

ISCOWP® News



In Memory of Jaya and Ujala

Emergency: (Update) Water for the Cows!, Ox Training, Cow Protection at New Govardhana, ISCOWP Members Speak,

WWW.ISCOWP.ORG





Dear ISCOWP Members,

The frigid temperatures of winter have not yet come and we are taking advantage of the mild weather to complete a few outdoor farm projects. You have already helped us fix part of the water system project and with your help we can fix the entire water system!

Please refer to the opposite page and enclosed form and thank you!

Since the last newsletter, Jaya and Ujala have moved on to greener pastures. We are most sad to see them go, and we will miss our beloved friends. However, we are thankful they are no longer inconvenienced by their ailing bodies.

Thank you so much for sending letters expressing your thoughts, reporting your activities and providing news and information. Publishing these letters in this newsletter helps create a community of cow protectors. Keep sending and Happy Holidays!

Yours, Chayadevi

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ISCOWP Profile

The official International Society for Cow Protection, Inc. (ISCOWP) was incorporated in the USA, March 1990, as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. William and Irene Dove (Balabhadra das and Chayadevi dasi) are its managing directors. They are disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder Acharya of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). Through their spiritual master's teachings, they have imbibed the practices and benefits, both spiritual and material, of lifetime cow protection.

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

Mailing Address

ISCOWP
RD 1 Box 322 A
Moundsville, WV, USA, 26041

Phone

1.304.843.1658

Internet

iscowp@earthlink.net
www.iscowp.org

www.facebook.com/internationalsocietyforcowprotectioniscowp

www.causes.com/cowprotection

Donations and Financial Report s

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For recognition of donors and to donate:
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Editor's note

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Janardan breaking the first 4 inches of cement in the left photo on the first day. In the right photo Janardana has broken a good portion of the 12 inches of cement. The finished hole is approximately 4 ft. wide and 5 ft. long and 5 ft. deep.

Emergency:(Update) Water for The Cows!

Good news! The geriatric water tank is fixed! Thank you, our donors, for contributing the funds necessary to fix it! Also we have enough funds to do the maintenance of the water system!

We had rented a jack hammer and the initial 4 inches of cement took a few hours and then 2 feet of dirt were easily removed. The problem then arose when we hit cement again and discovered this cement was about 12 inches thick. We had forgotten that before we rebuilt and enlarged the small barn we had another water system in place there. So, the cement removal now took 2 days instead of the initial 1 day. Janardan, the young man we hired for this phase of the project, finished digging the hole to a depth of 5 feet and was glad this phase of the project was finished.

For phase 2 we removed all of the broken concrete and dirt from the work area and brought in gravel for back-filling the hole and approximately 30-40 bags of cement to seal the hole.

When the hole was finished being opened, our plumber, Tejo, ascertained what was needed to reinstall a new frostless water hydrant, the necessary parts were purchased and Tejo installed the new hydrant.



Tejo , our plumber, getting everything ready to install the new frostless water hydrant.

The old water tank, the one used extensively, is still not fixed. We need more funds to complete this last part of the project. It was built in 1964 and over the years we have tried fixing it but each fix was only temporary. It leaks, is not level, and the on/off button doesn't work. If the tank does not turn off properly, the well is drained. We need to replace this system by taking down the old tank, building a new tank, pouring a cement pad, and moving the water line. The estimate for this is \$5,000.

With your help we can fix the old water tank by winter. The weather is still mild enough to do the work. Please use the enclosed form with your donation and thank you very much for your help!

Geriatric Barn water **\$1,500.00**
Completed due to your generosity!

10 Year Maintenance **\$1,000.00**
Funds collected. Thank you!

Old Water Tank **\$5,000.00**
\$500 donated to this

Previous Total needed **\$7,500.00**
Total Needed Now **\$4,500.00**

Letters

Appreciation and News

From: Jan Alexander

To: Chayadevi & Balabhadra Dove

Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2009 2:36 PM

Subject: Newsletter

I have just read your latest newsletter. I wanted to thank you for troubling to write the newsletters. They are such a help and encouragement to me. It is somehow soothing and helpful to read about the passing of the cows, as I worry about how that will be for us here with our six cattle. It eases my worry to read about how you manage these old treasures.

Rukmini is now 20 years, and she has had a couple of incidents where she couldn't get up. Homeopathic remedies and some anti-inflammatory powders, plus a little concentrated meal, and she is in wonderful form again, - we are so attached to her. She and Aruni are in the home field now and not going out on the rough grass with the others.

