

**ISKCON Global MINISTRY OF
COW PROTECTION
& AGRICULTURE**

Proposals to the GBC 22nd February 2009

Srila Prabhupada had
Great Hopes for his Farm
Projects



“Farm, Farm, Farm...”

‘Farm, farm, farm, farm...’ That is not *my* programme—Krsna’s program. *Annad bhavanti bhutani*. Produce greenness everywhere. Vrndavana.”

SP Conversation, 27 May 1977

“Our farm projects are an extremely important part of our movement. We must become self-sufficient by growing our own grains and producing our own milk, then there will be no question of poverty. So develop these farm communities as far as possible. They should be developed as an ideal society depending on natural products not industry.”

SPL Rupanuga 18 December 1974



News Headlines 2008

- “Forget oil, the new global crisis is food”
- “UN sets out food crisis measures”
- “14 million on the brink of starvation”

“Food riots begin worldwide”



Question

If there is a national food shortage where will your temples get their food from? Are we taking our own food production seriously as Srila Prabhupada would have wanted



Something to consider:

Practically non of our temples or devotees eat food produced by ISKCON



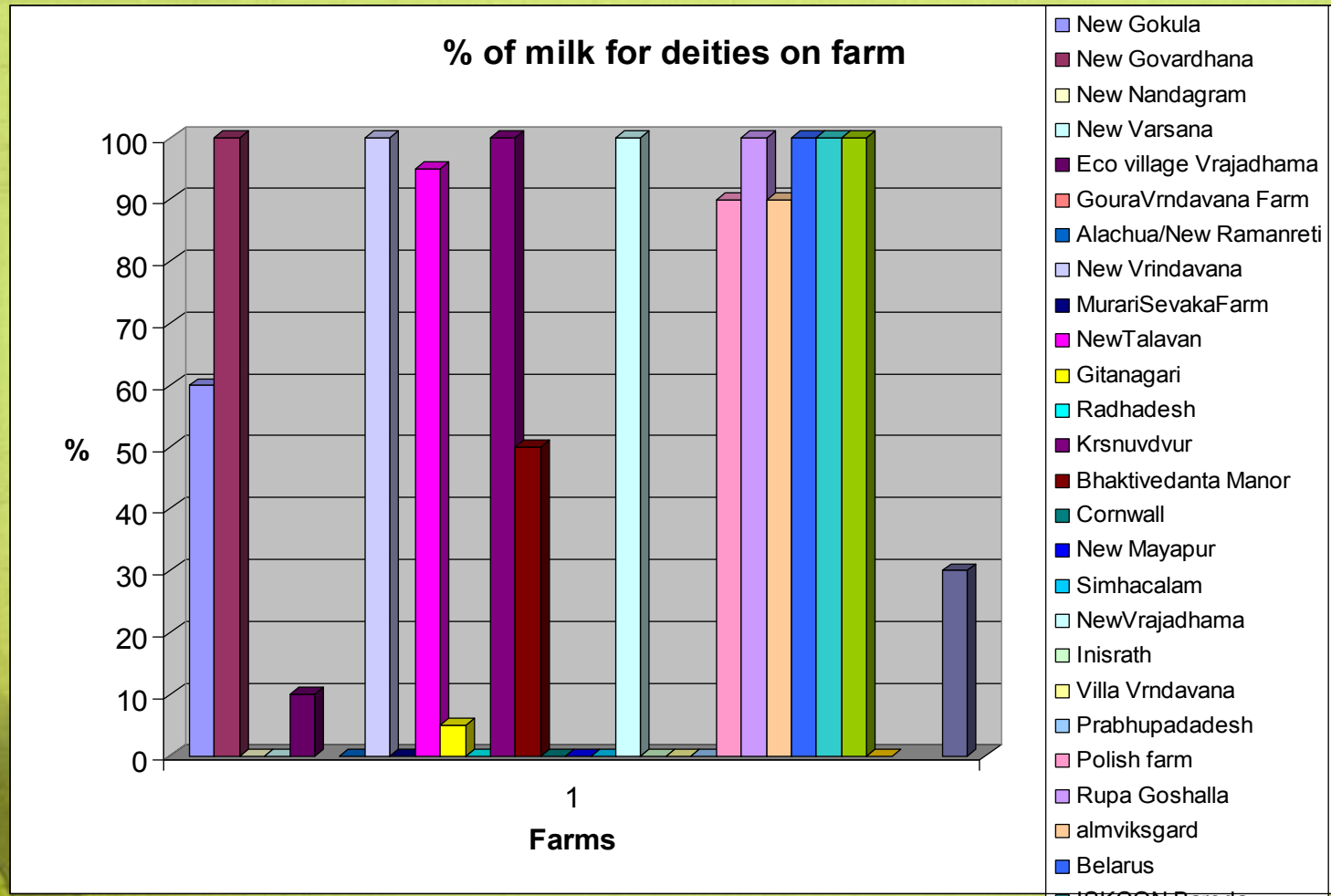
Farm Survey Summary

Farms in Survey	31
Acres	3293
Herd	1366
Oxen	418
cows	746
Bulls	18
female calves	69
male calves	64
working oxen	74
milking cows	155
