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# ❖ THE ISCOWP NEWS ❖

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Volume 15 Issue 3

The International Society for Cow Protection

2005

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**T** We welcome all our new friends met through ISCOWP's 2005 outreach programs. As our long term members know, this year was the first time we had the opportunity to expand our organic garden beyond ISCOWP's needs, which involves our own sustenance and monthly produce gifts for our members. We found a welcoming local market for our produce with the potential to support the ISCOWP staff. To realize our sustainability from the land, the main goal for this coming year is to develop our garden and market. You, our members have helped us build the ISCOWP facility. We now ask you to please pray for our success in this endeavor.

## Are Not the Animals of a Country Citizens Also?

-Srimad-Bhagavatam Purport 1.10.4



Above: Harvest Workshop Garden Tour Below: Gita is retired now at 15 years old

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**The Lord said, "You drink cows' milk; therefore the cow is your mother. And the bull produces grains for your maintenance; therefore he is your father. -Adi-lila 17.153**

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**ISCOWP Profile**

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

**ISCOWP Contact****To Give a Donation**

The USA tax deductible number is 23-2604082. Donations may be received by credit card or Paypal : <http://www.iscowp.org/Donations.htm>

**ISCOWP Mailing Address**

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<http://www.iscowp.org>

**ISCOWP 3x yr Newsletter**

1) <http://www.iscowp.org/Membership/Membership.htm>  
2) Within USA: \$21 check, Foreign: \$25 bank draft or money order addressed to ISCOWP.

**ISCOWP T-shirts, videos, info**

1) Please inquire at above contact info. Some styles available:  
Kiss My Ox: Love Him, Don't Eat Him  
Ox Power  
Be Udderly Cool: Protect Cows  
2) <http://www.iscowp.org/T-Shirts.htm>

**ISCOWP Editors note**

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

# Letters

**Putana's Milk or Yasoda's Milk**

*(Glossary for some words to follow:*

*Bhagvat Dharma (The way of life according to the Vedic scripture Srimad Bhagavatam)*

*bhajan kutir (small shelter where one can meditate)*

*Bhaktipada (previous fallen leader of New Vrindavana)*

*Brahminical, Brahman (priestly class)*

*Dipavali (Vedic holy day)*

*Grhastras (families)*

*gosala (cow protection facility)*

*Janmastami (Krishna's birthday)*

*ksatryias (management class)*

*Puja (ceremony of offering to Krishna)*

*Putana (evil female personage in Vedic history who tried to poison Krishna with her breast milk when He was a baby)*

*Sri Radha Vrindaban Candra (presiding deities of new Vrindavana community)*

*Srila Prabhupada, SP (spiritual leader of the Hare Krishna Movement)*

*sudras (workers)*

*vaisyas (farmers and businessmen)*

*Varnashram Dharma, VAD (Vedic social system)*

*Yagna (a fire ceremony blessing an occasion)*

*Yasoda (loving mother of Krishna)*

From: [Krishna Design](mailto:Krishna Design)

To: [iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net)

Sent: 10/23/2005 3:46:43 AM

Subject: Fw: Receipt for Your Payment to the International Society for Cow Protection

I recently had a discussion with my initiating guru, H.H. Bir Krishna das Goswami Maharaj, and he warned me that; "Any butter, ghee or milk bought from anyone except devotee farms (such farms protect their cows for their entire life) is supporting cow slaughter."

Of course, I lived at New Raman Reti in Florida for 1 year, and almost every day I would drink fresh cow milk. But, here in Fiji that is not possible. Maharaj informs me that, "I

don't think there is any devotee farm in Fiji".

And not only milk, but I also purchase ghee for my puja and fire Yagna. So in order to compensate, I have reassured Maharaj that "for every dollar I spend on non-devotee farm milk, whether it be ghee, milk, yogurt, or ice cream, I will donate an equal amount to cow protection. If I spend \$50 on milk, then I will also donate \$50 to cow protection. That will compensate."

And as I am planning a great fire Yagna with 500 candles to celebrate Dipavali next week, I recently purchased 3 bottles of ghee costing \$17.96 Fijian (\$10.63 USD). Therefore, in keeping with my pledge to Maharaj, I hereby donate an equal \$10.63 USD.

You do not have to send any gift in return for this donation. Thank you.

Hare Krishna, Vrindavan dasa

From: [Greg Stein](mailto:Greg Stein)

To:

[iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net); [MALATIDEVI@aol.com](mailto:MALATIDEVI@aol.com); [story108@juno.com](mailto:story108@juno.com); [jayamurari@msn.com](mailto:jayamurari@msn.com); [dfintel@msn.com](mailto:dfintel@msn.com); [rj\\_seward@hotmail.com](mailto:rj_seward@hotmail.com); [Lennyrader@cs.com](mailto:Lennyrader@cs.com); [Ramaraia@aol.com](mailto:Ramaraia@aol.com); [gourdmad@ovnet.com](mailto:gourdmad@ovnet.com); [Immac108@aol.com](mailto:Immac108@aol.com); [NityoDita@Juno.com](mailto:NityoDita@Juno.com); [jamu\\_na\\_dasi@hotmail.com](mailto:jamu_na_dasi@hotmail.com)

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[shyam@newvrindaban.com](mailto:shyam@newvrindaban.com); [hari-nam@hotmail.com](mailto:hari-nam@hotmail.com)

Sent: 11/12/2005 6:55:38 PM

Subject: RE: Putana's milk or Yasoda's Milk

Hare Krsna. This is a beautiful example. I love it. I have decided to do the same and will ask my dear daughter, Sarasvati (9 yrs old) to keep track of all of this and forward



the money on a quarterly basis.  
Where should I send the money?

Your servant, Gopal Bhatta das

From: Madhava Gosh das

[gourdmad@access.mountain.net](mailto:gourdmad@access.mountain.net)

To: Reply all

Date: 11/12/2005 11:07:32 PM

Subject: Vicarious Cow Protection (Re: Putana's milk or Yasoda's Milk)

Here is an old idea I am dusting off from 1998. I have been discouraged from using the term blood milk, so if I were to redo it, I would adapt the Putana milk term. Interest rates have changed, the stock market has been thru changes, etc. , but the basic principles remain the same and nice to see someone else has taken this up on their own. Vrindavan dasa ki jaya! Gopal Bhatta ki jaya!

From: Madhava Gosh das

[gourdmad@access.mountain.net](mailto:gourdmad@access.mountain.net)

To: [Varnasrama.development@com.bbt.se](mailto:Varnasrama.development@com.bbt.se)

ISCOWP [iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net)

Subject:pratical implementation of VA

Date:Wed, 22 Apr 1998 09:11:05 -0400

Excuse USA centric presentation.  
Presentation based on calculation that protected cows milk has a true cost of \$10 per gallon.( gallon = 3.5 liters)

"You say we must have a gosala trust, that is our real purpose:krsti-go-raksya vanijyam, vaisya-karma svabhava-jam (Bhagavad-gita 18.44). Where there is agriculture there must be cows. That is our mission: Cow protection and agriculture and if there is excess, trade. This is a no-profit scheme. For the agriculture we want to produce our own food and we want to keep cows for our own milk. The whole idea is that we are ISKCON, a community to be independent from outside help. This farm project is especially for the devotees to grow their own food. Cotton also, to make their own clothes. And keeping cows for milk and fatty products. Our

mission is to protect our devotees from unnecessary heavy work to save time for advancing in Krsna consciousness. This is our mission. So there is no question of profit, but if easily there are surplus products, then we can think of trading. Otherwise we have no such intention. We want a temple, a gosala and agriculture. A community project as in Europe and America.

We are making similar attempts in India in several places. Immediately I'm going to Hyderabad to organize the farm project there. We have six hundred acres. We have the permission from the government. There is no question of ceiling."

SPL to Yasomatinandana dasa, 28th November, 1976

#### PURPORT

Without protection of cows, brahminical culture cannot be maintained; and without brahminical culture, the aim of life cannot be fulfilled.

*Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 8: Chapter Twenty-four, Text 5*

#### PURPORT

Cow protection means feeding the brahminical culture, which leads towards God consciousness, and thus perfection of human civilization is achieved.

*Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 1: Chapter Nineteen, Text 3*

Following is some notes on the gosala trust (cow trust) as I see it. Of course, any one could set up a trust any way they want. This is meant to be a prototype. Individual donors may set up trusts with restricted gifts for very focused and specific purposes, such as building a barn or for the lifetime maintenance of a specific cow.

With the stock market as high as it is, they are some excellent opportunities

for large donors to give and get substantial tax breaks for their retirement and estate planning. Recently a donor gave a local college a \$4 million dollar donation. The donation was an unrestricted gift placed in a Charitable Remainder Trust. A CRT is one where the donor gets the tax benefits of a charitable donation at the time the gift is placed in the trust ( like getting the write-off of the appreciated value of stocks or property, but with no capital gains exposure) and it is not subject to estate taxes, but the recipient of the donation doesn't take possession of the gift until after the demise of the donor. In the meantime, the donor gets the income generated by the gift to live on. Of course, the specifics will vary from country to country.

In NV I am making a specific request for a particular 280 acre parcel of land to be held for the sole purpose of the cows. This is less than 10% of the land that Bhaktipada left to the NV managers. I don't want to go out to wealthy donors as a poor man with hat in hand. I want to approach from the basis that here is an ongoing, already funded trust with great possibilities and a secure future.

This land is an integral part of the view shed for pilgrims approaching NV, and is land Srila Prabhupada physically touched with his feet. The land will also be used as a Srila Prabhupada memorial site, with little bhajan kutirs (spelling?) set up in the wooded portions of the pasture for retreats for devotees to spend time with the cows. A gazebo would be built on the site of the 1972 Janmastami celebration where SP spoke the Bhagvat Dharma. Efforts would be made to restore the temple where SP actually saw Sri Sri Radha Vrindaban Candra.

#### PURPOSES OF TRUST:

Guarantee lifetime support for

specific cows

Promote system of lifetime protection with natural death (no slaughtering) for cows.

Promote small scale agriculture

Distribute information and educational materials appropriate to these ends.

#### ACTIVITIES OF TRUST

Hold land in trust for the specific use of the cows.

Buy and sell land or income producing properties.

Buy land and place development rights in Conservation Trusts, then resell to aspiring cow protectors.

Make capital improvements on existing lands

Assist people aspiring to protect cows, including making capital improvements to their land for the purpose of facilitating cow protection. Said capital improvements to be secured by a lien on the land, with no payments due as long as protected cows are kept there, or until the land is sold. Subsidize production of cruelty-free milk Pay devotees with generated revenues to care for unproductive cows.

#### FUNDING FOR THE TRUST

Existing farm projects place land into trust.

City temples pay true cost of protected milk

Hindu guests approached for seed money; eventual interaction with Westerners, especially animal rightists and environmentalists.

Fund trust initially with donations; over time fund with agricultural production

Buy income-producing properties to generate funds for trust

Buy revenue producing financial instruments.

Assist well wishers with retirement

#### EXAMPLE OF SUBSIDIZING PROTECTED MILK PRODUCTION

Initially, blood milk is purchased by temples, but \$8 for every gallon

purchased goes to a farm trust fund, followed by breeding a cow every time another \$10,000 is in farm trust. The proceeds maintain the calf for life. When the issue of that breeding has lived a full, natural life and passes on, another cow may be bred. In one year, the 8% return on the \$10,000 in the farm's trust would provide \$800, the approximate yearly maintenance cost for one cow. A portion of this \$800 would help pay land costs and labor for the devotee caring for the cow.

If a temple uses 3 gallons of milk @ day, that is  $30 \times 365 \text{ days} = \$10,950$  per year. If temple has \$136,875 in a capital fund, the interest money at 8% would purchase required milk for that temple in perpetuity @ \$10 per gallon, with \$8 out of the \$10 going into trust fund on a farm aspiring to produce the temple's milk. In 417 days, the \$10,000 figure is reached.

Once the temple is purchasing actual protected milk, the \$2-3 per gallon used previously could be used by the devotee milking the cow for personal expenses. The other \$8 would continue to go to the project's trust fund. As the farm's trust fund becomes larger, more cows could be bred, making more milk available for sale to congregational members of the temple, including life members, grhastras and also to vegans and animal rightists in the larger community. This would not have to be sold at the full price of \$10 per gallon, but would command a premium, which the temple could use to fund its trust fund, if it was not already fully funded and the \$10@ gallon was coming out of cash flow.

Initial funding for the city temple's trust fund could come from a capital gifts funding drive among life members and congregational members. Large gifts may be more available than you think for such a project. Even less materially well off people

could contribute. If the brahmans in the temple set a high example of purifying blood milk, people will be inspired to follow the example.

If a family used 2 gallons of milk per week and donated \$1 per gallon to the temple trust fund, it would take 130 families 10 years to fund the temple fund of \$136, 875. Considering it is 20+ years since Srila Prabhupada said establish VAD, this is not a long time.

This example will tie the city temples to the land, and help bring about the full manifestation of Varnashram Dharma. The brahmans will be known by their example of not drinking unpurified blood milk, the ksatriyas will be known by their competency in administering trust assets, and the vaisyas will get access to necessary capital for developing the economic base of VAD. When the economic base is established, lots of work for sudras.

#### Bitter Melon

From: [Diana Khan](#)

To: [iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net)

Sent: 8/1/2005 10:39:38 AM

Subject: Re: Harvest Workshop

(We grow Bitter Melon, also known as Kerela) in our organic garden, give it to our monthly donors, and sell it to local families)

This is an update on my Bitter Melon "cure" for diabetes.

I went on three meals shakes of 1/2 cup of water with Bitter Melon in the blender three times a day. I lowered my sugar remarkable...and it also lowered my cholesterol/triglycerides level too.

PROBLEM: I hurt my back and could not take the anti-inflammatory medication because of its side effects with the Bitter Melon.

For two weeks after I stopped taking the Bitter Melon, my sugar levels

were wonderful. I would eat and if my levels were at 147 to start, two hours later the levels were at 97 !!!

Its been a month at least and I am starting up again with the Bitter Melon. My question to you is: Are Bitter Melon seeds edible? When you dry the Bitter Melon, how do you eat them...do you hydrate them....???

I would like to try doing my Bitter Melon regime with dried ones. Since I don't have a dehydrator, would it be possible to buy a few bags from you? If you tell me how much they are I could pay for them plus shipping. Sometimes Bitter Melons are expensive (fresh) and are hard to come by. And I was thinking this may work for me.

From: [Iscowp Inc](#)  
To: [Diana Khan](#)  
Sent: 8/30/2005 6:00:17 AM  
Subject: Bitter Melon

Yes, the seeds are edible. Yes, you dehydrate the bitter melon. The general rule of thumb is to put one cup of vegetables in one cup of water. They will get plump and then are ready to use. I have found that when I am adding dehydrated vegetables in a soup or wet vegetable dish I don't need to hydrate before hand- they hydrate in the soup or liquid.

Thanks for the update. I printed you information in the newsletter and people have mentioned to me that they read about the benefits of the Bitter Melon. I will put the update in the newsletter ,and I am sure the readers will be excited to read the Bitter Melon actually had an affect.

Do you like the taste of it in a blender? Even when I cook it some folks do not like the taste- it is an acquired taste.

From: [Diana Khan](#)  
To: [iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net)  
Sent: 8/30/2005 7:22:37 AM  
Subject: Re: Bitter Melon

Get a cup of tea, and enjoy this letter.

Please send me a copy of your newsletter, who knows if that is my 15 minutes worth of fame.

