ISCOWP News

We would like to thank all of you for contributing to the Remove the Mud Campaign. Without your help the project would have not been completed. Together we have made a more comfortable and safe situation for the cows. We are extremely grateful to you for your help. Please read more about this campaign and how your donations were put to work on page eight.

Another challenge has arisen in which we need your help. The garden is being destroyed by deer for the first time in 11 years. We need to protect it from the deer and develop the garden as a sustainable project. Read the back page and page six to find out why the garden is an important project and what is needed to protect it.

We are amazed at how we are being continually challenged by the environmental changes around us. Due to the warmer winters, the barn area had become muddy with potholes. In previous winters the earth remained frozen under the heavy feet of the cows. Hence the Remove the Mud Campaign. Now, due to increased deer population and their environmentally induced hunger, we once again request your help to do what is needed to maintain the garden. The gentle spiritual balance of life with the cows and land is once again being challenged. Again, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Remove the Mud Campaign a Success!

ISCOWP Profile
ISCOWP was incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania, USA, 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 pro-tection. The tenets of cow protection and ox-power are universal and nonsectarian, available to all regardless of race, creed, or nationality.

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Use any of the contacts given above.

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

RIDDLE: Vegans in Hummers Vs. Biking Carnivores

From: WJBOYLE3@aol.com
To: iscowp@earthlink.net
Sent: 7/22/2007 9:39:22 AM
Subject: RIDDLE: Vegans in Hummers Vs. Biking Carnivores

According to Paul Watson, a vegan driving a Hummer would be contributing less greenhouse gas carbon emissions than a meat eater riding a bicycle.

By far, the best SPEAKER I have ever heard is Captain Paul Watson of the Sea Sheperd. Paul is a 21st century pirate. He rams and sinks whaling ships as his life's work. Here is a transcript of a recent talk given by Paul. It is a fascinating.

A Very Inconvenient Truth - by Capt Paul Watson

http://tinyurl.com/2lmbp9

The meat industry is one of the most destructive ecological industries on the planet. The raising and slaughtering of pigs, cows, sheep, turkeys and chickens not only utilizes vast areas of land and vast quantities of water, but it is a greater contributor to greenhouse gas emissions than the automobile industry.

The seafood industry is literally plundering the ocean of life and some fifty percent of fish caught from the oceans is fed to cows, pigs, sheep, chickens etc in the form of fish meal. It also takes about fifty fish caught from the sea to raise one farm raised salmon.

We have turned the domestic cow into the largest marine predator on the planet. The hundreds of millions of cows grazing the land and farting methane consume more tonnage of fish than all the world's sharks, dolphins and seals combined. Domestic housecats consume more fish, especially tuna, than all the world's seals.

So why is it that all the world's large environmental and conservation groups are not campaigning against the meat industry? Why did Al Gore's film Inconvenient Truth not mention the inconvenient truth that the slaughter industry creates more greenhouse gases than the automobile industry?

The Greenpeace ships serve meat and fish to their crews everyday. The World Wildlife Fund does not say a word about the threat that meat eating poses for the survival of wildlife, the habitat destroyed, the wild competitors for land eliminated, or the predators destroyed to save their precious livestock.

When I was a Sierra Club director for three years, everyone looked amused when I brought up the issue of vegetarianism. At each of our Board meeting dinners, the Directors were served meat and only after much prodding and complaining did the couple of vegetarian directors manage to get a vegetarian option. At our meeting in Montana we were served Buffalo and antelope, lobsters in Boston, crabs in Charleston, steak in Albuquerque etc. But what else can we expect from a "conservation" group that endorses trophy hunting.

As far as I know and I may be wrong, but my organization, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is the only conservation organization in the world that endorses and practices vegetarianism. My ships do not serve meat or fish ever, nor do we serve dairy products. We've had a strictly vegan menu for years and no one has died of scurvy or malnutrition.

The price we pay for this is to be accused by other conservation organizations of being animal rights. Like it's a bad word. They say it with the same disdain that Americans used to utter the word communist in the Fifties.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is not an animal rights organization. We are exclusively involved in interventions against illegal activities that threaten and exploit marine wildlife and habitat. We are involved in ocean wildlife conservation activities.

Yet because we operate our ships as vegan vessels, other groups, and now the media dismiss us as an animal rights organization.

Now first of all I don't see being accused of as an animal rights organization to be an insult. PETA was co-founded by one of my crew-members and many of my volunteers come from the animal rights movement. But it is not accurate to refer to Sea Shepherd as animal rights when our organization pushes a strict conservation enforcement policy.

And secondly we do not promote veganism on our ships because of animal rights. We promote veganism as a means of practicing what we preach which is ocean conservation.

There is not enough fish in the world's oceans to feed 6.6 billion human beings and another 10 billion domestic animals. That is why all the world's commercial fisheries are collapsing. That is why whales, seals, dolphins and seabirds are starving. The sand eel for example, the primary source of food for the comical and beautiful puffin is being wiped out by Danish fishermen solely to provide fish meal to Danish factory farmed chickens.

This is a solid conservation connection between eating meat and the destruction of life in our oceans. In a world fast losing resources of fresh water, it is sheer lunacy to have hundreds of millions of cows consuming over 1,000 gallons of water for every pound of beef produced.

And the pig farms in North Carolina produce so much waste that it has contaminated the entire ground water reserves of the entire state. North Carolinians drink pig shit with their water but its okay they say, they just neutralize it with chemicals like chlorine.

Most people don't want to see where their meat comes from. They also don't want to know what the impact of their meat has on the ecology. They would rather just deny the whole thing and pretend that meat is something that comes in packages from the store.

But because there is this underlying guilt always present, it manifests itself as anger and ridicule towards people who live the most environmentally positive life styles on the planet -- the vegans and the vegetarians.

This is demonstrated through constant marginalization especially in the media. Any organization, like Sea Shepherd for example, that points out the ecological contradictions of eating meat is immediately dismissed as some wacko animal rights organization.

I did not set the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society up as an animal rights organization and we have never promoted animal rights in the organization. What we have promoted and what we do is oceanic wildlife and habitat conservation work.