% of farm deity food grown	
dairy	40
vegetables	27
grains	11
fruit	16
% of farm devotee food grown	
dairy	33
vegetables	29
grains	11
fruit	16
% of cow food produce	60
Fuel needs	23
Average Rating	Struggling



	Farm	County	Status			
1	New Gokula	Australia	Struggling	Polish Farm	Poland	Maintaining
2	New Govardhana	Australia	Maintaining/Increasing	Vrajamandala	Spain	Struggling
3	New Nandagram	Australia	Struggling/maintaining	Almviksgaard	Sweden	Struggling/maintaining
4	New Varsana	New Zealand	Maintaining	Belarus	Belarus	Struggling
5	Eco Village	Brazil	Struggling	ISKCON Baroda	India	Maintaining
6	GauraVrndava	Brazil	Maintaining	Visakhapatnam	India	Very well
7	New Ramanreti	USA	Maintaining	Vrndavana	India	maintaining
8	New Vrndavana	USA	Struggling	Tirupati	India	maintaining
9	MurariSevaka	USA	Struggling	Mayapur	India	maintaining
10	New Talavan	USA	Struggling	ISKCON Vedic far	mauritius	Terminated/Maintaining
11	Gitanagari	USA	Struggling			
12	Radhadesh	Belgium	Struggling			
13	Krsnudvur	Czech	Struggling/Maintaining			
14	Bhaktivedanta Mano	UK	Very well	Summary		
15	Cornwall	UK	Terminated	Farms	31	
16	New Mayapur	France	Struggling	Very well	3	
17	Simhacalam	Germany	Maintaining	Maintaining	12	
18	NewVrajadhama	Hungary	Very well	Struggling	15	
19	Inisrath	Ireland	Struggling	Terminated	1	
20	VillaVrndavana	Italy	Maintaining	No survey	?	
21	Prabhupadadesh	Italy	Struggling			

