farm stand for a farmers' market, ox training and animal husbandry specifically centered on the cows and oxen.

Unfortunately there were no oxen on the island of Oahu where we were giving the seminar. Our seminar consisted of mainly PowerPoint presentations and video footage of ISCOWP ox training and ox power in various parts of the world.

There was a young ox team on the Big Island of Hawaii but there were just too many loose ends in bringing them to Oahu. Halfway through the ox training seminar we had a break for a few days and flew over to the Big Island where the oxen were. There we gave four classes on basic ox training. We took video footage and photos to share with the seminar students on Oahu when we returned.

Candrakanta and her family have been living close to the land for many years maintaining and protecting cows. When Muni, a bull calf, was born Candrakanta thought, "What will we do with Muni since he cannot produce milk?" Her conclusion was that he should be trained so that he would be useful. Mangala,

ISCOWP Hawaii Ox Training



Balabhadra and Candrakanta teaching Muni to stand properly.

Candrakanta's mother, and family have provided a nice simple ox shed and training area next to their cow shed. It is there that we held the ox training classes.

About fifteen to twenty people came to the classes. Amongst the attendees were Cassandra and Clinton who owned a homestead nearby and had a cow who was soon to give birth. They were very interested due to the quandary of what can they do if a bull calf was born.

Gourangi Jones, a neighbor of Candrakanta's, was helping Candrakanta with the training of the two bull calves, Muni and Shambu. During the training classes she and Candrakanta were the main students. Because time was short, we needed to cover as much of the basic training as possible so when we left Candrakanta, Gourangi and the two

young oxen would have a better understanding about basic training and how to proceed with training the young oxen. The basic commands of "Get Up," "Whoa," "Gee" and "Haw" were taught to each of the oxen separately. When they had a good grasp of these basic commands then they were put in their yoke and again were given the basic commands.

Candrakanta and Gourangi did very well as did Shambu and Muni and everyone who attended were very happy to participate and learn more about cow protection and ox power. Videos of the ox training can be found on our ISCOWP 108 YouTube channel. Take a look!

Part of ISCOWP's visit to Hawaii was a lecture given by Balabhadra at the ISKCON temple's Sunday Love Feast in which he narrated a PowerPoint presentation, "So Many Reasons to

Love Cows." After the presentation there was a question and answer period. "Are using commercial dairy products in ISKCON temples and in our personal lives correct according to Shastra and compassionate Vaisnava living?" The discussion will soon be available at ISCOWP108 YouTube. Another class and discussion took place at Krsna das and Hemma dasi's home program. Devotees attended who were interested in living simply with cows on the land in a spiritual atmosphere. Balabhadra described and encouraged the practical and spiritual application of this desire. He feels that the original Hawaiian culture has many parallel lines with this lifestyle.

We wish to thank everyone on Oahu and the Big Island for hosting us, especially LEAF Hawaii for sponsoring the trip.



Balabhadra giving Candrakanta instructions on how to proceed with her team of oxen Shambu and Muni.



The extension on the hay barn which became completely full of hay by fall.

ISCOWP Update

Ganda Needs Your Help Campaign a Success!

In our last newsletter we explained how Ganda fell trying to get up the ramp to the barn and we asked you for help. Due to your help we were able to complete ramps for both entrances to the barn.

The first step in the project was to study the area where the ramp needed to be rerouted. When we figured out how the ramps were going to be rerouted, we hired a friend who had a small bulldozer and backhoe to come and do the work. The actual work with the bulldozer and backhoe took about a week. The next step was to set



Kalki leads Madhava, Kesava and Jahnava up the new ramp.

the forms in which the concrete would be poured into. That took several days. Part of setting the forms was adding gravel to give the forms a nice base for the concrete. Once the forms were set and the gravel applied, the next step was for the cement truck to come with the ready mixed concrete. We had estimated nine yards of concrete but when it was all said and done we needed ten yards. So, we were a yard short. We finished off the project with about forty sixty pound bags of concrete.

The ramps were situated in such a way that we could not get the concrete truck close to them. For the first ramp we built a shoot out of old tin roofing and for the second ramp we had to use the bucket on the backhoe. We would fill the backhoe bucket and transport it approximately sixty yards to the ramp where it was dumped and leveled. We were fortunate to have nice weather for the whole project.