Sympathy to you on the passing of Big Shyam. He looks to have been a very sweet natured bullock and I'm sure you'll miss him. It must have been a long two weeks for you. Great that the little ones were there for him.

Thanks again for sending the back issues of ISCOWP with the article about our cattle. It's lovely to have them and to pass them on.

Hoping you are all well.
Your servant, Jan

From: Jan Alexander

To: iscowp@earthlink.net

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009

4:10 AM

Subject: 2 great iPhotos

Lovely to hear from you. When you print my July letter, sadly you might like to add the attached photos.

Our beloved Rukmini passed away peacefully and suddenly in mid September. She was in really excellent health apart from the stiffness in her poor old joints. She had a glossy coat and a keen appetite and every day during the summer she would work her way around the entire 'Home Field', grazing and enjoying her life. We had let Rukmini and Aruni have the field to themselves, - the rest of the herd were out on their usual summer pasture. Rukmini could see them in the distance, and showed no great worry about being separated.

She enjoyed her bucket, as usual, the evening before she died. In the morning however she was drooling a bit and didn't look right. She mouthed through the grain, but only ate about half of it. An hour later, in lovely morning sunshine with birdsong and great peace all around, she left her body without any fuss.

Of course we were heartbroken, but full of gratitude for Krishna's mercy, for her wonderful life and her smooth, pain free departure. Rukmini was twenty years old and had lived with us on our farm for the last ten years.



Rukmini early last summer



Rukmini & Aruni enjoying their time together, June 2009 in Ireland.

From: Julia Alter

To: iscowp@earthlink.net

Sent: Saturday, October 24, 2009 1:57

Subject: The photos

All the photos are great!! Doesn't the grass look lush? Good for the babies' munching and growing. I like best



Julia Alter receiving a lick from here adopted ox Priya.

the one you picked to enlarge. I keep picturing Oswald (Priya's father) and how beautiful he is and picturing Priya with those grey fur colors around his neck and shoulders. And the massive body. I keep thinking of the babies and their tongues. Plus the fragrance of your white tuberoses.

I got your tomatoes today. I will have some for Ekadasi -- on Thursday, with quinoa and peppers, from your recipe. Thank you for the time to ship/mail me the tomatoes. Just the taste and aroma of the tomatoes brings back thoughts of your farm and family. Give my big baby a nuzzle....I look forward to getting back to see him before too long.

From: Krpamayi
To: iscowp@earthlink.net
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2009 3:14
Subject: RE: Thank you

Dear Chayadevi and
Balabhadra prabhus,

I am sorry it's taken so long for me to respond to this note. I really want to thank both of you for welcoming us to your wonderful farm and for all of the devotion you put into your service to the cows and our dear Srila Prabhupada. I am certain that he is deeply touched by your devotional spirit and that Sri Sri Radha Vrndavan Chandra smile on you daily.

For folks like my husband and I you offer an opportunity to serve at a distance in some small way and we are very grateful for that. By the way we've already cooked with the fantastic sun dried tomatoes. The recipes are much appreciated. Maybe our Deities will finally enjoy some good cooking!

Hoping this note finds you and your sweet family in good health and blissful Krsna consciousness.

p.s. we loved the pictures!

From: Chris Fici
To: "ISCOWP"
Subject: Your inspiration and a request
Date: Sunday, September 20, 2009 7:14

This is Bhakta Chris, and I just wanted to write to you to tell you of some recent developments here in NYC that have been inspired by your efforts with ISCOWP.

First, we have begun our Veggie Cooking class at NYU for this year, and I have started a small vegetarian themed and inspired talk that I give to the students each week.



Caitanya, Madri, Krpamayi, Kanti DePoo & daughter Ravati, Chayadevi & daughter Lakshmi and her baby Balaji gathered together at the ISCOWP farm for a cow tour.

Last week's initial talk was about cow protection, and your own efforts at ISCOWP. I explained some of my experiences and inspirations with the cows that I have met, and explained some of the practical reasons (ox power, fertilizer, etc) why we should protect and use our bovine friends in much more productive ways. This week I will focus on the emotional, intelligent, and personable aspects of cows, and I pray for your blessings to touch the hearts of these students so they can understand more deeply why I chose to be a vegetarian and

why it is so important to see cows as something much more than just a milk carton or a slab of beef.

The resources at your website, and the chances you allowed me to do whatever small seva I could for you, are immense help in creating these weekly presentations for the students at NYU. I just wanted to express my gratitude towards you for this.

We're doing a lot of networking here in the city as part of our eco initiatives at our temple, and we'll be attending a Walk For Farm Animals,

www.walkforfarmanimals.org, on Oct 4th in Central Park run by the Farm Sanctuary: www.farmsanctuary.org.