Percentage of Farm Deities milk produced on the Farms



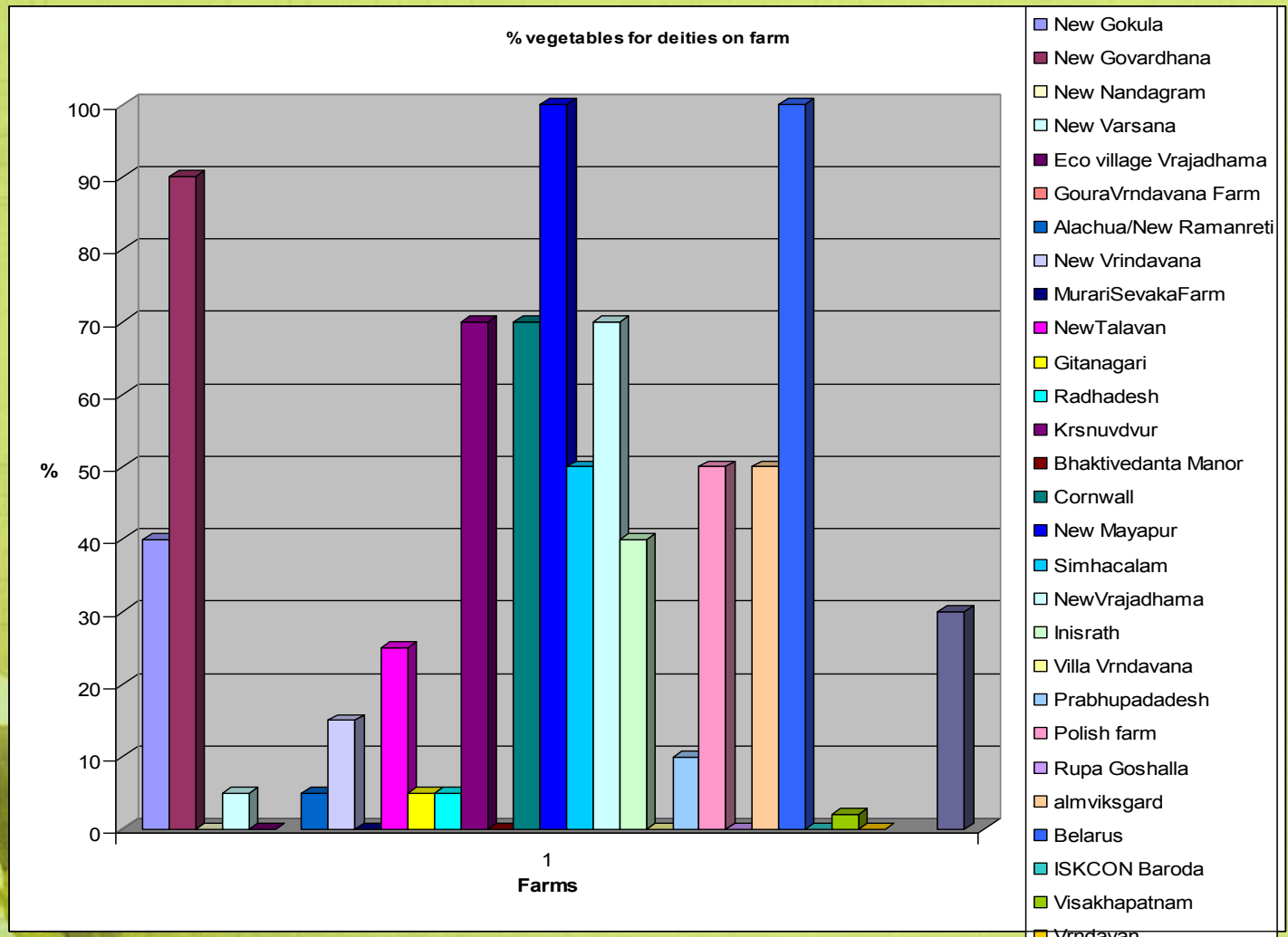
What does the graph show about our farms and milk production

- Half of our farms don't produce any milk at all
- Farms are in decline
- We have become complacent about providing our own milk from protected cows