And the truth is that you can't practice solid and constructive conservation work without promoting veganism and/or vegetarianism as something that promotes the conservation of resources.

A few years ago I attended a dinner meeting of the American Oceans Campaign hosted by Ted Danson. He opened the dinner by saying that the choice he had to make was between fish and chicken for the dinner, and what was the point of saving fish if you can't eat them?

Guest speaker, Oceanographer Sylvia Earle put Ted in his place by saying she did not think that he was being very funny. She said that she considered fish to be her friends and she did not believe in eating her friends. So neither Sylvia nor I ate dinner that night.

I met Sylvia again at another meeting, this time of Conservation International held at some ritzy resort in the Dominican Republic. Harrison Ford was there and the buzz was what could be done to save the oceans. I was invited as an advisor. I sat on a barstool in an open beachfront dining plaza as the conservationists approached tables literally bending from the weight of fish and exotic seafood including caviar. I looked at Sylvia Earle and she just shook her head and rolled her eyes.

The problem is that people like Carl Pope, the Executive Director of the Sierra Club, or the heads of Greenpeace, World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International and many other big groups just refuse to accept that their eating habits may be just as much a part of the problem as all those things they are trying to oppose.

I remember one Greenpeacer defending his meat eating by saying that he was a carnivore and that predators have their place and he was proud to be one.

Now the word predator in relationship to human beings has a rather scary connotation having

nothing to do with eating habits, but for any human being to describe themselves as a carnivore is just plain ridiculous.

Humans are not and have never been carnivores. A lion is a carnivore as is a wolf, as is a tiger, or a shark. Carnivores eat live animals. They stalk them, they run them down, they pounce, they kill, and they eat, blood dripping, meat at body temperature. Nature, brutal red in tooth and claw.

I've never met a human that can do that. Yes we found ways to run down animals and kill them. In fact we've come to be rather efficient at the killing part. But we can't eat the prey until we cut it up and cook it and that usually involves some time between kill and eating. It could be an hour or it could be years.

You see our meat eating habits are more closely related to the vulture, the jackal or other carrion eaters. This means that we can't be described as carnivores. We are better described as necrovores or eaters of rotting flesh.

Consider that some of the beef that people eat has been dead for months and in some cases for years. Dead and hanging in freezers, full of uritic acid and bacteria. It's a corpse in a state of decomposition. Not much that can be said to be noble about eating a cadaver.

But a little dose of denial allows us to bite into that Big Mac or cut into that prime rib.

But that one 16 ounce cut of prime rib is equal to a thousand gallons of fresh water, a few acres of grass, a few fish, a quarter acre of corn etc. What's the point of taking a shorter shower to conserve water as Greenpeace is preaching if you can sit down and consume a 1000 gallons of water at a single meal?

And that single cut of meat would have cost as much in vegetable resources equivalent to what could be fed to an entire African village for a week.

The problem is that we choose to see our contradictions when it is convenient for us to see them and when it is not we simply go into a state of suspended disbelief and we eat that steak anyway because, hey we like the taste of rotting flesh in the evening.

Have you ever thought why it is that with a person, it's an abortion but when it comes to a chicken, it's an omelette?

Does anyone really know what's in a hot dog? We do know that the government health department allows for an acceptable percentage of bug parts, rodent droppings and other assorted filth to go into the mix.

And now tuna fish comes with a health warming saying it should not be eaten by pregnant women or small children because of high levels of mercury. Does that mean mercury is good for adults and non-pregnant women? What are they telling us here?

Eating meat and fish is not only bad for the environment it's also unhealthy. Yet even when it comes to our own health we slip into denial mode and order the whopper.

The bottom line is that to be a conservationist and an environmentalist, you must practice and promote vegetarianism or better yet veganism.

It is the lifestyle that leaves the shallowest ecological footprint, uses fewer resources and produces less greenhouse gas emissions, it's healthier and it means you're not a hypocrite.

In fact a vegan driving a hummer would be contributing less greenhouse gas carbon emissions than a meat eater riding a bicycle.

Capt Paul Watson

If you've enjoyed what you just read, and wish to volunteer as a member of Paul's crew, or assist his efforts with your financial support, here is his email address:

Paulwatson@earthlink.net

Ox Power Currency
From: Noma Petroff (Hare Krishna dd)
To: Cow (Protection and related issues)
Sent: 11/29/2006 3:03:14 PM
Subject: Ox Power Currency

The State of Nebraska can be added to locations which feature oxen on their currency

The second commemorative quarter-dollar coin released in 2006 honors Nebraska, and is the 37th coin in the United States Mint's 50 State Quarters® Program. Nebraska, nicknamed the "Cornhusker State," was admitted into the Union on March 1, 1867, becoming our Nation's 37th state. Nebraska's quarter depicts an ox-drawn covered wagon carrying pioneers in the foreground and Chimney Rock, the natural wonder that rises from the valley of North Platte River, measuring 445 feet from base to tip. The sun is in full view behind the wagon. The coin also bears the inscriptions "Nebraska," "Chimney Rock" and "1867."

The only other examples I know of are in Rwanda. There is the 100 franc, and the 1000 franc.

Saving an African Child's Life With Cow Dung

From: <cosmir@gmail.com>
To:iscowp@earthlink.net
Date: 7/23/2007 4:22:03 PM
Subject: [Nectar] Saving an African child's life - with cow dung

by HG Kripamoya prabhu

Srila Prabhupada consistently stressed how important it is to understand the gifts of nature and of God's plan for humans - who would think that cow-dung is an important part of it all?

Today I learned of how a small amount of traditional guidance saved the lives of many children in Africa. It was a fascinating story told to me by a visiting old friend and I thought I'd share it with you.

Vidura das, an Irish devotee of Krishna, lived in Kisumu, Kenya for many years. He and his African wife Esther set up a large-scale food distribution program for needy people. And in northern Kenya there were plenty of needy people. What concerned him most was that there were many children who died young. "We discovered that the very area where we were living had the highest infant mortality rate in the world," he explained.

To distribute food as a religious act, and yet to watch parents grieve over their dead children was an intolerable situation for a compassionate devotee like Vidura, so he started to ask questions around the area. Dirty drinking water was the obvious culprit, but when he enquired of the mothers why they did not boil the water they replied that they did not have the money to buy charcoal, the commonly used fuel.