Part of the "Ganda Needs Your Help Campaign" was to build an extension for the hay barn and to replace the leaking roof with new tin.

The old roof on the hay barn was salvaged tin roofing from a coal mine site. Once we had put it up, we were never able to patch all the leaks. The amount of hay that we use for the cows each winter is more than can fit under the hay barn roof. We decided to build an extension on the hay barn and at the same time replace the leaky hay barn roof with new roofing.

One of our neighbors is a dealer in tin roofing material. We ordered all the necessary tin to replace the old roof and to give a new roof to the extension. For the extension, we estimate that we would come out another 12 feet. The uprights we used were six inches by six inches by 20 feet long pressure treated poles. We ordered all of the other lumber for the extension from a local sawmill.

With the help of the backhoe and three men the extension went up gracefully. Once the extension was built its new roof was put in place. We then started to take off the old tin roof from the hay barn. We took off a section at a time and replaced it with new tin to protect the hay in the barn just in case a storm would present itself. Removing the old tin and replacing the new tin took four men four days.

Cows

The cows are very much enjoying entering and leaving the barns by using the ramps. It is so much easier for them, especially for the elder members of the herd. The upcoming winter and usually rainy spring will be the real test as to the functionality of the ramp and if there will need to be any additional improvements.

This summer was very hot and there were fewer flies than usual which was a very good thing for the cows. Now we are all enjoying the very comfortable weather of fall. This is a very pleasant time for the cows as it is for all of us. They are spending a lot of time out on pasture whereas in the summer they spent a lot of time in the barns when it was very hot. The way the barns are situated on the hill allows a breeze to go through the barns if the barn doors are opened.

Garden

The summer growing season was very hot with little rain. Also, there were more bugs as was predicted due to the previous warm winter. The result was that a lot of plants did not mature or produce. Also, the spring was very early and then the weather got cold again. This made the fruit trees blossom early and then the blossoms fell off due to the following cold weather. Hence, very little fruit was produced. However, the tomatoes did extremely well as did the chard, spinach, kale, tomatillos and peppers which are all still producing as of the writing of this newsletter.

This year was an especially good year for tomatoes. We grew four types of tomatoes, two slicing varieties and two types of Roma tomatoes. We canned tomato sauce, tomato chutney, tomatoes mixed with zucchini and sweet peppers and a preparation of tomatoes and Swiss chard.

During the peak of the garden, our three dehydrators were running day and night drying tomatoes and sweet peppers. We were also able to freeze a good quantity of kale, sweet peppers

and tomatoes. As of this writing, the garden is drawing to a close. We will still can a few more batches of tomato and Swiss chard, the rest of the sweet peppers will be either frozen or dehydrated, the beans will be picked for soup and several batches of comfrey salve will be made. Overall, the garden was a success this summer. With over 400 quarts of veggies canned, many five gallon buckets of veggies dehydrated and over a hundred quarts of veggies frozen.



The ISCOWP canning and drying operation.



Chard, spinach, cilantro and kale grow well in the front fall garden



Balabhadra and Balaji massaging and hugging Sri.

The Yoga of Cow Protection

By Hari-kirtana das at: <http://yogablog.hari-kirtana.com>

I spent last weekend in rural West Virginia. Although my main reason for going was to participate in the annual 24-Hour kirtan organized by my friends at Mantralogy, a trip to the New Vrindaban community always gives me a chance to visit our cow, Dwadasi. Of course, Dwadasi's not really our cow: we adopted her, which just means that we pay for her annual expenses. She's 14 years old, about twice the age that most cows live since cows are routinely slaughtered as soon as they are no longer producing milk, and therefore a profit, for the farmers that own them.

Old as she is, Dwadasi is hardly the eldest of the herd: the real old-timers are enjoying a happy retirement in what's called the "Geriatric Barn". Dwadasi and many other cows and

bulls are lovingly cared for by a wonderful family through their amazing organization, the International Society for Cow Protection (ISCOWP).