Percentage of Farm Deities

Vegetables produced on the farm

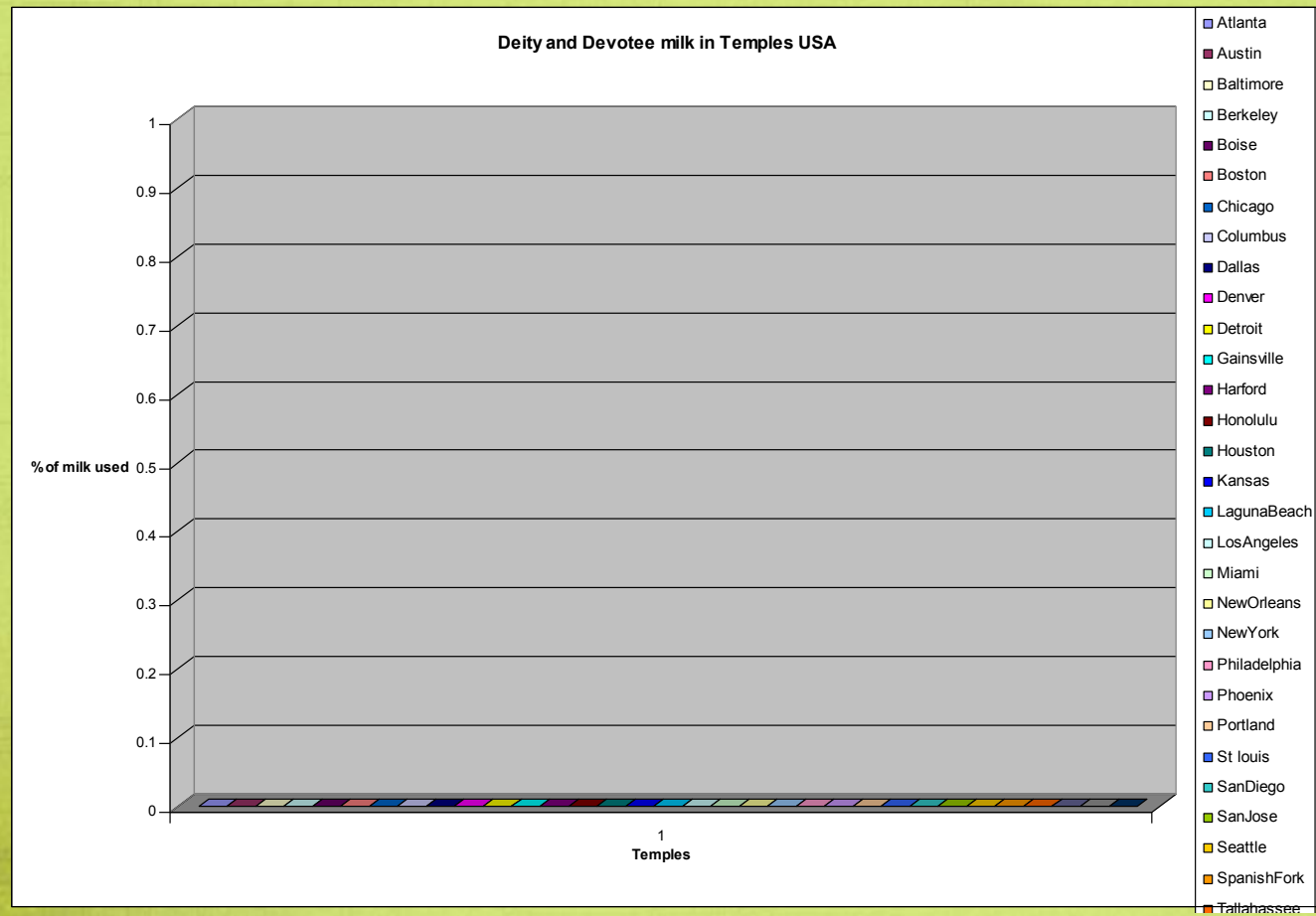


What does the vegetable graph show us

- Only 3 farms are more than 75% self reliant on feeding the deities on the farm
- The deity eats about the same as a large family
- Our farms are not growing sufficient food
- 30% of our farms are not even growing enough food to feed a large family



USA Temples and percentage of their milk and vegetables from farms



What does the graph about the North American temples tell us

- We do not take growing and using our own food as important
- It seems that using ISKCON grown food is only for the farms
- We prefer shop bought produce



Challenges for our farms

- Disaster unfolding or looming within farming projects
- Self sufficiency and farming relegated to history
- Preaching about the importance of the farm has not been prioritised
- Sense of starting again. How have we come to this after 30 years
- Our practiced social structure does not withstand leadership defection
- Asking impossible things of farm devotees. No money, no support, no housing, no future
- Dependant on new pool of volunteers, current system does not support families making it a career
- Cows stopped being bred and Cow protection being given up by allowing national herds to die off
- Oxen not wanted and thus few working
- Farm production (where done) not supported by farms or other centres
- Farm assets sold for short term maintenance
- Farm land not being increased but sold off piece by piece





Make Farming More Fashionable

- What our leaders talk about and focus on will be the direction of our society
- Farm projects and devotees need to hear that their service is important to modern ISKCON
- Rural projects need leadership visits that are farm project focused
- By talking about the importance of using our own produce we will have our own produce
- Farms cannot work alone but require national support by use of their produce



Proposal I

Leadership :

- **Resolved**, That all GBC members commit themselves to spend 10% of their time helping to develop farm projects;
- 1) by giving 10% of their classes on the importance of farm development and cow protection,
- 2) by spending 10% of their time on a farm or farms to encourage the farm devotees.