I was wondering if it might be possible (if it's not a conflict of interest) to send us some of your promotional materials for this event, so that we can promote ISCOWP and make some meaningful connections for you and for our temple.

Thank you so much for your inspiration and your example, and for the opportunities to serve you. I pray

your health is improved, and I ask for your blessings so that I may be able to do whatever I can to please Srila Prabhupada.

Your humble servant
Bhakta-Chris Fici,
Bhaktivedanta Ashramm, NYC

From: "Chris Fici"
To: "ISCOWP"
Subject: Re: Your inspiration &a request
Date: Sunday, October 04, 2009 5:40

Thank you so much for the package of newsletters and brochures. We'll put them to good use in our outreach programs.

Today we attended the Farm Sanctuary's Walk For Farm Animals in Central Park. It was a very inspiring event with about 200 people on the walk. It's great to see such a compassionate consciousnesses developing and in action. Your own efforts are a such a big part of this as well. I was even able to give a newsletter and brochure to news anchor, activist, and author Jane Velez-Mitchell: http://www.cnn.com/CNN/anchors_reporters/velez-mitchell.jane.html who promised eagerly to check it out.

As always, we ask for your blessings in our efforts to help promote cow protection and Prabhupada's mission, and we'll keep you posted on our outreach activities.

The link to my blog: <http://yogaofecology.blogspot.com/>
(The Yoga of Ecology)

Bailing Out the Dairy Industry

From: WJBOYLE3@aol.com
To: iscowp@earthlink.net
Sent: Sunday, January 18, 2009 11:58
Subject: The Latest Dairy Industry News

The Latest Dairy Industry News -
January 16, 2009

Cheese trades on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange in units commonly referred to as blocks. One block of cheese weighs between 40 and 44 pounds. Yesterday (January 15, 2009), the price for block cheese fell to \$1.04 per pound. Thirteen months ago, dairy processors were getting \$1.79 per pound for block cheese.

The United States government supports the dairy industry by entering commercial markets and buying blocks of cheese when the "support price" falls below \$1.13 per pound. U.S. taxpayers have become the dairy industry's best customer.

Since America's dairy industry helped develop dairy industries in other nations, America's export potential has virtually dried up. Furthermore, American cheese is made with milk from cows treated with the genetically engineered bovine growth hormone. Of all the world's consumers, only Americans are foolish enough to chance eating dairy hormones associated with increased cancer rates.

Summary: Decreased domestic demand for cheese (consumers are learning that it is unhealthy), decreased exports, and increased production (American cheddar production was up 2.3 percent in November) all have contributed to this unique government bailout program.

If the price of corn goes down, will the Obama White House be purchasing boxes of Corn Flakes?

At the same time as the cheese market is melting faster than a grilled cheese sandwich nuked in a microwave oven, the liquid milk market is crashing too. The Class III futures price for milk is now \$10.68 for every hundred pounds produced. In 2008, the same milk price averaged \$17.44 per hundredweight. NOTE:

Class III milk is that milk used to make cheese. Half of all milk produced in America is Class III.

Robert Cohen
<http://www.notmilk.com>

Cows and Economy - If I can do it, I think anybody can.

From: Krishna Caitanya das
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:05
To: Hare Krsna dasi
iscowp@earthlink.net
Subject: RE: COWS AND ECONOMY -
If I can do it, I think just about anybody can.

I have been taking care of cows and oxen for 13 years. In my experience, keeping cows has only ever helped my family's economic situation. We started with one milk cow and a bull calf. Over the years we have had both boy and girl calves. The question was asked, "What happens when the cow needs to have a calf to have more milk?" I thought we already knew the answer to that question. We raise the girls as milk cows and train the boys as oxen.

I have found that even 4 or 5 years after having a calf our cows still give at least a 1/2 gallon to 1 gallon of milk a day, that's 3.5 to 7 gallons of milk a week, more than plenty for a family. Anyway, after 13 years we have 8 cows in our herd right now: 3 milk cows, 4 oxen, and a bull calf. Some of these we bought, some were born here and one of the oxen came from an ISKCON farm. We have never sold any animals and would only give away animals to devotees. Even then, we would make sure the devotees could take care of the cows and they would have the option of giving them back to us if they couldn't take proper care of them. I have had

(Continued on page15)



When he was young, Jaya, the inside ox, did some light logging in the winter with his partner Nanda and teamster Ananga Manjari.