While I can drink them with no problem from the blender, I prefer to fry one or two Bitter Melons by cutting them in about 1/8 slices and, not golden frying, but frying almost a little bit on the burnt side. Irene, it is unbelievable, you actually crave the Bitter Melon taste. Your mouth actually waters. What could be determined is that your body craves what its missing, and since the Bitter Melon enhances a "chemical" that your pancreas secretes to fight off the diabetes, there you go. Irene, I am driving from school and all I have in my mind is the Bitter Melon (Kerela).

Yes, I agree it is an acquired taste for the bitterness of the Kerela (Bitter Melon), but one never gets used to the "taste of the insulin needles". I do not want to use insulin. While I can appreciate the insulin cure, it has saved millions, I do not want to use insulin if there are other options and alternatives. Pakistanis, Indians, Malaysians, and Turkish, etc, have used Kerela for diabetes. Never mind that medications are expensive, but people would rather use natural ingredients. Also, God promised a cure for every disease. He said that there was a cure for every disease in this world. Not once did I think that with the trip to Mars, that the astronauts would be bringing a cure for diabetes. Wonder if anybody else did.

I even have my father on this Kerela, otherwise they are going to put him on insulin. My thought on this is, even if it doesn't eliminate the diabetes, it can at least keep me and him from going on insulin. Because I am not doing THAT.

Irene, also, what kind of a dehydrator did you tell me you used. And, for

how long do you dehydrate them for? How thinly sliced do you cut them, etc?

Kerela are not easy to find here. I'm getting crazy that I may not find them when I need them (winter). I am able to find the Indian version of Kerela, but they are small and I'll be cutting all day long. For these, I don't scrap anything off as most people do. I just slice them and fry them. They are too small and will break my bank...they are not too expensive, but they are a pain to clean.

I was wondering if people could eat the seed. It seems like such a waste of resources to throw out the seed.

Irene, maybe I have been throwing out the "cure" all this time. The article did say that after one month of eating three times a day, the affects of the diabetes were not detected. If that is the case...I'm trying it out. I mean eating the seeds.

From: [Iscowp Inc](#)  
To: [Diana Khan](#)  
Sent: 9/12/2005 2:22:43 PM  
Subject: Re: Bitter Melon

Do you have any property that you could grow the Kerela? We could send you seeds. They have to go on a trellis when they grow. In the long run this may be less expensive. The Kerala we use is the East Indian one (Hindu). We don't peel them or remove the seeds. Just like you, we first cut them in 1/4 inch or 1/8 inch slices and fry the Kerala on both sides until golden brown. We use olive oil.

I am sure I remember correctly, but don't you live in Texas? I think you could grow Kerela all year long as it is use to a warm/hot climate. So your dehydrator would not be necessary unless you have more than you can eat and you want to preserve them. We use an Excaliber dehydrator and we cut them about 1/4 inch and it takes about 8 hours. They are hard

(Continued on page 14)



## Harvest Workshop

The Harvest Workshop began on Friday, August 19. Attendees came from Columbus, Ohio, Marietta, Ohio, and Baltimore, Maryland as well as the local area. For some of the attendees this was their first association with followers of Srila Prabhupada, and for most, it was their first visit to the ISCOWP farm. Workshops were held on drying and canning vegetables from the garden, ox training, and garden production.

Here are some observations from some of the attendees.

Dear Lakshmi,

Thank you so much for this weekend, I really enjoyed spending time with you and your family.

Also, if you want, whenever the rest of the produce is ready and you need help, I could come up and spend the weekend, leaving after work at 3:00 on Friday and staying through Sunday. And, I will bring my own bed sheets

# Harvest Workshop



*Shelda Bloomingdale getting to know Jaya*

Please stay in touch and thank you again for the wonderful time that we spent with you and your family and the fabulous meals. Hopefully, I will

thusiastic and your father is wonderful with them. My grandfather used a team of oxen on his farm and they were treated as cherished friends, not farm animals. I still have some old photos of them that I treasure, they were such gentle souls, and I still treasure the time that I spent with them.

I will plan on sending \$35 - \$50 a month (whatever I have) for as long as I can or as long as I work, and you can do it however, I don't need a certificate to know that I am connected to the loving souls that you are taking care for. And, I understand more after Balabhadra's seminar on Saturday, made a lot of things clearer. They are so special and I just wish that more people could see that and connect the dots. My grandfather always said that they were wise beyond our understanding. I always felt the way that he did, and I still do and that is why I was so drawn to this farm. Thank you for letting me visit.

And if you ever need jars, a friend of



*Ox Demonstration Workshop 2005 with Krishna and Balaram*

and towels so that I won't be imposing too much because that just makes extra work for you.

be able someday to learn to make the comfrey salve and also work with the babies, they are so energetic and en-



mine that doesn't can anymore said that you could have what she used to use.

#### Peace & Love, Shelda

We first heard about the Harvest Workshop from a friend by the name of Karusha who spoke such wonderful things, inspiring us to visit. The trip down was just beautiful and all the more upon our arrival. The land all around us was flourishing and green and so well taken care of. There were many steep hills that varied in shapes and sizes scattered across the farm. On the very top of the highest hill was the foundation and home of the family and friends that built this farm and workshop. The house was simple, yet modern, and gave a comfortable setting of content. It stood firm and let out a calming atmosphere embracing the land and all that was around it.

We were all introduced to each other and to a friendly dog named Rudrababaji. Rudra jumped around, played, and brought a warm joy to our hearts and a wonderful feeling of comfort. It was a beautiful day, the sun was out, and even though it was hot, it was still nice enough to enjoy the welcoming spirit around us. The love of God just glowed from the faces of those who were there. They made us feel, so to say, "a part of the family," and working together as a whole with the presence of Krishna all around us. Learning so much and being involved with such moving people was a wonderful experience. Everyone benefited, whether it was mentally, physically or most importantly,

spiritually. Our hearts were truly at peace among them all.

When we started to walk the grounds, Balabhadra guided us to each fresh crop, having something intriguing to say for each one. We first stopped beside the pepper plants, where he picked a sweet red pepper, passing it around for all to taste. Straight from the crop, the taste was so very sweet and refreshing. We moved on to the tomato plants where there were many varieties. Once again, Balabhadra picked fresh off the vine a red, ripe tomato and handed one to us and said, "Bite into

white canopy where a long table was set. The food, company, and fellowship were all so very delightful. Moments after enjoying the delicious food, we all participated in cutting tomatoes for canning and storing. Shortly thereafter, the rain started to pour down upon the canopy, setting off a nice, cool breeze after having a hot day. We continued cutting tomatoes for dehydrating as well as another vegetable called Kerela. We sliced them and placed them upon trays that were put into dehydrators to be stored as well. They had many varieties of vegetables that were canned and stored in a room beside

the house for winter and any need. The fascinating process of each step of working together and accomplishing is truly a service of God, an experience that all should come to know. *By Tina Jones*

There are 13 cows and 12 oxen on the farm. They are all equally loved and cared for as if they are children. The reason for having the cows here is to get healthy organic

milk from them while promoting spiritual advancement, rather than taking unhealthy milk and their lives from them in a violent death like most cattle farmers do. They have very good living quarters; solid, leak-proof ceilings and plenty of hay for warmth. When it is time to go to the field, they are never overworked. Whenever an ox starts to get tired or upset, their workday is immediately over. When the oxen are too old to work, they are retired and live the rest of their lives the same as the others until they die a natural death.

*(Continued on page 19)*



*Karusha at the head of the table and Mark and Tina Jones at the front of the table*

it like an apple." With such a delicious taste, we wished it could have lasted longer. The crop of tomatoes alone had 400 plants and each plant was just as ripe as the next one. We continued on to the potatoes where we helped dig through the soil with our hands and dug them out. The soil was soft, healthy and surprisingly cool on such a hot day. Balabhadra had nothing but wonderful, inspiring words to say to all of us as well as a welcoming invite to dinner.