What are the challenges of using our own produce

- If the farm has it we don't want it
- The food from the land has soil on it
- Somebody else has eaten a bit already
- It looks different this time than last
- It takes more time to prepare it for the pot
- I can get it cheaper from the supermarket



Proposal 2

Purchasing from ISKCON Farms and Farmers:

- Support farms by supporting the products they produce.
- Support farmers by allowing them to maintain themselves from the products they produce.



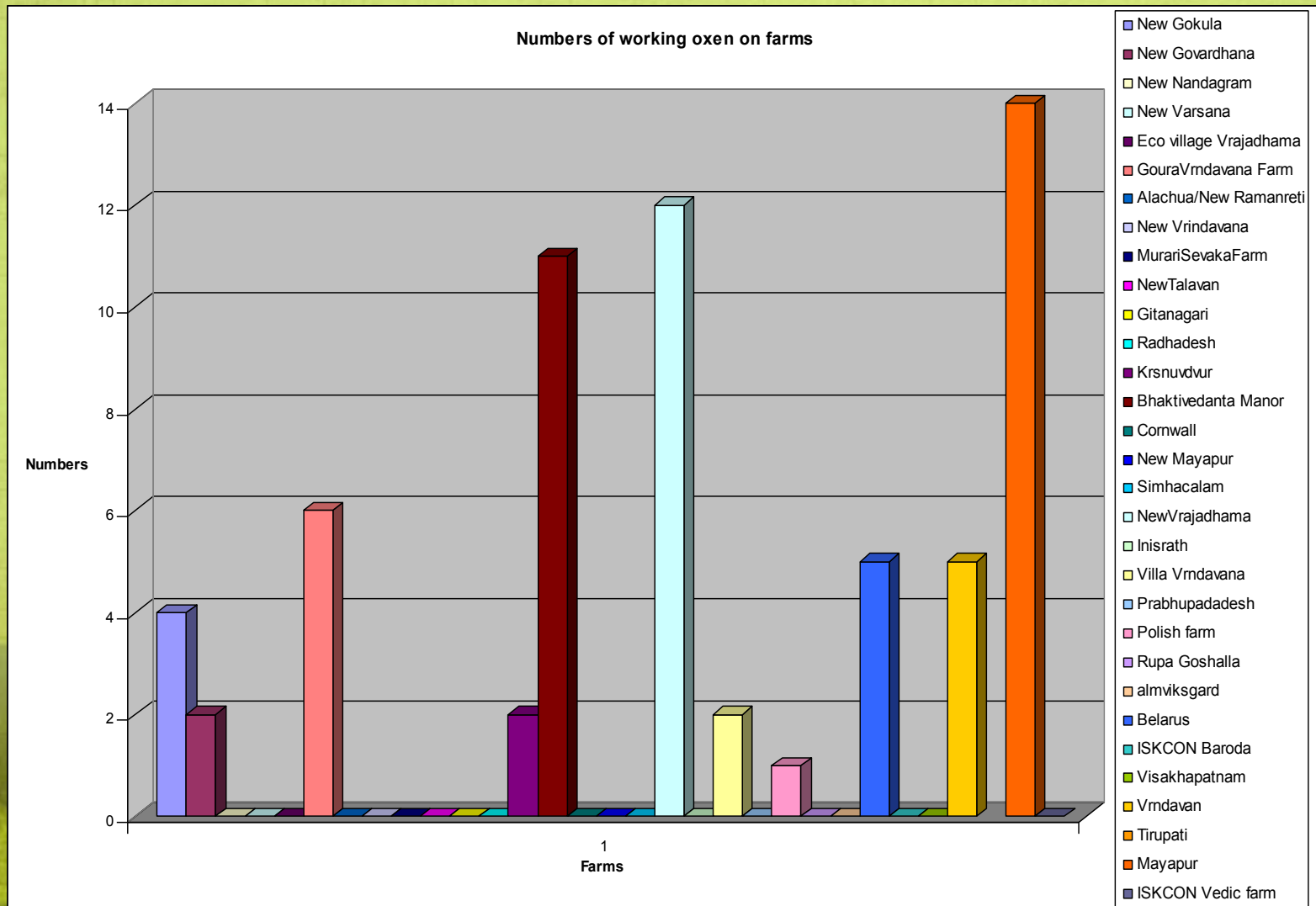
Resolution to support farms practically

- Resolved, that all ISKCON Deity kitchens, temples, restaurants and relevant projects purchase all produce, flowers and milk products produced by ISKCON farms in their local region up to a ceiling of their current purchases, provided they are of reasonable quality and can be afforded. 'Can be afforded' means purchasing at the price requested as long as it does not result in the temples, restaurants or projects going under (the accounts and cost basis of the farming operation concerned will be available to the purchasers). Where practical, the ISKCON temples, restaurants or projects concerned will explore the possibility of purchasing the land and making it available to farmers to cultivate. Additionally, temples should make available limited space for any farming produce to be sold from their existing outlets at a reasonable cost to the suppliers.





Working oxen on ISKCON farms



What about oxen in ISKCON

- Only 30% of our farms use oxen
- ISKCON has 74 working oxen that work sometimes
- ISKCON should have 471 working oxen based on the current herd size
- Questions:
 - Should ISKCON be building in ox dependency and be using them for cultivation, transportation etc?
 - Do Oxen have a place in 21st century ISKCON?



Maintaining world focus – Maintaining the Ministry

- Keeping alive the spirit of Cow Protection
- Being the voice of the un-voiced (cows)
- Reminding us of Srila Prabhupadas wishes
- Travelling, observing, reporting and directing
- Publications
- Establishing regional representation