Although most of the cows and bulls on the farm are retired, there are also younger cows and bulls that are active members of the family, making their contribution to life on the farm according to their nature and ability. One of the younger cows, a beautiful white Brahman, was a small calf the first time we visited the farm. Two years later she's a gentle giant. And she has no fear of humans. She was happy to approach us as we walked towards her to pet her. Cows, when treated with kindness, are naturally affectionate, trusting, and cheerfully interact with humans. Except for

Dwadasi: she accepts her guests with polite indifference. Every cow has a distinct personality.

Since it's not possible to get cruelty-free dairy products from conventional sources, the folks who run the ISCOWP farm are vegans unless one of their cows has a calf, in which case they'll accept the mother cow's milk. Cows with a calf produce milk in amounts far greater than what is needed or really healthy for her calf and will offer an abundant supply of milk to the human members of her family.

It's easy enough to understand cow protection from the standpoint of yoga as an ethical philosophy: ahimsa requires us to refrain from violence against all living beings, not just human beings. But the first principle specific to cow protection in yoga philosophy is not really about cows; it's actually about the engagement of bulls for the production of grains.

A cow doesn't give milk unless she has a calf and half of all calves are bulls! And, as our friends at ISCOWP explain on their website:

"The expense of feeding the bulls will be a deficit to the farmer unless he realizes their potential for alternative energy by employing them in tilling the fields and hauling. Otherwise, the farmer, in most countries throughout the world, acquires his economic profit by selling them for meat either directly to the slaughterhouse, the meat industry's feedlots, or to the veal industry where he lives a short life crammed into a small crate not much bigger than him.

The modern system of agriculture does not realize the alternative energy potential of the bull calf nor the variety of useful bovine dung and urine products (fertilizers, compost, pest repellent, medicines, cleaning products, and biogas fuel to name just a few). Therefore, slaughtering becomes the only economically viable

means of management. Most people, accustomed to this viewpoint and seeing no alternative, will throw up their hands and agree, even if they prefer a less violent solution. This is only because they don't have the facts. They don't know that the overall value of the ox is greater when he is utilized for work than when he's slaughtered for meat, and even when not productive a cow or ox produces useful urine and dung."

An ideal social structure that supports the practice of yoga is one that's local and sustainable, one in which we eat food that grows where we live, one that's free from the many downsides of technology and industrialization such as polluting fossil fuels, poisonous pesticides and chemical fertilizers, and artificial economics that tilt the playing field against small, family farms. The protection of cows is not merely a religious sentiment nor is it just a matter of avoiding the bad karma associated with needlessly killing innocent animals: it's a means to secure the highest benefit for human society, both material and spiritual.

Comment by Tulasi-Priya

Posted June 22, 2012

So glad you addressed this, nice post. You mention an ideal social structure. That's a fine can of worms, whose ideal? Most people are not willing budge an inch from the status quo toward a lifestyle and an economy founded on cow protection instead of petroleum (and its bastard child, plastic). Which means we're going to be forced to change, sooner or later. What form will the change take? I fear it won't be pretty.

Reply by Hari-Kirtana

Posted June 24, 2012

Thanks for your comment, Tulasi-Priya. To answer your question, the Bhagavad Gita and other devotional yoga wisdom texts describe, in considerable detail, social structures

that promote progress on the path of yoga – that are oriented toward the quality of 'Goodness' and, ultimately, 'Transcendental Goodness' – and social structures that are antithetical to yoga (that are oriented toward the material qualities of 'Passion and Ignorance'. A global economy based on the consumption of petroleum and it's progeny is definitely a product of the modes of passion and ignorance and, as you rightly point out, people – meaning popular governments and their corporate partners – are not going to give up the petroleum paradigm until they are forced to. Eventually, but inevitably, they will be forced to because the status quo is not sustainable. The qualities of passion and ignorance lead to conflict and suffering: a local and sustainable socio-economic model based on cow protection will be the phoenix that rises from the ashes of the collapse of the status quo. And I agree: that collapse won't be pretty.