Remembering that the guru of the Hare Krishna movement had always praised the cow for providing, amongst many other gifts, the sustainable fuel of dung, he explained to the women that Indians have for centuries mixed dung with straw and dried it to create an everlasting supply of good quality fuel. But the local Africans needed to be encouraged to refrain from slaughtering their cows if they were going to create a sustainable fuel source. They also had to overcome the prejudice - given to their tribe decades ago by Christian missionaries - that dung was dirty and never to be touched.

After some period of encouragement, mainly to women who already trusted him as 'Father Vidura,' some families complied followed by many more. "Eventually health workers were coming up from Nairobi to see why children in our area were living longer than children throughout Kenya," Vidura said. The project was an overwhelming success, and received endorsement by the tribal patriarchs, who, as children, remembered their mothers talking of cow-dung as fuel in their village but who had switched to the more expensive wood after the missionaries had persuaded them to change. It was only a small change to revert back to a more traditional fuel - and dung has to be the cheapest and most abundant thing in the world - but it made a world of difference.

Vidura went on to introduce the spinning wheel and the loom, and is now in dialogue with President Musoveni of Uganda to introduce hemp as a major crop for the villagers who live around Lake Victoria.

Animal Fat Becomes Key Biodiesel Ingredient

From: Noma Petroff
To: Cow (Protection and related issues)
Sent: 1/5/2007 4:41:05 PM
Subject: NEWS: Animal fat becomes key biodiesel ingredient - Associated Press01/03/07

A new level of perversity -- using fat from slaughtered animals so we can speed down the highways in our SUV's. How appropriate that the big meat packers like Tyson are planning to use it to power their fleets.

Animal Fat Becomes Key Biodiesel Ingredient
By Christopher Leonard
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
01/03/2007

DEXTER, Mo. — Jerry Bagby is typical of the oilmen who are prospecting for a fortune in the Midwestern biofuels boom. He's convinced there's oil in these hills — and he's found a well that no one else is using.

Bagby and a longtime friend have cobbled together $5 million to build a new biodiesel plant on the lonely croplands outside this southeast Missouri town. They're betting they can hit paydirt by exploiting a generally overlooked natural resource that's abundant in these parts — chicken fat.

There's a virtual gusher of the stuff at a nearby Tyson Foods Inc. poultry plant. Currently, the low-quality fat is shipped out of state to be rendered and used as a cheap ingredient in pet food, soap and other products.

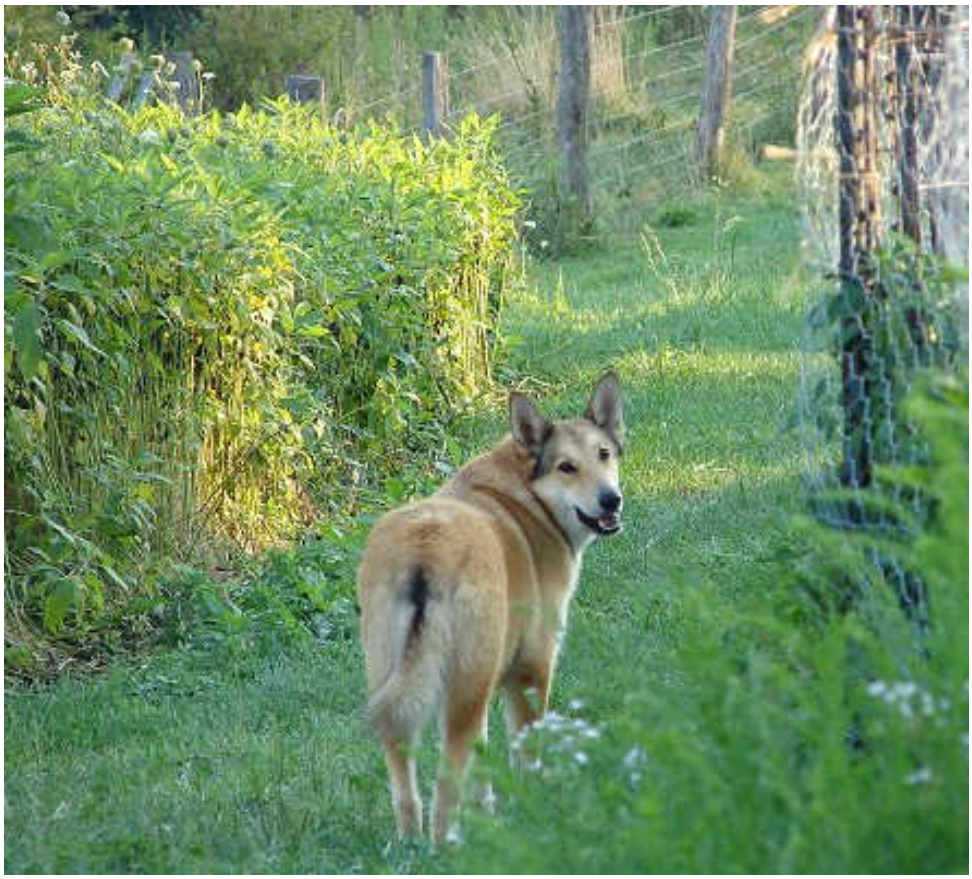
Bagby and his partner, Harold Williams, plan to refine the gooey substance, mix it with soybean oil and produce about 3 million gallons of biodiesel annually.

Today, only a tiny fraction of U.S. biodiesel is made from chicken fat, but that seems likely to change. The rising cost of soybean oil — which accounts for roughly 90 percent of all biodiesel fuel stock — is pushing the industry to exploit cheap and plentiful animal fats.

The nation's biggest meat corporations haven taken notice. Tyson Foods announced in November that

(Continued on page 14)

The Garden Needs YOUR Help!



Rudra protects the garden against the groundhogs, deer, and rabbits. However, the deer *are so numerous this year, he can't chase all of them away from the garden. Here he is* checking out the area between the Jerusalem artichokes and the squash. The four foot fence, that keeps the cows out, is in the background.