We all sat in the shade beneath a long

## July

We have dried kale, basil, and canned chard, and beans. The Bitter Melon (Kerela) is slowly offering its fruits and in about 10 days, we should be able to pick enough to start drying them.

The first planting of green snap beans called Grenoble, have been picked and canned twice. The third picking we will leave on the plants until the beans are dry. We will use this third picking for soups and for planting seed in next year's garden. The second planting of green snap beans is a different variety called E-Z PICK. So far, we have picked and canned them once.

We daily pick cilantro, kale, and chard for our meals. Tomatoes are just starting to ripen, and within a week, we should be picking them in quantity. Most of the four types of winter squash are progressing nicely and starting to vine out. After the vines start growing, flowers will appear and from them the squash will be produced.

Lemon cucumbers are starting to flower so we should have cucumbers

soon. We were given a type of zucchini and we were not told that it is a vine variety and not a bush variety. It is proceeding to seriously vine out and flower and is now starting to produce nice looking squash. The eggplants are producing their first set of long slender fruit and Lakshmi is looking forward to them becoming a nice addition to the menu.

## Garden Diary

The Jerusalem Artichokes are now about 6 feet tall and we are waiting for them to bloom. They are in the sunflower family so when that crop blooms it should be quite pretty. The part of the plant that is used is the tuber that is growing underground. In the fall we harvest it.

The tamatillos are progressing nicely and should be ready with the tomatoes for salsa. The peppers are producing but were blown over by a big

night was a welcome relief and gave the garden about an inch of rain. The potatoes will welcome this moisture in their last stages of development.

## August

Many of the crops we spoke of in the last monthly letter as just beginning to produce, have done just that.

The tomatoes, lemon cucumbers, the zucchini vine variety have produced to such an extent that we are able to sell the excess to the surrounding community. In the beginning of the year, we stated that one of our goals

this year was to sell our produce to begin to gain income from the land instead of having to go away to the mall each winter to earn enough income to live on. We are happy to report that we have been selling produce to eleven families and occasionally the temple in the last 2 weeks. Our goal next year is to begin selling the produce sooner and to more families. There is the potential of 30-40 families within a five-mile radius. Now that the families are getting a



*Mr. Prasad (picture above to the right), Secretary of Godhan Development Society from Hyderabad, India came to visit the ISCOWP farm on July 21. He found out about us from our web page. The Godhan Society is connected with many persons in India and the United States who are supportive of cow protection. The purpose of the organization is to promote cow-based rural development. This picture was taken in the ISCOWP garden: Kerela growing on the left and tomatoes growing on the right.*

storm we had last night. To prevent further damage they will most likely need to be staked or caged. All of the flowers planted are producing nicely and give splashes of color throughout the garden.

It has been very hot and humid and it seems that what storms have been in our area the last 3 weeks have given us very little rainfall. The storm last

taste of the fresh organic produce and are reordering we know that next year they will be interested in buying from us. "Word of mouth" has already been in action.

We have also sold some produce in Pittsburgh to members of an Indian community introduced to us by Mr. Prasad. They are interested in buy-

*(Continued on page 19)*



# Veda Passed Away

By Lakshmi D. Dove

**W**hen I went to check the cows Saturday morning (December 3), the first thing I noticed was that Balaram, Gouravani, Visaka, and Radha Shyama were out eating hay in the hay barn and grass in the driveway. As I looked for the break in the fence where they got out, I looked up and saw a cow lying down and not moving in the barn. I cried out to Krsna and started praying that whoever was down was just sleeping.

When a cow is dying, we like to give them some holy water and have a tape of Srila Prabhupada singing spiritual songs 24/7. I did not have time to do either. I am also very attached to all the cows.

I rushed into the new barn where the cow was down and discovered it is Veda and he is barely alive. This spring the vet said that Veda had a wasting disease called John's disease and it would just be a matter of time before his demise. The vet knows we do not put any of our animals down, but I thought he would last longer than he did. The day before he seemed okay, not well but ok, not at death's door. I started singing to him the Nrsringa prayers (prayers for protection) and checked to make sure that he was not stuck, in fact was actually down, and nothing else was stopping him from getting up. At this stage, he was also very weak and could not lift his head. I went and got bedding to make him more comfortable and also hay and water to see if he would eat or drink which he did not. There was nothing else I could do at that moment.

After I did this I gave Vraja his medicine for his arthritis, fed the cows in the loafing shed and old barn, went back outside to fix the fence, and put

the four cows back inside. After calling my parents to find out where the CD player and blankets were, I collected these items and I covered Veda with the blankets and turned on the CD player to continuous play. As I was doing this, I noticed that Krishna and Visaka were sniffing Veda and then they each went to stand on either side of Veda and stand guard.

I had to run back to the house to get the Yamuna water (holy water) and a



*Veda was born on the ISCOWP farm. He was 5 years old when he passed.*

calf's milk bottle to help me get water into Veda. As I approached the barn, I noticed a crowd around Veda, some were just standing there and others were smelling him. My first thought was that he was dead, but then I saw that he had just taken a breath and I was relieved like you would not believe.

I gave Veda Yamuna (holy water) water of which he only took a few tablespoons. While talking to him, I looked up and noticed that the gate on the loafing barn was hanging

strangely. I went to the loafing barn and discovered that the gate was indeed on the ground, the inside gate was also broken, and all the cows with medical problems were not there but down below the barn hanging with some of the other cows. At this point, I freaked cause I knew I could not move Veda to a better spot since that would kill him, and I knew that I could not fix the gate and get the cows back inside by myself. I contacted my brother and he agreed to come early the next morning since he was already traveling too far away to come right then.

I went back to the new barn and spent time with Veda. At this time, he had about 8 cows surrounding him so I went and starting feeding out more hay. About 20 minutes later Ujala started mooing strangely at Veda. I dropped what I was doing to see what was going on. Ujala and Krishna were trying to get Veda up. Unfortunately it did not work. I spent some more time with them and then finished my chores in the barn.

The next morning we had a coating of ice on everything, about 1/2 inch, and it was extremely cold like it has been for the last week (we have been in the teens). I suited up and went to the barn. As I walked to the barn, I noticed that Yamuna was standing awkwardly and was acting strangely. I went down to the lower barnyard, before I checked everyone in the barn, and helped her get into a better spot. I tried to get her moving towards the barn hoping to get her up by the silo so once the gate was fixed it would be easier to get her into the loafing barn. She did not want to go up there but kept on going towards my house.

At this time I went up into the barn to check on Veda and discovered that he had passed in the night, he was cold to the touch. I covered his face,

*(Continued on page 16)*

# "Remove the Mud" Progress Report



**Left Top:** The area from the loafing shed to the barn full of pot-holes and mud last winter.

**Left Bottom:** That area excavated this summer

**Right Bottom:** Knee deep in mud by the silo last winter.

**Right Top:** The crew finishing laying the cement around the silo and the complete area from the loafing shed to the barn. Now there will be no chance of the cows and humans getting stuck in the mud or falling because of the pot holes.

We thank all of you for donating to the "Remove the Mud" Project. You have helped complete the first part of the project. Approximately \$15,000 was collected for this project beyond the general operational expenses of ISCOWP for the year. \$13,000 of that was used for the excavation and cementing of the above pictured area of the barnyard so that there would be no more deep mud and potholes. We were fortunate to finish this part of the project before the winter when the cows are confined to the barnyard area. As we do every year, we will publish an annual financial report recognizing all our donors. We are eternally indebted to you for the comfort of the cows.



\$2000 was collected for the gutters on the barn roof. As of the printing of this newsletter, we are waiting for the contractor to do the job, which should be soon. Then the cementing of the area under roof in the front of the barns is the last part of the project left. \$13,000 is needed to complete that part of the project.

The picture on this page shows the area in front of the barn. If you look closely, you can see how the water draining directly from the roof on to the ground leaves a natural trench in the ground. This fills up and drains

To correct this situation, the first step would be to clean it out (which would bring it down 12 inches approximately) fill it up 18 inches with shale, and then cement it about 6 inches deep to bring it level with the rest of the barn floor.