In Memory of Jaya

Jaya has passed away. After over 5 years of fighting cancer in his eyes, he sat down on September 16 and could not get up. The following day his soul left his body. It was a quick and fearless departure. He had been so fortunate to keep pasturing with the herd throughout his illness and we hoped that when he did go down he would leave quickly. When we found him down we immediately placed a tape of Srila Prabhupada chanting near him and gave him holy water from the Ganges and Yamuna rivers. We suspected that he would leave us quickly as he had been loosing the fight against the cancer for several months.

Always a good natured ox, Jaya was pleased to see anyone. He liked people even after 3 operations to remove the cancerous growths. When

we took him to the veterinarian hospital in Columbus for his last and most extensive operation a year an a half ago, the doctors and students were amazed at his cooperative attitude and at how large he was yet so sweet. He was a little over 6 feet at his shoulder and weighed about 1 ton. Since the time he was discovered with eye cancer, which we have been told is common for white faced cows, we tried alternative medicines like homeopathy which appeared to help but never cured him.

When Bhumi, who also died of eye cancer this spring, came back from the Columbus hospital after having her cancerous growth removed, it was Jaya who comforted her. He would visit her in her stall as if to assure her that he healed and so would she. She became calm after his visits.

His partner Nanda passed away this year also. Both were 14 years old which is equal to 70 years in a human's life. Both Nanda and Jaya made the team Jayananda, named after the present day Vaisnava saint. When they were young, their main service was logging.

"He was such a dear gentle soul, always so loving and so grateful for the attention given to him. He was never pushy even if you had an apple for him, he had the good manners to wait patiently till it was offered to him. I feel so blessed to have been a small part of his life even for a brief time and I will always treasure the time that I got to spend with him. They are all special in their own way, but he just had a nature that reached out to you when you were with him," wrote Shelda Bloomingdale.



Caitanya, has just split this locust post in half....this section yielded four posts.



From the corner of the fence to the last post has taken 205 locust fence posts.

Our herd now consists of 20 members. We feel a membership of 20 to 23 is a practical number for our farm.

Due to the weather being mild, the cows have really been enjoying themselves. They love the cool brisk weather and no flies. However, we are due for the cold, frigid temperatures of winter. Actually, the cows do well in this weather also as they grow thick furry coats to protect themselves from the cold temperatures.

Fencing

After many years of using the neighbor's property for some of our grazing needs, they have built a nice little barn/storage shed but don't have the funds to fence it off from the cows. The old fence that is part of our shared boundary line is practically non existent, so we are opting to rebuild the old fence with a completely new fence.

We had approximately 65 locust posts on hand but in reality we need about 200 posts to construct the fence.

ISCOWP Update

The weather has been quite mild, unseasonably so, and we are able to continue to work on a few outside projects while the cows are able to still roam the pastures. Actually we locked them in the barnyard when the weather got cold, but they broke out when the weather became mild again. We decided to leave them out as the weather is still mild providing enough grass for them to eat on the hillsides which have just lost their lustrous fall foliage.

Cows

Since the last newsletter, Both Jaya and Ujala have left us for greener pastures. Their stories are told in this newsletter. We will miss them both. As approximately half our herd is in old age, we anticipate more of our beloved friends leaving their earthly pasturing grounds in the future.



Janaka Mahajan das, Lakshmi's husband, held a ceremony for the cows on the Vedic holy day of Govardhana Puja. Part of the ceremony is to feed the cows special treats in honor of the precious gifts they give to humans and the land in the form of milk, dung and their personal association.

Chaitanya Bhagavat and I have been spending 3 to 4 hours a day splitting seasoned locust posts and transporting them to the proposed site for the new fence. Finally today we laid out the last post and will start pounding the new posts into the ground with a hydraulic pounder on the back of a

of concrete to fill the void and make a nice approach to the barn for the cows. We hired two local youths, Janardan and Vaisnava to do the concrete mixing and I helped with the pouring of the concrete so everything was relatively uniform. We left the surface a bit rough so the cows would

have good traction when entering the barn. One ramp has been finished and the second ramp repair will start a couple of days before Thanksgiving.



Vaisnava delivers a load of concrete to Balabhadra while Janardan mixes his next load.

tractor. We will use high tensile fence wire and the fence line will have 3 separate gates running along the long side of the new fence and an entry gate for vehicles so the neighbor can access his property. If all goes well we should be able to finish the new fence in about 2 more weeks.

Barn Improvement

The two entry ramps to the big barn have become worn down by constant use from the cows. The problem lies at the end of the ramps where there is dirt and when wet it just becomes mud. We estimated that at the end of the ramps there was a 1 foot void which needed filled to make it more accessible for the cows.