Comment by Dr. Vrinda Baxi

Posted July 10, 2012

Great posting... I have visited this blog for the first time but I would love to frequent waiting to see more of such postings. The very utterance of word "cow" made my ears prick

up. They are such a wonderful creation of the Lord! They are the manifestation of compassion and love. Every glorification falls short of their actual glorious selves. I have one cow named Surabhi in our house. She loves to get herself bedecked in different jewelry, necklaces, anklets, something on her horns... etc but everything should be done tastefully, lest it will be thrown by her. Further, since she is alone at the moment she loves to sit amidst everybody else in the family in the drawing room She waits for her first share after we make the offerings to the Lord. It is so fulfilling to serve her, but what kind of petroleum based lifestyle are we cultivating? It is totally artificial and non-sustainable. The cow cannot be happy without the bull. How can we be happy without dharma? Unless we change our plastic outlook we will be trapped in this mire of city life (non-Vedic life). Bhumi (Mother Earth) needs cows and bulls. Their happiness can ONLY bring happiness in our lives. A life style revolving round land, cows and Krishna.



Nara and Balaji are friends.

I AM SOMEONE, NOT SOMETHING



Stop stealing my milk and killing my children

The following article is an interesting and informative conversation that occurred on our Facebook page after submitting the above post from Umang Dasa's Facebook page.

Alok Avjeet: I really like the message. Very strong. If this won't hit people's hearts then nothing will.

Paula Blough: That's not even a dairy cow! Shows what the activists really know about agriculture. Nothing!

Vrajadhama Dasa: Actually Paula, the group "ISCOWP" who posted this runs a self-sustaining farm that has a team of experts in animal husbandry and has been protecting and utilizing these beautiful animals for decades. Please feel free to visit them on the web and learn more about proper care for animals.

Kurt Mausert: Paula--the word "agriculture" should have nothing to do with slaughtering animals, even though it has come to include that practice. The etymology of the word is

as follows: "mid-15c., from L.L. agricultura "cultivation of the land," compound of agri cultura "cultivation of land," from agri, gen. of ager "a field" (see acre) + cultura "cultivation" (see culture). In Old English, the idea was expressed by eorðt (On-Line Etymology Dictionary).

You find fault with the animal in the poster not being a dairy cow, but you and those in the business of killing animals for a living have coopted and misused the word "agriculture" and perverted its meaning. It should mean to grow plants...to give life. It should never have come to include killing animals.

The point of this poster and ISCOWP's work is to give the message that unnecessary violence and killing is not a good thing. As for what ISCOWP knows, they have been

teaching methods of farming by using ox power for several decades. In many places, this has become a lost art and ISCOWP is helping to revive traditional skills that free farmers from dependency on oil and machines. Check out their website and you may be surprised. Let go of your fear of activists. It will close you off to some good stuff.

Paula Blough: We'll have to agree to disagree because you are not changing my mind, and I'll probably not change yours either. Just know that we share a common love for cows even if we show it in different ways.

You can even ask my 4 year old Holstein steer. He'll tell how much he loves eating grass and getting his daily rubbings especially in those hard to reach spots.

Vrajadhama Dasa: And do your cows love it when you hit them with a stun gun, bleed them and cut them into pieces?

Paula Blough: That has never happened and will never happen to my cow. You have no argument.

Paula Blough: I'd like to know what happens to the cows at ISCOWP. Do they die naturally or are they euthanized?

Paula Blough: Question for you Vrajadhama. Who loves death? I don't think anyone does. Yet there comes a time when every living thing must die. No one loves it, but it still must happen. Welcome to reality.

Kurt Mausert: I lived with Brown Swiss on the Hare Krishna farm in PA. They were friendly and very sweet. I am humbly asking you to consider that love should show by protecting the creatures that you feel that emotion for. I miss my Swiss!

Alok Avjeet: Paula is there anything called dairy and non-dairy cow? For me she is a cow, a living being and

wanting to live and enjoy the life as much as humans want. The reality which you are talking about is a hell created by humans for them. It's in our hands to change it, if we are willing.

Paula Blough: Alok, there are dairy cows and there are beef cows (and a few dual-purpose breeds). I am pointing out the inaccuracies of this photo. Beef and dairy cows are raised very differently. Beef cow's milk is not "stolen". All of her milk goes to her baby. I don't like how this photo is confusing the types of cattle. It gives the wrong picture. Cause beef cows are the ones out in the pasture with their calves. Dairy cows are the ones who have their calves taken away at a very young age.