This growing season has been plagued by lack of rain. As a result, there are absolutely no apples or berries this year. Most of the garden is growing very slowly and some plants may not fructify by the end of the season.

In addition, there are more deer and rabbits than ever. We believe the deer are very hungry because the forest is not as plentiful due to the lack of rain. We also heard there are more deer because of more human development in the area limiting the deer to smaller areas for food. The local news reported five times more deer this season.

The result is that deer are attacking our garden. Since 1998, our resident dogs have been able to chase the deer away and keep them out of the garden. However, this season, our current dog Rudra cannot keep up with the numbers in addition to the increased number of rabbits. It is no fault of his as he has performed well in the past as the garden protector. He has the battle scars of fights with groundhogs and raccoons. The present garden is about an acre and he has a lot of territory to cover. In addition to Rudra, we have tried various methods to keep the deer away. All of them but one has not been fully effective.

We bought some chicken wire and made a fence around 1/3 of the garden. We have seen that the plants in this area are doing better and are once again flowering. Therefore, we know that a fence around the garden will make a big difference.

10 Foot Deer Fence

What we need to do is build a 10 foot fence around the garden since the deer cannot jump over it to get in the garden. The garden would then be fully protected from the deer.

As far as the rabbits and groundhogs, Rudra has decreased the population of groundhogs tremendously and has caught five rabbits this year. By digging the fence into the ground, it will also deter the rabbits and groundhogs.

We already have a fence around the garden to prevent the cows from eating the garden. This is made of four foot high fence posts and high tensile wire. We would extend the posts that are there to 10 feet in height and add 12 1/2 gauge, class three, zinc coated, chain link fencing with two strands of high tensile wire at the top. The bottom would be dug into the ground about a foot.

Currently we have 150 four foot high fence posts.

The plan is to use 10 foot high 4″x4″ pressure treated posts and to secure them to the existing fence posts. The fencing material we are going to order will last many years because of its heavy-duty construction. With proper care, we can expect it to last at least 25 years. A good deer fence will insure we are able to grow first class produce for you.

Here is the cost breakdown:

10 FOOT DEER FENCE

Wire	$4, 150.00
Posts	1, 495.50
Lumber and hardware	728.50
Gates	200.00
Labor	2, 500.00
2 rolls high tensile fence wire	360.00
TOTAL	9, 434.00

It has been a very discouraging season for us with planting some plants two and three times. Every year we cage each tomato plant as it helps it grow nicely. It is heartbreaking to see the tomato cages knocked down, and tomatoes, budding tomatoes, and branches eaten.

As a result, it looks like we will have very few tomatoes this year from 400 plants. The deer never bothered the tomato plants before. As many of you know, the dried tomatoes are our most popular premium for you, our donors. Other plants are also being eaten, mostly their leaves and flowers which must be more tasty to the deer than the forest leaves. Even the Bitter Melon is being eaten and it has a bitter taste that they usually do not like. We transplanted the Bitter Melon to the area that has been encaged in chicken wire. They are now doing better.

Greenhouse

Another garden challenge is planting enough seedlings and starting them early enough so that the garden gets as early a start as possible and the full growing season is utilized. At present, we use the living room to grow seedlings, which provides neither enough room nor sufficient warmth and light. The ISCOWP office is already in this area. We need to build a greenhouse to facilitate a sustainable garden operation.

There is a book called Earthship by Michael Reynolds, which explains how entire houses are made from earth filled tires. Because the mass of the earth filled tires is so great, the insulation value is greatly enhanced when used to build a house. Each dirt filled tire weighs over 300 pounds.

We started building the foundation of the greenhouse by pounding dirt into old tires that were on hand instead of putting them into a landfill. Since we only used one level of filled tires, we gained some insulation value but we mostly gained a very strong, heavy foundation for the greenhouse.

A "J" bolt was cemented into the middle of each tire to which the bottom sill plate was attached. The wall frame was attached to the bottom sill plate.

The greenhouse foundation consists of tires and ramed earth.

We made the wall frame of salvaged 2"x 4"s from an old house. Since these 2"x 4"s were from an old house, they were actually full 2"x 4"s and not today's cut down version.

That is as far as we got. The roof rafters will be 2"x 6"s x 18' long. Upon these 2"x 6" x 18' rafters, we will attach 1' x 4' hickory nail boards to which the roof will be attached.

We have researched different glazing options for the greenhouse roof and walls and have decided to use a twin wall polycarbonate glazing material, which will also give a fair amount of insulation to the greenhouse. The panels come in a width of 48" or 72" and we will be using lengths of six, eight, and 10 feet. We will be using the 48" wide panels. There is a 10 year warranty on the panels.

The hardware for these panels will also be purchased from the same company so that the maximum shelf life of the panels can be realized by proper installation. There will be a door on each end of the greenhouse to allow ease of materials coming into the greenhouse and seedlings and larger plants to exit the greenhouse on their way to the cold frames in early spring for the process of "hardening off."

We will be installing proper venting for incoming fresh air and automatic vent openers in the roof to allow air to escape when the greenhouse gets too hot. The greenhouse will measure 32'x18'.

Here is the breakdown of what we need to finish the greenhouse.

GREENHOUSE

Siding	$2,166. 34
Insulation	80.00
Hardware	274.24
Roof support system	1, 440.00
Labor	1, 000.00
Packing/shipping	500.00
Automatic vent openers	119.50
TOTAL	5, 579.84

Our goal is to build the 10 foot deer fence and greenhouse before the spring of next year to be ready for the next growing season. The total needed for both projects would be $15, 013.84. If we collect the needed funds soon, we could begin now. Please refer to the enclosed form to find out how you can help. We thank you so much for your support!

Remove the Mud Campaign a Success!

History of the Remove the Mud Campaign

The Remove the Mud Campaign began in the year 2000 when the difficulty in feeding out hay in the barn yard resulted in the tractor getting stuck in deep mud on Christmas day. We had to stop all activity and wait for Balabhadra to go and get another four wheel drive tractor to pull the tractor out of the mud. The previous years we had gotten stuck a few times but we were always able to get out of the mud eventually without the help of another machine. Each year the situation had been getting progressively worse. It was then and there that we decided to start the Remove the Mud Campaign to make a more efficient and safe barn and barnyard environment.