This area needs improvement because the cows must traverse it and often sit there, as it is a sunny spot in winter. When the temperatures are freezing, the earth is very hard and it is not so dangerous except for the potholes, which can make the cows

#### LONG AREA IN FRONT OF BARN

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Shale              | \$2,550.00         |
| Excavating         | \$2,400.00         |
| Rental of machines | \$1,000.00         |
| Cement             | \$6,000.00         |
| Wire               | \$364.00           |
| Labor              | \$1,000.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>\$13,315.00</b> |



**Top:** The area where Chayadevi (Irene) and Rudra are standing has been a source of concern since there is no cement there and therefore it is full of potholes and deep mud. The cows use this area of the barn. It will be helped by the gutters being installed (soon to happen) which will direct water away from the area, but will not solve the problem.

into the dirt under the roof next to it. This will be corrected by the installation of the gutters.

The area from the last row of poles, where Chayadevi (Irene) is standing, to the next row of poles behind it, is only earth, which has deep potholes because there is no cement.

trip if they get a foot into one. The minute the temperatures are above freezing, the earth begins to thaw. This compounds the problem by creating deep mud in addition to the deep potholes. Once a cow puts their foot in deep mud, it is difficult for them to remove it because of their heavy weight.

This holiday season of giving, we are asking if you could find it in your heart to give something to this project so that we could begin the project next year as soon as the good weather is upon us. At that time, the cows will go out to the green pastures, and we will be able to work on the area. To contribute, please use the form and envelope that is enclosed in this newsletter



This picture of Balabhadra (William) traversing the non-cemented area in the barnyard shows how anyone can get stuck in the mud once the earth thaws.

# The Future Belongs to Organic Farming

WRITTEN FOR THE ISCOWP NEWS BY CHAND PRASAD PH.D. ,

AN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST-FORMERLY SENIOR ANALYST AT A TOP ENERGY COMPANY

**S**ales of organic foods have grown at an annual rate of 20 percent or more since 1990, making organic farming one of the fastest growing segments of U.S. agriculture. This rapid growth is all the more impressive because, unlike conventional agriculture, organic farming is not heavily subsidized by taxpayers' dollars. The rise of organic agriculture is consumer-driven, not subsidy driven, and indeed organic farmers market their food directly to consumers much more frequently than conventional farmers. Market share for organic producers will continue to expand due to rapid growth in consumer demand. In contrast, conventional agriculture is not sustainable because it depends heavily on petroleum-based fertilizers and pesticides. An important policy implication of this article is the need to discontinue government subsidies for conventional agriculture, since organic farming is the only sustainable form of agriculture and will be the only alternative in the long run.

Agribusiness conglomerates, such as Monsanto, Du Pont, Dow, and Novartis, incorrectly argue that organic yields are low. Based on an ongoing long-term comparison study at UC Davis, organic yields were at least as high as conventional farming for all crops tested: tomato, safflower, corn, and bean (Clark, 1999). A recent study comparing organic and conventional apple production in California's Central Coast showed higher yields as well as higher returns under the or-

ganic systems (Swezey et al., 1994). And another recent study compared organic, conventional, and integrated apple production systems in Washington State over a 6 year period, and found that the organic sys-



*Round zucchini is very popular with ISCOWP's organic produce customers.*

tem was more profitable, had similar yields, better tasting fruit, and was more environmentally sustainable and energy efficient than the other systems (Reganold et al., 2001).

Organic agriculture can play an important role in averting future crop failures both in the US and in the rest of the world. The Rodale Institute compared conventional and organic systems for corn and soybeans in a study known as the Farm Systems Trial. Although yields were compara-

ble during years of normal rainfall, the key result is that organic practices markedly improved the quality of the soil, thereby allowing soybean yields to remain relatively high even in the face of a drought. Unlike conventional farming, organic practices allow the soil to retain moisture more efficiently, while the higher content of organic matter also makes organic soil less compact so that root systems can penetrate more deeply to find moisture (Rodale Institute, 1999).

Not only is organic farming better able to withstand droughts, but it is also relatively immune to the inevitable shortages of petroleum supplies. Conventional agriculture is heavily dependent on petroleum-based fertilizers and pesticides, while in contrast organic farmers are more insulated from volatility in energy prices. Therein lies an important competitive advantage of organic. For example, corn yields would fall dramatically from 130 bushels per acre to approximately 30 bushels, in

the absence of chemical (petroleum-based) fertilizers, pesticides, and petroleum powered irrigation (Pimentel, 1998). The world is moving relentlessly towards this scenario, as conventional oil production could hit its maximum (peak) before the year 2010 (Campbell & Laherrere, 1998). Moreover, it is important to note that even before we reach this maximum, the costs of extracting petroleum would rise sharply, as oil companies are compelled to tap into

*(Continued on page 17)*



## A Cowherd's Diary

### July

We rotate the cows to the opposite sides of the farm every 27-30 days so that each side gets a rest. As I was taking Rudra for his walk we came across the cows in the forest. It is much cooler there and the trees offer scratching posts and resting areas. It was a lovely site to see them content in the woods where there is plenty of greenery to eat.

The vet came up a little while ago and diagnosed some cows we thought might be having problems. So now, we are giving aspirin to Vraja who has arthritis and Dwadasi who has laminitis, sore feet. Saraswati has a growth on the side of her face that usually drains but has grown larger this year. This is called lumpy jaw and is not uncommon. There is no remedy and we are just hoping that it stays stable. Ujvala has mastitis. This usually happens in a milking cow but can happen in a dry cow like Ujvala. We have been instructed by the vet to milk the infection out of her udder once a week for 3 weeks. After each milking, we inject medicine into each of her teats. There is an improvement already.

### August

The cows moved to the other side of the farm again on August 18. Today it is a cool rainy day but the rest of the month has been hot and humid with little rain. Seasonally we are approaching Fall with the hope that we are leaving the hot weather behind.

An update on the cow health report: Saraswati's growth on the side of her face has drained through a new hole that appeared naturally and she is breathing very well without discomfort. This does not mean that all is well but that at least for now the growth is less and she is more

comfortable. Vraja and Dwadasi's condition has not changed but their conditions were not expected to change. Ujala's mastitis has not improved with the treatment advised and now we will begin a different treatment. The rest of the herd are in good health and still enjoying the pastures. However, there has been little rain to produce new growth so unless we begin to get some substantial rain we expect to be feeding out hay in the barn sooner than later.

### September

We are feeding out hay in the barns but not a lot as there is still some grass in the pastures. The lack of rain has produced little growth on the hill-sides. Most of the herd is in good health except for a second time, Ujala's mastitis has not improved with the treatment advised, and we will again consult with the vet for another approach. We welcome three new adopters: Radhika and Uday from Pittsburgh adopted Balaram, Shelda Bloomingdale adopted Dwadasi, and Anuradha Tsitsishvili adopted Jaya.

### October

The vet said that after the last treatment, there is no other treatment for Ujala's mastitis other than amputation. Since she appears to be able to keep up with the herd and in no great pain he recommends leaving it alone. The vet and we agree that amputation is the last resort and only necessary if Ujala is in pain and cannot function due to her swelled udder. Even though Ujala's udder appears to be larger than normal, it is not full of liquid and tight as before the treatment.

We noticed that Yamuna was having trouble walking. She gingerly placed weight on her right foot. Yamuna kept having a difficult time keeping up with the herd for a few weeks. We decided to confine her in the loafing shed and call the vet. The vet diagnosed that she had an injury to her left hip that was causing her to walk

slowly. The technical term is "STIFFEL". The problem arises from ligaments, tendons, and joints being damaged. In addition, he treated a cut on her right foot. By confining her and limiting her need to walk a lot, it will heal. Therefore, we are keeping her in the loafing shed for the winter. The best medicine for Yamuna and her condition is rest so the healing process can take place.