Alok Avjeet: Paula, thank you for the detail. However I feel the importance of the message here is stop abusing animals in general just for the purpose of our food pleasure. It doesn't matter if the picture is of dairy or a beef cow. I would say this holds true for any animal. Why kill somebody just because we like their meat?

Vrajadhama Dasa : Yes Paula, death is a guarantee for everything that lives in this material world. It is not our business to cause suffering to any of our fellow living beings, therefore it is best to utilize the natural qualities of the cow to produce milk and milk products and for the ox to work the land. Also we can utilize the dung for fuel; there are so many wonderful qualities these animals share with us.

Please consider becoming a vegetarian and helping to save the lives of so many innocent animals and to relieve the suffering on this planet. You obviously have love for these animals, please help to protect them.

Balabhadra: Hello Paula Blough, thank you for your concerns. Yes, you are correct, the cow in the photo is a beef breed making the photo inaccurate for the words. However, in

this day and age the cattle industry is all about raising cattle for the sole purpose of killing them and in so doing making an economic profit on cruelty and violence. A society which is basing its food supply on cruelty and violence will find itself involved in war and also experience violent death amongst its members in automobile accidents, murders in its cities and other forms of violent death. This is the law of karma... violence begets violence.

The word "agriculture" should have nothing to do with slaughtering animals, even though it has come to include that practice. The etymology of the word is as follows: "mid-15c., from L.L. agricultura "cultivation of the land," from agri, gen. of ager "a field" (see acre) + cultura "cultivation" (see culture). (On-Line Etymology Dictionary).

Kurt Mausert (Kirtana-rasa)

At ISCOWP we do not put any of our animals down. They are allowed to live out their natural lives till God deems it time for them to change bodies. There is only one person who can give life and that is God. Man cannot give life; therefore he has no right to take another living entity's life. The taking of life is solely under the jurisdiction of God. This is also one of the commandments in the Bible, "Thou shall not kill." This is for all forms of life. "Thou shall not kill," does not mean just for humans killing humans, but applies to the killing of any living entity by another living entity.

Your big beautiful ox is a gentle majestic soul and I know that if he were taken from you and murdered it would simply break your heart. Didn't you have another ox who was taken from you and sent to the slaughterhouse and your heart was

broken then? Working with these big majestic animals we develop a heart connection with them. At ISCOWP, over the last 17 years, we have personally protected 24 cows/oxen from going to the slaughterhouse. We cared for them in good health and in sickness. When they were down they were treated with kindness and love/respect, just as we would any family member. In essence we spent a lifetime together and worked side by side, shoulder to shoulder to feed our family and theirs.

Balabhadra: The American people have such a huge disconnect from their food chain. As Kurt Mausert mentioned earlier, the term agriculture is a term which refers to cultivating life from the land. The term culture refers to life. Nowadays people who are involved in working the land are involved in what is called agribusiness. Back in the day of Jefferson about 97% of the population was engaged in some kind of agriculture. Since that time America has gone into an Industrial Revolution and many people left the farms and went to the cities to work in the factories. From the Industrial Revolution America has slipped into the Technological Age and many more people have left the farms and country life. It is now estimated that about 2%-3% of the population are engaged in working the land. The small farmer is a thing of the past and Monsanto and other

agri-business conglomerates are trying to play God with their seed manipulation, petro chemical fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and attempt to patent seeds so no one can use them unless they purchase from Monsanto. Man has certainly made a mess of things and polluted the whole notion of agri-culture.

Thanks for the conversation and input. These dialogs are important and will only help all of us grow.

Paula Blough Yes, you are right ISCOWP, my last steer was sent to slaughter as a healthy being who had so much life ahead of him. I cried for a month - never cried so much in my life. I'll have to find the poem I wrote after he was killed, and share it with you all.

I just had one more question. If a cow is in obvious pain and is going to die, do you euthanize it to end its suffering quickly or allow it to die naturally even if that means it suffers for days?

Balabhadra: We try and make their circumstances as comfortable as possible. We see them as the spirit soul that we all are. Just as you are the driver and occupant of your body, the cows/oxen/bulls/calves are the drivers/occupants of their bodies. In essence, we are not these bodies but the spirit soul within these bodies.

If ones mom, dad, sister or brother were sick and suffering with a terminal disease would you just kill them to put them out of their misery? No, this would be considered as murder. Each of us has his/her own karma to deal with.