With the funds that came in from the first phase of the campaign we were able to excavate the barn yard, and pour a concrete cement floor with poles in place for a roof structure. The goal was to have a dry place to feed the cows during the winter months. We finished the roof in 2001 which created a new barn connected to the old barn. It took two years to complete this phase of the project.

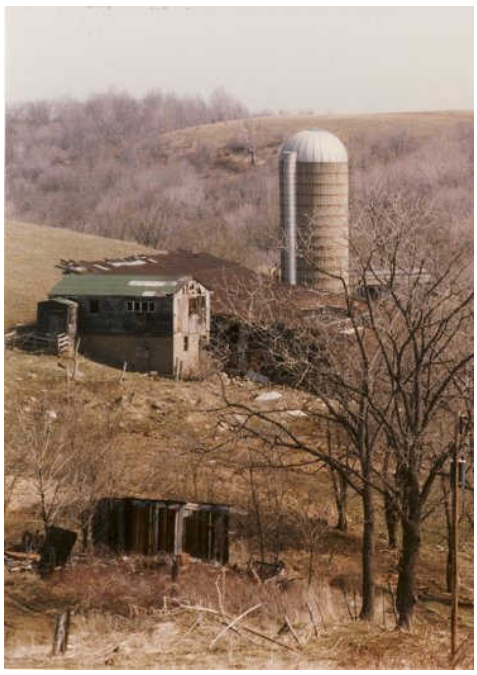
Top: This photo was taken on the morning of 7/26/07 as we prepared to start pouring the concrete slab which would finish the Remove The Mud Campaign. The boom/pump truck is in place in the left hand side of the photo. The boom had a reach of 110 feet before adding extra hose. On the right hand side we were able to get the first two concrete trucks close enough to finish the ramp on that side of the barn and the next 44 feet of the barn slab itself.

Bottom: Finally, after 6 weeks of preparation the concrete is running down the chute of the truck, We have just poured the first entry ramp and are heading into the first curve of the barn floor. We hired a local crew headed by George Haught who is maning the chute and signaling the truck driver to pull forward. The job was finished with 76 1/2 yards of cement being poured.

In 2002 we fundraised for a hay barn because our round bales of hay were out in the weather and therefore we continued to lose hay. The hay barn was built in 2003.

In 2004, due to global warming, the winters began to get warmer. Where once the ground remained frozen and safe for the cows, it now became mud, and with the cows heavy foot traffic, deep pot holes appeared in the Loafing Shed area where there was very little concrete floor. Remove the Mud Campaign Phase 2 was begun in 2004 to remove this new mud problem in the Loafing Shed area. Because of this campaign, in 2004 we were able to pour concrete in this area and widen the loafing shed by 40 feet. The widening allowed for a hay storage area, a 500 gallon water trough, and two separate areas for the cows with separate feeding areas. The whole barn was put under roof with electricity and lights for any night time work. The loafing shed was now a barn capable of housing sick and infirm animals. Our Vet, Dr. Todd Moores, nicknamed it the Geriatric Barn.

In 2005 we continued the campaign to provide gutters on the big barn and concrete between the Geriatric Barn and the big barn. Once again the continuing warmer winters created mud problems for the cows where before the earth remained frozen under their feet.



Top photos: Barn in 1996
Bottom photo: Barn in 2007

In 2005 the area between the Geriatric Barn and the big barn was completed. In 2006 the gutters were installed. Now in 20007, the cementing of the long area in front of the barn, the last phase of Remove the Mud Cam-paign, was completed. It took ap-proximately seven years to complete the Remove the Mud Campaign. We are most thankful to you our donors for this accomplishment and the nice facilities for the cows.

The Last Phase of the Remove the Mud Campaign

This last phase began on June 19, 2007. I had contacted John Blakemore, a local excavation contractor, to do the excavation and site preparation for the project. John is a local fellow who works by himself which helps to keep costs down, as he doesn't have to pay an equipment operator on top of his fees. John brought his backhoe, small bulldozer and dump truck to do the job.

The first part of the job was to dig down to virgin soil or clay, whichever came first. It took all of the first day just to push aside all of the years and years of accumulated manure. The original barn that we have been trying to salvage and build onto was built some time in the 1960s when the property was owned by the Rominick family. They owned the property from 1954-1974 when it was purchased by ISKCON. We purchased the property from ISKCON in 1996 and have been gradually fixing the barn and fences.

Because of the heat and humidity we would start no later than 7 AM and work straight through until around 7 PM. in the evening. Because we were having very dry weather we wanted to get the excavation and back fill

work completed. If we had to deal with rain then the project would become very difficult because of mud. During the two weeks of the excavation and back fill phase of the job it only rained once.

Before we reached clay, to give a good foundation for the project, we had to remove over three feet of manure. Next phase was hauling into the site good fill dirt or shale to give a good stable bed for the concrete to be poured onto.

We have an area just past the hay barn that we used as a source of dirt for back fill. By the time the backfill phase was completed we had dug back into the hill about 30 feet deep and 75 feet long and the top of the hill being about 15 feet high. After the backhoe filled the truck with dirt it was driven to the barn and dumped. Then the bulldozer would spread it out and pack the dirt down into a nice hard surface. All in all we hauled in about 100 loads of dirt from our little quarry to bring the barn floor to the appropriate level to pour the new concrete floor.

Because of the hot weather, the cows would usually come into the barn just after we started work in the morning. We could tell how hot the day would be by how early in the morning they would come to seek the shade of the barn. They like to spend the evening on the hill top because of the cool breezes. As the sun rose and the heat started to rise they would rise and graze their way to the barn for water and shade. Because of the lack of rain here, the pastures are very poor this year. We had hay available in the barn for them also as a free choice feed if they were so inclined.

As the truck would dump the dirt, it was not uncommon for at least one of the cows to come and play in the dirt. They would roll their faces in the dirt and also kick some of the dirt in the air so it would land on their backs. They were using the dirt on their bodies to help ward off the flies. Sometimes they would jump and kick up their rear feet and just make a big mess of the new pile of dirt. They were just like little kids coming to the playground to play in the sandbox.