Another member of the loafing shed is Vraja, the king of the herd. He was diagnosed with arthritis this year and has difficulty getting up after sitting down. When he dragged himself across the new barn's floor to get to some grain we decided to confine him in the loafing shed. Although the barn floor in the new barn is bedded with layers of manure and hay, the floor underneath is smooth cement. The cement floor in the loafing shed is somewhat rough being less professionally done. However, it has proven to be good because the roughness creates traction for Vraja and anyone else who has a hard time getting up. Even though there is ample bedding the roughness of the cement floor does not allow the bedding to slip and gives the cows better traction when getting to their feet. So far he has not had a problem with being confined and has been able to get up and down a little easier. We plan to keep him in the loafing shed for the winter.

Other members of the herd that will be in the loafing shed for the winter are Dwadasi, Radharani, and No Name, now being called Nandini, (both diagnosed to be between 18 and 20 years old). We are very thankful to you, our members who donated to the building of the loafing shed. It has become a very useful facility for the older and handicapped members of the herd during the winter months.

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(Continued from page 5)

Letters: Bitter Melon

when done and I don't think they will taste good that way. It is usually 1 cup of water to 1 cup of vegetables for hydrating and you hydrate them until they turn plump.

I did read on the internet, that too many of the seeds were not good for you in some cases. We have never had a problem, but we do not eat them in large quantities or everyday. You might want to do your own research on the internet to find out more. I do not remember the location of that information.

If you give me your address I can send you a newsletter. All of our newsletter are published on line at [www.iscowp.org](http://www.iscowp.org). It is very interesting to read that the Kerela has helped you so much!

### Caring for the Elderly

From: [Melissa M. Contreras](mailto:Melissa M. Contreras)

To: [iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net)

Sent: 10/30/2005 2:05:26 PM

Subject: Re: About Nanda

This brings me to Nanda and his relation to my dad, at least for me. I don't think my mom would understand, but as I was looking at your website, I saw Nanda and read his story. I started to cry because he reminded me of my dad: an old man whose body is starting to give out. Dad had been ill for years, off and on. He had good days and bad days, and there were things he needed help with, just like Nanda needs help getting into the barn in the winter. Dad's legs had several arteries removed to replace the blocked ones going to his heart. His legs were weak from lack of circulation due to diabetes. Nanda is a living being like my Dad, and just as we would not dream of killing my dad because he had become old and could no longer pull his weight, it is unthinkable to kill Nanda or any other living creature for the same reason. If people would begin to

see the relationship between all living beings, and that they all have a right to live out their natural lives, maybe this madness of factory farming and wars would end. The cow is like our mother, giving us her milk, peacefully, and without injury to any living being. The bull is like our father, and an old ox like Nanda is just like my father, once hard-working, contributing to our sustenance, now old and in need of a little help.

It became clear to me that I should adopt Nanda. Fittingly, as my Dad sent me a small monthly allowance to help with my oldest daughter's college expenses, I would now send a monthly allowance to help take care of Nanda and ensure his comfort in the autumn of his life. Most people don't care about an old man, so who cares about an old ox? I pledge to take care of Nanda, in the name of my father.

From: [Melissa M. Contreras](mailto:Melissa M. Contreras)

To: [iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net)

Sent: 11/1/2005 4:22:33 PM

Subject: Re: About Nanda

Thank you for your reply, please take your time, I am in no rush.

I have also just adopted Vraja and Radharani.

This brings me to about \$100 per month, which is what my Dad used to send me. I was surprised to see that Vraja was not adopted, since he is one of the stars of the show! He is so beautiful - my kids will be delighted to have adopted him. Radharani is now my adopted mother, and just like my mom, an older lady.

If finances permit, someday I would like to adopt 5 cows/oxen, as we are 5 in the family.

All glories to Krsna's cows!

### Horse and Plow

From: [persaud suresh](mailto:persaud suresh)

<[suresh\\_persaud@yahoo.com](mailto:suresh_persaud@yahoo.com)>

To: [iscowp@earthlink.net](mailto:iscowp@earthlink.net)

Date: 7/22/2005 11:22:04 AM

Subject: Horse & plow

I just found an article that you might be interested in. See below:

Horse-and-Plow Farming Making a Comeback By JOSEPH B.

FRAZIER, Associated Press Writer

Fri Jul 22, 3:23 AM ET 2005

SISTERS, Ore. - To some, the thought of a farmer patiently working the field behind a horse and plow might evoke pangs of nostalgia for the early days of agriculture. But in fact, the practice is making a comeback.

Ol' Dobbin hasn't run the tractors out of the fields yet. But increasingly, small farmers are finding horse-powered agriculture a workable alternative to mechanization.

Lynn Miller, whose quarterly "Small Farmer's Journal" tracks horse-farming, estimates about 400,000 people depend in some measure on animal power for farming, logging and other livelihoods. He says the number is on the rise.

Many are Amish farmers in Iowa and Pennsylvania who shun mechanization, but some are farmers who have turned to horses because of the bottom line, citing soaring fuel prices and the ability of the animals to produce their own replacements.

They also say the animals are better for the soil and can be used in wet weather when a tractor often cannot. Miller, who farms with horses on his own ranch, said the practice began spreading beyond Amish communities about 20 years ago. "When I started 31 years ago there were no companies making equipment for animal-powered agriculture," he said



in his office in this central Oregon town. "Fifteen years ago I could count them. Today I have no idea how many there are."

Miller estimated that 60 percent to 70 percent of those who try horse-and-plow farming stay with it. "It takes a certain personality," he said. "It's a craft, not a science."

Miller said a farmer with horses can earn triple or more the earnings per acre than one farmed by agribusiness.

Ron VanGrunsvan farms about 50 acres with horses near Council, Idaho, and has used horses for years there and in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

"They're more economical," he said. "They raise their own replacements, you can train them yourself and raise their feed."

A mare can produce a foal every year or so, and Miller says that, if properly trained, one can bring about \$2,000 after two years.

A plow horse usually lasts 16 or 18 years, Miller said. He said he looks after his stable of nine carefully and veterinarian bills rarely total \$200 a year.

VanGrunsvan said a two-horse team and a farmer can plow about an acre and a half a day if the ground is right and that an acre usually produces more than enough hay to feed a horse for a year.

"Most of my equipment is not new," said VanGrunsvan. "It is from the 1930s or earlier. It has been repaired and cleaned up. ... The older things were designed so they could be fixed if they broke. When newer things break, they have to be replaced."

Horse farming was common until the end of World War II, when the government and manufacturers started

promoting mechanization to soak up the surplus industrial capacity, Miller said.

Horses could often be used as down payments for tractors, he said, "and they went to the glue factories by the hundreds of thousands."

### Similarities Between the Horse and Ox

*From: Iscowp, Inc.*

*To: persaud suresh*

*<suresh\_persaud@yahoo.com>*

*Date: 11/21/2005 11:21:10 AM*

*Subject: Re: Horse & plow*

I felt your e-mail containing the Horse and Plow article would be of interest to our readers. Therefore, I wanted to publish it in our newsletter. After reading it, I felt the need to draw the similarities between the horse and ox. In researching this point, I came across this article I felt you would find of interest.

Lines or Goad? Horses versus Oxen  
by Brandt Ainsworth

Every time I set out to do some work, I have to make a decision few people are lucky enough to be bothered with: Do I feel like holding lines or a goad stick?

I might as well flip a coin, because one works about as well as the other for me. I enjoy driving horses and oxen equally well, but no matter which one I choose, at some point during the day I wish I had the other.

When I got the idea to start with oxen, I thought they would be a fun hobby and that I'd still use my horses to get work done. I soon discovered the best way to teach oxen is to work them. They are the same as any other work animal – the more work they do the quicker they learn. So I took every opportunity to do real work with my Limousin-Holstein calves.

When Timber and Jack were three months old I discovered they could do all kinds of work, whether we were skidding small pieces of wood, fixing fence, or doing yard work. Every task taught them a little more and I soon saw their working future.