Yes, it is very hard to watch them go through the final stages of life in a suffering way, but this is part of their karma being burned off. And, it gives us a chance to serve them with kindness and love after a lifetime together.

Veterinary College Markets Cow Urine

ET Bureau Jul 12, 2012, 03.47AM IST India Times



ISCOWP cow urine.

KOCHI: It is a coup of sorts as far as innovation and product branding is concerned! A veterinary science college in Wayand has opened up a world of opportunities for business by packaging and branding cow urine.

The College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Pookot in Wayand district, has launched two products in the market - 'Cow Urine' and 'Panchagavya' -targeted at the organic farming sector.

"Cow's urine is meant to improve the plant resistance while Panchagavya will help the growth of favorable soil bacteria and thereby improve soil fertility," said Dr. Joseph Mathew, who is in charge of the instructional farm in Pookot. According to him, the two products can help reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers to a great extent.

The college, which has found a direct use for cow urine in organic farming, markets the neatly packed product for

five rupees (approximately \$7 USA dollars) per liter. Panchagavya, which is a cocktail of milk, ghee, curd, cow urine and cow dung, is sold for 50 rupees (approximately \$65 USA dollars) per liter. One liter volume is equal to approximately one quart.

Interestingly, the product quality is ensured by collecting the first urine of the cow everyday. "The production is as per requirement," said Dr. Mathew, adding that only local varieties of cows are used in the production of the two organic farming aids.

Apart from its application in organic farming, cow pee is an important ingredient in many Ayurveda medicines. "It is used in the treatment of several major ailments like peptic ulcer, certain types of cancer, liver ailments, asthma, etc.," said Dr. Salish Namboodiri, director, Dhanwanthari Vaidyasala, Thodupuzha.

However, the cow urine produced by College of Veterinary & Animal Sciences cannot be used for pharmaceutical applications, said Dr Mathew. "For pharmaceutical use it has to be produced under the supervision of an Ayurvedic doctor, he pointed out.

The initiative by the Wayand veterinary college has major significance in a country like India, which has a large bovine population. If cow pee actually emerges as a natural resource with farm and pharmaceutical application, its harnessing and marketing would end up as an economic activity that can beat any recession!

Baby Bulls Rescued

Since the size of our herd has slowly dwindled we felt that it was time that we rescued a couple of more cows or oxen. In 1990, when we first started out, we rescued two little twin bull calves when they were two months old. They became known as Vraja and Gita. When fully grown they were well over two thousand pounds each. At the shoulder they were six feet tall. When training new people how to train oxen it became evident very quickly that a large size breed like Brown Swiss intimidated the trainees quickly because of their size. Kesava and Madhava, our current Brown Swiss oxen, are in this category.

After we moved to New Vrindavan we had a team of oxen who were a Limousine Holstein cross. They pulled heavily on the Limousine side which is a medium size breed. This team of oxen known as Agni and Shyam weighed about 1,500 pounds each and stood about five feet at the back. Their temperament was very mild and they became our training team. Quite a few aspiring teamsters started off with Agni and Shyam.

As time progressed Agni and Shyam passed away and we found it necessary to look for two young bull calves of a medium size breed to rescue and train as a new team. In researching medium size breeds we came across the breed Milking Shorthorn also known as Durham. Not only are they a medium size breed, but they are also known for their mild temperament. During our research, we spoke with Tim Hupp of Berry Brook Ox Supply. He said, "Milking Shorthorns are a sought after breed for working oxen."

In our part of the country it is very difficult to find this breed. We did a search on the internet and found a few places in New York and Ohio. After making phone calls of inquiry

the only place which could accommodate our needs for two young bull calves close in age was in Chillicothe, Ohio which turned out to be 200 miles from the ISCOWP farm. We contacted the owners and they agreed to let us know when they would have two bull calves close in age. After a two month wait we received a phone call from them and made arrangements to pick up two bull calves the next day.