When we finally got enough dirt back into the barn and packed down good and hard, we had to start determining grade. We were going to pour a four inch thick slab of concrete but it needed to have a three inch drop away from the barn so water would run away from the barn when it rains. Slowly but surely with a string and line level we moved from section to section with the bulldozer and determined grade. Sometimes having to add some fresh dirt and sometimes having to scrape out dirt in areas that were too high. This part of the project took almost three days as it needed to be done just right.

Collecting the dirt fill from this area on the farm created a new space for future equipment storage.

Dumping and spreading the dirt fill in front of the barn before laying wire mesh and then pouring concrete.

The length of the barn is 185 feet. We have installed a six inch wide gutter system to carry away the rain water from the roof which measures 185 feet long by 65 feet wide. Because of the size of the roof we have installed two six inch downspouts which are buried approximately 400 to a gulch which will channel the water to the already existing creek which runs into Birche's Run.

After the final touches on the site preparation were completed we began to make two new fences. The top fence has 6x6 pressure treated uprights with 2x6 rough cut oak horizontal boards. We rented a two man gas powered auger and drilled 44 holes three feet deep to set the posts. Some holes drilled easily but some we had to do by hand digging. After the posts were placed in the holes the dirt was slowly replaced and tamped firm so that the posts were firmly secured. After all of the posts on this fence were in place we moved to the lower part of the job site and again drilled holes. The upper fence is to keep the cows from going from the barn down the hill. The lower fence will keep the cows from going up the hill into the barn. The lower fence is con-structed of well seasoned Locust posts from the forest and strung with high tensile wire. We hired several local boys and several boys from the temple to help with the fencing. Not only was it an economic benefit for them but they learned how to build two types of fences. These young men learned what a project of this size re-quires to go from start to finish. They worked hard in the heat and when the last of the concrete was poured they had a sense of accomplishment and felt like it was more than just a job, it was an educational process.

Two of the uprights on the leading edge of the barn needed to be replaced so we used old utility poles to shore up the roof and ensure strong long term support for those sections of roof. Because of their weight we used the backhoe to lift them into place.

Laying the drain pipe for the gutters.

Installing fence line and new barn poles.

Because we needed dirt for back fill from a certain location we had to take down some old fence line. After the job site was finally prepared we again had to rebuild this fence line . Again holes were dug and Locust posts placed and tamped into place. On this fence line we built a gate which allows us access to the pasture above and behind our house. We also built a gate allowing vehicle traffic out to our house. This fence is of high tensile wire on Locust posts.

Now the cows could be turned out to pasture on that side of the farm, which they were very happy to visit again for some fresh grazing, slim as it was due to lack of rain.

At this point, almost everything was ready for the concrete. We made it impossible for the cows to get to the barn and laid wire mesh panels that were five feet wide and 10 feet long. These will act as reinforcement agents for the concrete. I had estimated that we needed 116 pieces of this mesh and we used only 100 pieces. Every thing was checked and double checked to make sure we were ready for the concrete pour. We were ready.

The crew and boom / pump truck were scheduled and the concrete company was contacted and the order placed. The boom / pump truck arrived at 6:45 AM. and the first concrete truck rolled in at 7:30. The weather forecast was for a 50% chance of rain, but the weather turned out to be only in the high 80's with a breeze. The concrete started to fill the forms we had laid out as truck by truck the Remove the Mud Campaign was coming to a wonderful and fulfilling conclusion. We poured 76 1 / 2 yards of concrete in great weather. The next day it rained on a finished job.

After his surgery, a rainbow appeared over Jaya

Jaya's Fight Against Cancer

It has been 3 ½ years now since Jaya was diagnosed with cancerous growths in both eyes. We called our local vet back then and he came and diagnosed the growths as cancer on the third eyelid. Upon diagnosis, we immediately took Jaya into the barn and Dr. Moore surgically removed both growths. Due to the location of the growths, Dr. Moore felt there was no guarantee that he removed every cancer cell. Everything was fine for two years until we again noticed some growth in the eye that previously had the larger growth. In September 2006, Dr. Moore again came and surgically removed as much of the growth as he could. The other eye remained clear. At that point, Jaya also had a spot of cancerous growth on his eyeball. Again, Dr. Moore told us he might not have gotten all the cancer, and he would most likely lose his eye in 6 months.

Over the winter months, we used homeopathic remedies to see if we could minimize and hopefully kill the growth. Everything was going nicely and even the growth on his eyeball disappeared. In early spring 2007, the growth on his eyelid started again. It was growing slowly and then started to accelerate. It was again time to call Dr. Moore for an evaluation and possible surgery. The cancer was now growing and pushing the eyeball back into his skull. Dr Moore recommended that we should go to Ohio State University Veterinary hospital. They could either laser or freeze the cancer and save Jaya's eye. Dr Moore contacted the hospital and made the arrangements for us to go there.

Although we have a trailer, we do not have a truck road worthy enough to pull the trailer on a long trip with Jaya in it. Dr. Moore called one of his friends, Valerie McDonnell who hauls horses, to take us and Jaya. Valerie told us later that she was afraid to take the job because we were Hare Krishna's. She decided to take us after Dr. Moore informed her we were good people.

On Tuesday, June 5, she came and picked us up. My daughter Lakshmi, Jaya, and I were off to the Ohio State University hospital. It was a three hour drive. During the drive, Valerie and Lakshmi talked about caring for animals with love.

When we got there, Jaya was unloaded from the trailer and taken into his operating room. The first evaluation was that there was a tumor behind the eye as well. In order to get as much of the cancer as possible, it would be necessary to remove his eye. Of course, we were hoping that this would not be the case. Then the experts from the optical department were called for consultation and after a hands-on evaluation, they also concluded that in order to remove the cancer the eye would also have to be removed. All doctors evaluated the other eye as cancer free. He was then given general anesthesia and then local anesthesia in a 360 degree pattern around his eye.

The operation was performed and during the operation, the doctor and student interns were all talking to Jaya and addressing him by his

Jaya after his first surgery. The cancer came back after two years.

(Continued on page 15)

Pesticides: The Real Pest

BY CHAND PRASAD, PH.D.