- Balabhadra Prabhu health – year of deliberation
- Working with EC during year
- Run by non guru (no daksina). Needs ISKCON governance support



Proposal 3

2009 Budget:

Resolved, That ISKCON Ministry of Cow Protection and Agriculture receive \$11,000 for the year of 2009 to support its activities of; educational materials and services, personal interaction with the devotees serving the cows and the devotees in charge of centers with cow protection facilities, planning and instituting far reaching plans for change within ISKCON cow protection and agriculture



Little Victories...

- **Hungarian farm** showing model of cow protection and self sufficiency
- **Inisrath** growing vegetables on 4 acres to supply three restaurants in Dublin.
- **Bhaktivedanta Manor and Soho St Temples** working to cooperate in milk, flowers and veg.
- **Sussex cow sanctuary** starting business selling cow dung products.
- **New Goshalla** farm complex at Bhaktivedanta Manor will be completed in Summer 2009.
- **New Mayapur** commits to buying vegetables from own growers. Greater amounts of land put to vegetables and production. Making plans to start milking cows and working oxen
- **Czech farm** receives 45,000 euros from EU for Vedic and traditional farming. Has developed good working arrangement with prague temple. Now looking for more land to supply czech and slovakia projects.
- **Vrndavana Goshalla** started ox parikramas
- **Mayapur Goshalla** using oxen for tourism and rubbish movement
- **Indian Goshallas** making and marketing cow dung products
- **Tirupati goshalla** loaning ox teams to local people with contract.



- Industry of various types cannot produce the essential needs of man, namely rice, wheat, grains, milk, fruits and vegetables. The production of machines and machine tools increases the artificial living fashion of a class of vested interests and keeps thousands of men in starvation and unrest.

Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.9.26, purport

The whole idea is that we are ISKCON, a community to be independent from outside help.

(SPL to Yasomatinandana Dasa 28th Nov 1976)