When we got there they were in very small stalls, the place was quite dirty and they had already been weaned from bottle feeding at two weeks. Any relationship with their mother had been stripped away. The younger of the two calves, who is now known as Narayana, had a small cough which we have been dealing with. We have had the vet out several times and have tried several different courses of medicine, Allopathic and Homeopathic. He also had a "sour stomach" which we treated with a probiotic formula. In the beginning Narayana was not gaining weight as

his partner was. At this point he seems to be much better and is catching up in weight and size to his partner Nara. We are hoping that both of them will be the same height when they are fully grown.

When we got them home and released them into the geriatric barn they jumped, ran and kicked up their heels very happy to have a large area for their home. You can see videos of their home coming on our YouTube channel ISCOWP108.

We bottle fed them for three months and two weeks ago introduced them to their own little pasture for grazing. They are now weaned. We have been giving them grain since they came home with us.

Both Nara and Narayana have completed the very first steps in training by developing personal relationships with the ISCOWP family, learning their own names and becoming accustomed to halters and lead ropes. More formal training will begin the second week of October. At that point they will begin to learn their voice commands.



Nara (forefront) and Narayana (background) on their way home to the ISCOWP farm.

Meat Consumption in China Now Double That in USA

by Janet Larsen, Director of Research at the Earth Policy Institute, www.earth-policy.org/plan_b_updates/2012/update102, 4/24/12

More than a quarter of all the meat produced worldwide is now eaten in China, and the country's 1.35 billion people are hungry for more. In 1978, China's meat consumption of 8 million tons was one third the U.S. consumption of 24 million tons. But by 1992, China had overtaken the United States as the world's leading meat consumer – and it has not looked back since. Now China's annual meat consumption of 71 million tons is more than double that in the United States. With U.S. meat consumption falling and China's consumption still rising, the trajectories of these two countries are determining the shape of agriculture around the planet.

Pork is China's meat of choice, accounting for nearly three fourths of its meat consumption. Half the world's pigs – some 476 million of them – live in China. This meat is so central to the Chinese diet that in 2007 the government, hoping to cushion against price spikes, created a strategic pork reserve (albeit a relatively small one) to accompany its more typical stockpiles of grain and petroleum. Many a Chinese banquet table is graced with a portion of sticky sweet braised pork belly, touted to be the favorite dish of Chairman Mao. With its pork consumption projected to reach 52 million tons in 2012, China is far ahead of the 8 million tons eaten in the United States, where chicken and beef are more popular. (See data at www.earth-policy.org.)

Traditionally China's pigs were raised in small numbers by households feeding them crop waste and table scraps. As many American kitchens

today have a garbage disposal, Chinese kitchens had a pig. Indeed, the written Mandarin Chinese character for "home" depicts a pig under a roof, signifying the animal's longtime domestic importance. But now the ramped-up demands of a richer and increasingly urbanized society have taken more pigs out of the backyard and into specialized livestock operations, where they are fed grain and soybeans.

For beef, China's 6-million-ton consumption compares with 11 million tons in the United States. Americans, with their stereotypical

heavily on the more-efficient forms of animal protein. This has led to China's huge farmed fish output of 37 million tons, which accounts for over 60 percent of the world total. For comparison, U.S. aquacultural output is less than half a million tons. Farmed fish in ponds, particularly the herbivorous species like carp that are popular in China, require even less feed than chickens do.

While rice is an essential component of many a Chinese meal, China's largest grain crop actually is corn, with 192 million tons harvested in 2011. Corn is so prominent because it

Beef production has not taken off as quickly in China as other meats have, in part due to its higher cost, competing claims on grazing land.....and cattle in feedlots gobble up about 7 pounds of grain for each pound of weight gain.

burgers and steaks, each eat an average of 79 pounds of beef a year, nearly nine times more than the Chinese average. Beef production has not taken off as quickly in China as other meats have, in part due to its higher cost and to competing claims on grazing land.

The other prime reason that beef has not become as popular in China is that cattle in feedlots gobble up about 7 pounds of grain for each pound of weight gain. For pigs, the feeding ratio is 3 to 1, and for chickens it is 2 to 1. With one fifth of the world's population and limited land and water supplies, China has had to rely

dominates feed rations for livestock, poultry, and fish. The 140-million-ton rice harvest, largely from the southern part of the country, and most of the 118-million-ton wheat crop from the north are eaten directly by people or cooked into noodles, buns, dumplings, and other foods.