Strong growth in global pesticide usage has propelled annual sales to a level of 30 billion dollars, with Asia accounting for about twenty-five percent of these expenditures. Multinationals such as Bayer, Cyanamid, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, Novartis and Zeneca maintain that their pesticide products reduce famine by protecting crops from insect damage. This article focuses on a number of key factors influencing the costs and benefits of pesticide use.

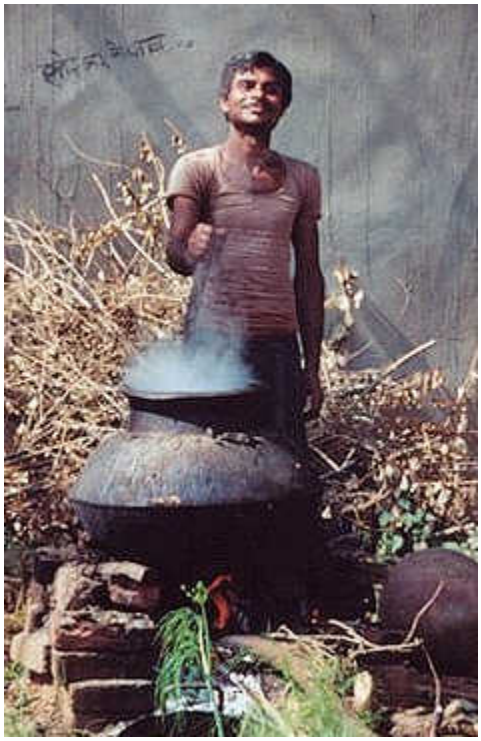
Conditions in most developing countries make it practically impossible to guarantee appropriate pesticide use. Moreover, according to the National Academy of Sciences at least one out of seven people in the United States are significantly harmed by pesticide exposure each year [3]. Although the pesticide industry maintains that their chemicals are heavily diluted, they are still extremely dangerous in small amounts. Many pesticide ingredients are listed as inert, which allows them to be kept hidden from the public and not listed on product labels. Far from being inactive fillers, these inert compounds such as benzene and xylene, are more toxic than listed chemicals [1,2]. The listed chemicals, which include components of wartime defoliants like Agent Orange, nerve-gas type insecticides, and artificial hormones, are also extremely hazardous:

Many pesticides are not safe when dry. Water evaporates, but most pesticides remain and continue to release often odorless and invisible toxic vapors. They accumulate in toxic smog throughout the entire season.

Pesticides and chemical fertilizers are becoming some of the worst water pollutants in America.

Some pesticides remain active for years after application. DDT is still showing up in higher rates in women's breast milk than the government permits in cow's milk [4].

Pesticides drift and settle during application. In the Antarctic ice pack alone there are 2.4 million pounds of DDT and its metabolites from years past [7].



Mixing cow urine and herbs to make safe organic pesticide.

Fat soluble pesticides accumulate over time in our bodies, then are released at potentially toxic levels when illness or stress results in our fat reserves being metabolised. A large portion of a woman's lifetime exposure to such pesticides is released in the breast milk for her firstborn child [8].

It is a violation of U.S.Federal law to claim pesticides are "safe when used as directed" since nothing can assure safety [2,3,5].

Some pesticides labeled "biodegradable" degrade into compounds more dangerous than the original. Examples include Mancozeb, which degrades into a substance that is an EPA-classified probable carcinogen.[6]

Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health have shown that individuals reporting exposure to pesticides had a 70 percent higher incidence of Parkinsons Disease than those not reporting exposure.

Although the Green Revolution may have been well intentioned in that it sought to avert food shortages and starvation by raising agricultural productivity, it proved to be a highly profitable, lucrative boon to the pesticide industry. After 30 years of intensive use on Asian rice farms and subsequent damage to the environment, the International Rice Research Institute recognized that "most insecticide use on rice is a waste of the farmers' time and money" [9]. Pesticides kill friendly insects, therefore helping the pests they would otherwise help control. The result is that pesticide use becomes self-perpetuating, implying that farmers become more dependent on these chemical inputs. This dependence provides a steady flow of revenues and profits for the pesticide industry.

There is little or no corporate support for safer organic alternatives to chemical pesticides, although the pesticide industry has indeed detected a growing backlash. However, instead of developing truly organic alternatives, companies sometimes label their chemical inputs as "organic", knowing that the term legally may be applied to any compound containing carbon and hydrogen. Additionally, some pesticide companies have expanded into the seed industry and genetic engineering. The industry now advertises the

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 5)
Letters: Animal Fat Becomes Key Biodiesel Ingredient

it has established a renewable energy division that will be up and running this year. Competitors Perdue Farms Inc. and Smithfield Foods Inc. are making similar moves.

As meatpackers enter the field, they bring massive amounts of fuel stock that could make biodiesel cheaper and more plentiful.

The shift to animal fat as a fuel stock could be key to making the budding biodiesel industry a reliable fuel source for U.S. trucking fleets, said Vernon Eidman, a professor of economics at the University of Minnesota who has extensively studied the biofuels industry.

Eidman estimates that within five years, the U.S. will produce 1 billion gallons of biodiesel, and half of it will be made from animal fat. By that time, soybean-based biodiesel will account for about 20 percent of the total, he said.

For fuel refiners like Bagby, the allure of animal fat is clear. Soybean oil costs 33 cents a pound, while chicken fat costs 19 cents. He plans to include soybean oil in his blend only because it adds necessary lubrication for engine parts.

"Soybean oil is more expensive than other products, so we just use enough of it to make the system run clean," Bagby said, gesturing toward a row of pipes and vats being installed in his new refinery.

For companies like Tyson, the attraction is simple. Being the nation's biggest meat company, Tyson is also the biggest producer of leftover fat from chicken, cattle and hogs.

Tyson is keeping the specifics of its renewable fuels division under tight wraps. But Tyson Vice President Jeff Webster told a recent investment conference the potential is clear. Tyson produces about 2.3 billion pounds of chicken fat annually from its poultry plants. That's about 300 million gallons that could be converted to fuel.

The market for biodiesel and ethanol really started to boom in August 2005, after passage of the federal Energy Policy Act, experts say. The bill set a new standard requiring the U.S. to use 7 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2012.