As the calves grew I began to see a lot of similarities between working oxen and working horses. Either way, the driver is as big a component as the animals. A teamster with common sense who knows the limitations and capabilities of his draft animals is bound to be successful with any form of draft power. Take any pair of horses or yoke of oxen, then add a good driver, and you have a team. As the word suggests, a team works together, not against each other, as is too often the case.

Another similarity is that getting started should be done in essentially the same way – find a good mentor to show you the ropes. Breaking draft animals is not so much an exercise in doing the right thing as in not doing the wrong things. This is where a good teacher comes in. Most books, and common sense, will tell you what to do right, but only an experienced teacher will help you avoid costly mistakes.

Choose a mentor with caution – those who know the least usually know it the loudest. Experience is sometimes a good start, but is not always a sure sign of a good teamster. Some teamsters have 20 years of experience. Others have one year of experience with 19 years of repetition. In any case, a student must be careful not to think he knows more than his teacher.

I got lucky with teachers. My father Earl Ainsworth started to teach me the draft horse business when I was seven years old and is still teaching me. Howard VanOrd from Russell, Pennsylvania, started teaching me

the art of ox droving a few years ago and is still teaching me. I am lucky in both cases to have good teachers who understand animals and are willing to teach what they know to a newcomer. A mentor who possesses both qualities is rare.

When Howard and Earl are in the same room together, I have access to 120 years of experience in the fields of logging and farming with horses and oxen. Between Howard, Earl, and myself we can usually figure out an answer to most teams' problems. What we don't know, we make up as we go along. When a teamster stops trying to learn something new every day; he will no longer be a success.

Another similarity between horses and oxen is the need to start with good stock. Good conformation is key to both forms of power. I see no sense in wasting countless hours on a team that doesn't have the physical potential to work.

Even the best team needs conditioning. An out-of-shape animal takes time to build up endurance enough to work. Having good fitting equipment is important, too. Just as a teamster can't work up to his full potential in ill-fitting shoes, neither can a horse or ox work in uncomfortable equipment.

Another similarity is that both horses and oxen should be started on light loads and gradually work their way up. If one animal is weaker, give it the advantage by sliding the hitch point on your yoke or eveners until you distribute the load according to the animals' relative strengths.

One big similarity between horses and oxen is whoa. I can't say enough about the importance of a good whoa on any draft animal. No matter how poorly trained a team is, if they understand whoa, there's still hope.

Although I've found a lot of

similarities while logging and working on the farm with oxen and horses, I've also discovered differences. Some differences are obvious, some are more subtle. One of the first things I noticed is the constant battle to keep excess weight off oxen, compared to the constant battle to keep weight on horses. In either situation, an alert teamster should not be seriously challenged.

Another difference is the simplicity of the ox yoke compared to the intricate and expensive horse harness. Yokes, however, are not as easy to find as horse harness and collars.

I find it much harder to switch around teammates with oxen than with horses. A horse seems to go along with almost anything you hook beside it. Oxen have to be matched in size so they fit in the same size yoke, and most oxen don't like to switch from the side they normally work on.

Oxen are not as slow as their reputation suggests, although they are considerably slower than horses. When I first got oxen I expected them to be so slow you had to take a sighting over a fencepost to detect motion. I was pleasantly surprised to find they are not slow to a fault. In many cases they can get as much done as a team of horses, despite their slower pace. They seem to make up for it with consistency, sort of like the tortoise and the hare. Besides, I find it rather nice to ride behind a slower team going across a rocky field on a steel-wheeled cultivator.

Sometimes, however, it's nice to have the faster horses, such as when I need 600 more feet of logs on the landing to fill a truck that's coming in a few hours. It's also nice to have the faster horses taking me home when a rainstorm looms on the horizon.

Being an experienced horseman, I found it strange at first not to have a

set of lines in my hands while driving. After a few months of ox droving, I became as comfortable with a goad in my hand as I am with a pair of lines. I use the oxen some days and the horses other days, and savor my luck at having the choice.

*Brandt Ainsworth runs a professional logging operation in New York and is the host of the videotape [Logging with Horses, Oxen and Mules](#). This article appeared in the [Summer 2003](#) issue of *Rural Heritage*.*

*(Continued from page 9)  
Veda Passed Away*

turned around, and saw his mother watching me with a sorrowful look on her face. I went over to her and told her how sorry I was about her son. Throughout the day she was always within 10 feet of him. At this time, I noticed that the whole herd was also sad so I took the time to talk with them and to walk around and pet everyone. While I was doing this, the cows kept on checking on him by smelling him and trying to uncover him.

While I was waiting for my brother, I did my normal chores of feeding everyone and giving Vraja his grain and meds and Gita his grain. Now Gita was not that happy that Vraja was in the barn with him and pushed him down while Vraja was walking by. This really scared me since Vraja has bad arthritis in one of his back legs and he was recovering from an injury in the other back leg. Somehow, I managed to separate the two of them and get Vraja temporally locked back into the loafing barn which was not yet that secure. I then heard a vehicle coming and it was my brother Baladeva. I explained what had happened and showed him what the damage was and then we decided what we were going to fix and how. While we were doing this and gathering the tools we needed, Asha got it in her head that she wanted back



into the loafing barn where Vraja was, and she was going to get in there all by herself, thank you very much! When Bala and I got back to the barn after gathering our tools, we discovered that Asha was with Vraja and they were both happy with that. Asha was born with bad hips and walks sideways down hills.

We fixed the loafing barn to where it would be really hard for them to take down the gate, now we had to get the cows back in the barn. Now you have to remember everything had about half an inch of ice on it so it was difficult to walk and do anything but we managed. Getting the cows back in is always the hardest part because you do not want everyone in, only a select few. This took us about an hour but they were all happy once they realized what we were up to, but they only realized that once they were in the barn.

It takes at least a tractor or backhoe to move a dead cow and a backhoe to bury her or him in the cow burial area on the farm. We do not have a tractor or backhoe but the temple sends one with Ray who has been doing the temple farm work for over 10 years. He was not available on Sunday but came up the following morning on Monday.

When Ray came up on the tractor, we removed Veda from the barn and took him to the burial spot. We realized it was too slippery for the backhoe to come up, so we talked about it and he believed that he could bury him with the tractor. At this time we decided to restock the barns since he already had the attachment he needed to do that already on the tractor and in order to bury him he would have to go back to the barn and get a different attachment. We restocked and it took us about 4 hours. It was like 3 o'clock and he would not have enough time to go back to the barn, come back up, and bury him before dark. It was decided he would do it the next day. Also by this time, I was freezing since I had

been at the barn since 9:30 am and it was only about 20 degrees, not counting the wind.

We buried Veda today, December 6, may he rest in peace and have fun playing with Krishna and the cowherd boys.

*(Continued from page 12)*

*The Future Belongs to Organic Farming* oil deposits that are less accessible. Finally, the costs of extracting oil will exceed the benefits, implying that further production is not economical.

While organic production continues to grow rapidly in a competitive free market, conventional agriculture is heavily subsidized through direct farm payments, counter cyclical payments, crop insurance, and a network of research institutes and extension agents. These handouts, which are critical for the survival of conventional agriculture, tend to keep farmland and resources tied up in our highly mechanized, chemical-based farming systems, thereby inhibiting the growth of organic. It is reasonable to conclude that organic would have grown even faster if it had not been for the subsidies that conventional agriculture receives.

The misuse of taxpayers' dollars to subsidize conventional agriculture is symptomatic of a misdirected society. Even in the current situation, in which economically accessible supplies of petroleum are still largely available, conventional agriculture depends heavily on subsidies. The subsidy bill will have to grow sharply in order to maintain conventional farming systems in the face of rising petroleum prices and dwindling supplies. But we have to put these issues into the proper perspective. Although organic farming is a sustainable alternative, the human race will, on many other fronts, continue to experience an array of social, economic, and environmental prob-

lems unless we accept the spiritual principles that were enunciated by Srila A.C. Bhaktivedanta Prabhupada. All the difficulties of material existence have a common source, i.e., we want the Kingdom of God without God. Fortunately, these problems also have a common solution, i.e., a society centered around the Supreme Lord.