Altogether, China harvested the largest grain crop of any country in history in 2011. A full one third of that harvest is going to feed animals to meet the growing demand for meat, milk, eggs, and farmed fish. Since the agricultural policy reforms of 1978, China's feedgrain use has shot up more than ninefold. In 2010, China

replaced the United States as the world's number one feedgrain user.

Along with grain, the other component in typical livestock rations is the soybean. China overtook the United States in the amount of soybean meal fed to animals in 2008, but it was not able to do so without help from the outside world. In 1995 China produced some 14 million <http://www.google.com/images/srpr/logo3w.png> tons of soybeans and also consumed 14 million tons. By 2011 China still produced 14 million tons of soybeans -- but it consumed 70 million tons.

Now more than 60 percent of world soybean exports, nearly all from the United States, Brazil, and Argentina, go to China. China's incredible appetite for meat has altered the landscape of the western hemisphere, where the land planted in soybeans now exceeds that in either wheat or corn. Rainforest and savanna have been cleared to make way for a vast soybean monoculture.

Per person meat consumption in China now is half the amount in the United States. For China to reach American per capita levels with beef would take over three fourths of current world beef output. For chicken it would require 80 percent of the world's broiler chickens. And China is not the only country trying to move up the food chain. Yet even as billions of people across the developing world with little meat in their diets are trying to eat more, Americans are starting to cut back. Total U.S. meat consumption dropped 6 percent between 2007 and 2012. Ultimately, feeding the global population of 7 billion and counting will require meeting somewhere in the middle.

Full article, data and additional resources available at: www.earth-policy.org.

You Can Help Feed the Cows

In our area there are a few types of undesirable plants that grow naturally in the pasture which the cows will not eat such as the multiflora rose (a thorned bramble), iron weed, golden rod, gypsum weed and deadly night shade just to name a few. The common method of eliminating these undesirable plants from the pasture is to mow the pasture with a tractor.

When we purchased the ISCOWP farm land in 1996 it had not been mowed for many years. We had some areas bulldozed to remove multiflora roses and other unwanted plants. Since then Balabhadra has spent many hours cutting down these plants by hand with a sickle and/or chainsaw. Since there is 80 acres of pasture land this is not only a daunting task but inefficient in controlling all the unwanted growth in the pasture. It is also a task he can no longer do physically.

The goal is to realize ISCOWP's full pasture capacity for feeding as many cows as practically possible and to maintain healthy, sufficient pastures for the cows. Since these undesirable plants appear at different times, we need to mow the pasture every 30 days when we move the cows from one side of the farm to the other. In this way these undesirable plants will not be able to get a foot hold and grow and distribute their seeds, consequently taking food away from the cows. Therefore, by this pasture management the full usage of ISCOWP's farm acreage is realized for feeding the cows.

A tractor is a very expensive purchase and so are its necessary attachments. A tractor cannot traverse much of our grazing land which is in rough, hilly terrain. We are therefore requesting your help in purchasing an ATV with a bush hog attachment. An ATV (all-

terrain vehicle) can go where a tractor cannot, is less expensive and with the bush hog attachment can efficiently mow the pastures.

Presently, we can get a good price on a new ATV and a second hand but hardly used Swisher pull behind bush hog at a total savings of \$1500. We would like to purchase the equipment as soon as possible not only because we can get a good deal but also because we could mow some of the pasture soon. This is a good time to mow because the plants are getting ready to hibernate in the winter and have little energy to live if cut down before winter.

The following is a financial breakdown of the cost of the ATV and the attachments which include an attached winch to pull the ATV out of a difficult situations should we become stuck, special traction tires for as much safety as possible, attached rear rack to carry tools and a Swisher brush hog with its own 12 1/2 horse power motor to mow down the unwanted plants.

ATV	\$5,399.00
Tires	\$300.00
Attached winch	\$400.00
Attached rack	\$90.00
Fees	\$60.00
Vehicle tax	\$309.45
Swisher brush hog	\$750.00
Total	\$7,308.45

We thank you in advance for helping in any way you can. You may use the enclosed envelope and form or donate online at: www.iscownp.org/donatecurrentproject.html. Don't forget to read about our gift to you for each level of donation.

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Rescued Bull Calves on Early Morning Romp Before Training.