Increasing demand for soybean oil as a fuel and as a food is making the price creep up for biodiesel. It now makes economic sense to invest in new technology to process animal fat into usable form as a fuel stock.

Gita likes to be rubbed behind his horns

Tyson and Perdue already are experimenting with biodiesel. Both companies have started using biodiesel in their trucking fleets.

Perdue, of Salisbury, Md., also is selling soybean oil as a biodiesel fuel stock through the company's Grain and Oilseed Division. The company also said last summer that it's studying plans to build its own biofuels plants or invest in others.

Having a massive new source of fuel stock is a welcome development for the biodiesel industry, said Amber Thurlo Pearson, a spokeswoman for the National Biodiesel Board.

"More biodiesel in the marketplace could help make biodiesel's cost even more competitive with diesel fuel," Pearson said.

The board estimates that U.S. biodiesel production is tripling annually, going to 75 million gallons in 2005 from 25 million gallons in 2004. The final tally for 2006 should be between 150 and 225 million. Biodiesel costs about $1 a gallon more to produce than conventional diesel, but federal tax breaks for fuel distributors help hide that cost from consumers.

Bagby said his plant will be running by the end of January. His equipment can refine soybean oil, cotton seed oil and animal fat. That gives him flexibility to use whatever's cheapest. His first batches will be made from soybean oil because it's easiest to calibrate the equipment.

(Continued from page 12)

Jaya's Fight Against Cancer

name. Jaya is 13 years old, two thousand pounds, and quite a handsome fellow. Nobody could believe that he was 13 years old and in such great shape. The operation took little over an hour and after the operation, we spoke with the doctor and the interns and gave them some ISCOWP literature. Everyone was very happy to meet us and to be able to be of service to Jaya. They all remarked how well behaved he was.

The doctors told us that this kind of tumor is not uncommon amongst white-faced cattle. By nature, the tumor has branches, and they thought there was a good chance they got it all. When the tumor was removed, it was the size of a softball about 3 inches in diameter. It apparently was causing a lot of pressure behind his eye.

On the way home, Jaya sat down in the trailer for the whole ride. When we got back to the farm, he was quite happy to be home. We put him in the Geriatric Barn with special cutting hay. Unfortunately, we have not allowed the other cows to come into contact with him for fear that his healing eye will get bumped. He is quite content in the geriatric barn and eating well. We will keep him there for the next three weeks until the time we can remove the stitches. In the barn, it is very cool and there are considerably less flies. The big concern now is to keep everything clean and the flies away from the wound. We were given a special spray to spray on his face to keep flies away. Valerie read the entire ISCOWP memorial issue for the passing of Vraja and decided to give us a discount for her services. She now wants to visit Prabhupada's Palace and temple to understand more about the Hare Krishna philosophy.

After we had gotten Jaya secured in the Geriatric Barn, there was a five minute downpour of rain followed by a beautiful rainbow which ended right above the Geriatric Barn and Jaya. To us this was a very favorable sign and the end of successful journey to the Ohio State Veterinary hospital. We humbly request everyone to pray for Jaya's speedy and full recovery.

Editors note: It is now August and Jaya's eye area has healed beautifully. The vet took out the stitches and said he could go out on pasture. His mood was joyous as he joined the herd. We are giving him some homeopathic medicine with the hope of preventing any further cancer growth.

(Continued from page 13)

Pesticides: The Real Pest

hazards of pesticides as part of a marketing strategy to replace insecticides with genetically modified crops.

Fortunately, farmers themselves are accurate observers that have demonstrated a willingness to experiment. For example, in Tamil Nadu, India, more than 8,000 farmers in 10 districts have been using herbal pest repellents. A Karikali-based group in Tamil Nadu, Vazhviyal Multiversity, has produced an herbal pest repellent from knowledge derived from Vriksha Ayurveda. The repellent is prepared from the leaves of five plant species not eaten by cattle. These can vary from place to place, but ideally the repellent contains neem, tulsi, and datura. The leaves are collected, cut into pieces and pounded. It is then put in an earthen pot filled with cow urine and allowed to ferment in a compost pit for 10 days. The fermented solution is filtered with a cotton cloth, and water is added. This solution can be used as an herbal spray, but it should be used before the insects appear [9].

The value of cow urine-based pesticides provides further evidence of the utility of cow protection. The objective of breeding cows is to provide a team of oxen for every family farm. Valuable by-products include milk, manure which adds nutrients to the soil, and urine which acts as both a fertilizer and pesticide. ISCOWP properly distinguishes between the objective and the by-products, and furthermore practices cow protection in a larger spiritual context based on the teachings of Srila Prabhupada.

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The Garden Needs YOUR Help!

You may ask what does the garden have to do with protecting cows? As many of you know, we use dried organic produce from our garden as premiums for your donations to cow protection. Not only are these premiums well liked by you, our donors, but they represent Srila Prabhupada's vision of a lifestyle centered around the cows and land. By offering you organic produce grown on land fertilized with the cow dung from the cows you are helping to protect, we are both coming full circle with the practice of cow protection. We are showing how the cows are useful even if old.

There is not much produce this year because the garden is being attacked by deer. Read about it on page six.

The garden also provides produce for our own consumption so we can be as self sufficient as possible from the supermarket throughout the year. We are able to accomplish this by canning garden produce during harvest time. Some of you may remember us sending you some canned produce. We had to stop that because of the increased postal rates.

Two years a go we started selling produce locally. Our produce was well received and helped us pay our personal bills so that we could devote most of our time to our cow protection endeavors. The garden saves us money at the grocery store.

We are very much concerned to establish a means of income separate from our 4 month winter job in the mall. We could get more accomplished on the farm if we need not be away from the farm for so long. A successful garden is essential to accomplishing this goal.

You can attain more information about what is needed to save the garden and develop it as a sustainable garden project on page six and seven. Please give generously to "The Garden Needs Your Help!" campaign by using the form and envelope enclosed on page six. Thank you so much!

The top photo is of a tomato grown this year in our garden that was beginning to be eaten by deer. Most of the tomatoes never got this big as they were totally eaten at an earlier stage of development. The second photo shows the tomatoes growing in last year's deer free garden.