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 Sent: 11/11/2005 8:44:37 PM  
 Subject: Press Note-on SC Judgment  
 cow slaughter ban-29-10-05

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28<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2005

### **PRESS NOTE**

**A Historic Judgment of the Supreme Court regarding total ban on slaughter of cow progeny in Gujarat State.**

**A 47 year old Impediment removed**

The Bombay Animal Preservation Act, 1954 is in force in the State of Gujarat. Under this Act, as per the situation prevailing till 1994, there was a total ban on slaughter of cows in the State, whereas bulls and bullocks above the age of 16 years could be slaughtered. In 1994 the Gujarat Government first promulgated an ordinance and thereafter passed a law in the Assembly and imposed total ban on slaughter of entire cow progeny. Incidentally, Viniyog Parivar had helped in drafting the relevant Bill at that time. This amendment in the Law was challenged by butchers' organization from Ahmedabad, Surat and Bharuch in Gujarat High Court. The Gujarat High Court struck down the Law in 1998 based on an earlier verdict of a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the year 1958. In 1958 a Five Judge Constitution Bench had ruled that prohibition on slaughter of cows is clearly mentioned in the Constitution and hence cows cannot be slaughtered. However, bulls and bullocks can be slaughtered if they have surpassed the age of usefulness. Subsequent to the 1958 judgment whenever any State enacted a law to impose total ban on slaughter of cow progeny, such laws

# Prevention of Illegal Slaughter

were struck down relying on the 1958 verdict. The Gujarat State, Viniyog Parivar Trust (through its associate organization Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh) and an NGO from Gujarat namely Ahimsa Army Manav Kalyan JDC Trust had filed Appeals in 1998 against Gujarat High Court Judgment and the matter was referred to a Seven Judges Constitution Bench as it involved reconsideration of the 1958 judgment.

The matter was heard by a Seven Judges Bench continuously for five days in the month of August, 2005 and the Judgment was reserved which was pronounced on 26-10-2005. Though copy of the detailed Judgment which reportedly runs into 142 pages is yet to be released, the Judgment has allowed the appeals and thus total prohibition on slaughter of entire cow progeny has come into force from the date of the Judgment in the State of Gujarat. The amended law of Gujarat has been held as intra vires (within the purview of the constitution). With this Judgment, a 47 year old impediment has been overcome and now any State which wants to enact a law to impose prohibition on slaughter of entire cow progeny will be able to do so.

The famous jurist and former High Commissioner in U.K. Shri L.M. Singhvi argued in these appeals on behalf of the Gujarat State. Shri Shirish Dholakia, Senior Counsel appeared on behalf of Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh and Shri Soli Sorabjee, Former Attorney General appeared on behalf of Ahimsa Army Manav Kalyan JDC Trust. Shri G.L. Sanghi appeared on behalf of the butchers' organization.

By misusing the provision based on

the criteria of age, crores(100x 100,000) of younger bulls and bullocks were slaughtered in the country for almost half a century. In the guise of bulls and bullocks even cows were slaughtered. In this context this judgment is extremely important.

It may be mentioned here that the Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra had also passed a law in 1995 imposing total ban on slaughter of entire cow progeny. However, because of the 1958 Supreme Court Judgment this law could not get the assent of the President so far. Now that 1958 Judgment is overruled, the Maharashtra Government should take up this issue with the Central Government and obtain assent of the President so that in Maharashtra also there can be a total ban on slaughter of entire cow progeny.

With this impediment removed, other States where there is partial ban on slaughter of cow progeny and who wish to impose a total ban can now impose such total ban by amending their respective local law without fear of such law being challenged and struck down.

From: [Rosalie Malik](#)  
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 Sent: 11/24/2005 3:54:02 PM  
 Subject: prevention of illegal slaughter

The Akhil Bharat Krishi Goseva Sangh has won a judgment in the High Court, Bombay in a Public Interest Litigation against the State of Maharashtra on 6th Oct 2005, for not preventing large scale illegal slaughtering of animals.



The Judges ordered a Committee to be appointed to monitor the implementation of the animal welfare laws and ensure total prevention of illegal slaughtering. The Committee should constitute special squads to prevent it and the Home ministry and Police Dept will ensure the instructions are carried out. The state government will fund it and educate animal husbandry dept officials and police in different parts of the state and Goshalas and Panjrapoles will be established as Government infirmaries.

This is in brief. Our friend and trustee Mr RK, a lawyer, is a member of this Committee.

*(Continued from page 7)*  
*Harvest Workshop*

One thing Balabhadra pointed out was how similar a cow is to a man. We both have families, we both have to work our bodies to provide for them, and we both grow old and die. The relationship between man and animal on this farm is not one of master and slave based out of fear; but rather of love and friendship based out of duty. It really feels like the way God would have it.

Everything on the farm is completely centered around Krishna. A loving, serving, humble attitude towards Him is the main goal. God is loved here, not feared. The many names of the Lord are constantly used with reverent love; it is like He is here with us in the flesh and is our best friend. There is a beautiful temple close by, built for Prabhupada, with many other devotees living nearby. This is a small community of people who are trying to survive while keeping their lives based on service to God and to each other.

We found the Harvest Workshop to

be of immense value for the knowledge of growing and storing your own organic food, learning to use love and compassion rather than violence when working with animals, and most importantly, to develop a more loving relationship with God. We need more places like this, and we would certainly recommend to anyone of any race, of any religion, to come to the Harvest Workshop and let our Creator reveal Himself to your heart. *By Mark Jones*

*(Continued from page 8)*  
*Garden*

ing from us next year. We showed the slideshow to this group with Balabhadra narrating and we could see what a great tool it was for us to present our activities. Some of the members are coming to visit soon.

We have made blackberry jam from the wild black berries on the property. Very tasty. Next fruit crop will be apples.

Roma tomatoes are producing in full force and we are drying 24 hours a day. The Bitter Melon (Kerela) has produced well and we are drying in full force plus selling (a favorite with the Indian community).

The peppers, greens, squash, and Jerusalem artichokes will grow till frost but the rest of the produce will be finished by the end of September.

### September

At this point, we are mostly selling our produce to the temple and local families since we have an excess of what we need for members and ourselves. We have not developed the garden for fall production because we must leave in October for the mall to earn our personal income.

### October

The garden is shut down for the winter. We picked, dried, canned and

sold the last of the tomatoes and removed and stacked the tomato cages. The potatoes are all dug up and what remained of them stored in the root cellar. Our wild apple tree produced apples this year and we made applesauce and dried apples.

The total of canned goods is as follows: 460 quarts, 18 half pints, and 68 pints with a total of 546 canned goods for this year. We also dried more produce this year and have 816 Ziplock sandwich bags of dried produce. Most of it is tomatoes and Bitter Melon (Kerela) along with kale, chard, and apples. We would like to give special thanks to Shelda Bloomingtondale, Jessie Hansen, David, and Laura for helping to harvest the remains of the garden.

*(Continued from page 13)*  
*A Cowherd's Diary*

The rest of the herd is spending their time between the pastures and the barn. It is still not cold enough for them to spend all their time in the barn. However, we got our first winter snowstorm a few days ago. Winter weather will soon be with us. Everyone else in the herd is doing well.

### November

All the cows are now in the barn. Vraja is doing better. The swelling that was apparent on his legs appears to have decreased greatly. We have been trying some homeopathy and Glucosamine. Presently, Saraswati is also receiving homeopathy and we are waiting to see what the results will be. In the past, we have not always been successful with homeopathy. More will follow In the next newsletter.



Season Greetings



# THE ISCOWP NEWS

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*Saved From the Slaughterhouse*