We brought in stones and broken concrete and raised the void so there was only a 4 inch high space to be filled with concrete. It took 108, 80 lb. bags



"The apple is delicious," said Dharani. So was the carrot! For most farmers in the area, the apple harvest was minimal.

Garden

This year the garden production was erratic due to the unpredictable weather conditions. The sweet peppers did absolutely nothing at all. Only 1/2 of the 200 tomato plants had a relatively good yield. The beans did nicely both for eating, freezing and harvesting mature beans for soup and planting next year's crop. The carrots were small and tasty.

In the early spring we had spinach, snow peas and lots of lettuce as well as beets. The cucumbers did well and the potatoes have been feeding us for the past five months. The Bitter Melon produced profusely and we have dried a lot of it for winter use and for gifts for you our members. Zucchini was prolific as usual. We lost 95% percent of the Acorn Squash to the ground hogs and about 50% of the



As winter approaches, the cows not only grow thicker coats, but their coats change color as well.

Butternut Squash went to the ground hogs as well. However, we still have a lot and have been eating lots of delicious butternut pies (we feel they are better than pumpkin pies) and butternut soup. So far, the acorn squash is not as popular. We are glad to be spending so little at the supermarket.

You might be wondering how efficient Rudra, the dog, has been in catching groundhogs if we lost so much of our butternut and acorn squash. It only takes one groundhog to destroy a garden. A groundhog can remain elusive to Rudra even after his patient stalking. Twenty-five groundhogs have left their bodies due to meeting Rudra this season with a total of 130 since he has taken residence on the farm 5 years ago.

In the spring we had decent rain and in the summer the rains were marginal at best with periods of two weeks or so without rain. The area had the coolest July in recorded history with little rain as well. The fall came quickly and we had three frosts by Mid October. The killing frost came in late October and the garden was finished. Recently we spread the stocked manure, from cleaning the barns, on the fields and most of the garden area. Now it will decompose during the winter and enrich the soil. All things considered it was a fair garden season.

ISCOWP Outreach

Two classes came from the West Virginia Northern



A group of students from Columbia University.



Govardhana Puja celebrated with guests from Pittsburgh.



Students from the first class of culinary arts get a hands-on experience. The second class witnessed an ox power demonstration with Kesava. The culinary arts teacher directed Kesava with voice commands.

Community College to visit New Vrindavan. The field of education that they were perusing was culinary arts. It was quite an experience for them to meet the living source of their hamburgers. One man said; "I'll never see a hamburger in the same way again."

A group of students from Columbia University in New York City came to meet the cows as part of their visit to New Vrindavan. They stayed for a couple of hours and relaxed with the cows in the pasture. They were really surprised at how relaxed and peaceful the cows were.

Caitanya das brahmacari brought college students from his program Food for Life Experience to join us for Govardhan Puja before visiting New Vrindavan.

We had a wonderful time with several ladies who attended the Vaisnavi Retreat which was held in New Vrindavan in late October. Kanti De Poo and her daughter Revati, Madira and Kripamayi had a very special visit with the Brahmins.

Facebook

We are now currently on Facebook and also have a Facebook cause page. The URLs can be found on page 2. This is all new to us and we are learning every day how to best present cow protection. Balabhadra does most of the posting and he now has 1250 members! Check it out!

Q & A: Working Oxen

From: Lakshmi Kary
To: iscowp@earthlink.net
Sent: Monday, August 11, 2008 8:42 PM
Subject: A few questions

I have a few questions:

1) I have a lone ox. I'd like to use a collar like horses use rather than one of the heavy wood types. Will this work and do you have any suggestions on which type.

Balabhadra answers:

Yes, it is possible to use the horse collars for the oxen.

When the horse collar is used it is generally turned upside down. I will send you some photos of the oxen being worked at the farm in Czech Republic farm. There is also a booklet I will get for you.

2) At what age do you castrate the bulls that will be for working oxen?

Balabhadra answers:

The old timers would castrate them around 1 year old. I have tried to let my bulls go till that age but about 8 to 10 months they are just acting too much like little bulls and jumping on everyone and getting hard to handle. Depending on the animal that I have worked with I have usually had to castrate them between 8 and 10 months. We use a tool called a Burdizio which crimps the spermatic cord in each testicle. It is referred to as "Bloodless Castration". There is no cutting and

removal of the testicles. After the crimping of the spermatic cord the testicles, over time, will simply dissolve in the sacks. I have the vet come and do the procedure. Before the procedure we give the animals a general anesthesia. The procedure takes about 2 minutes on a side and when the

not do it as it is very painful to the animals as well as very bloody. When going down a hill the traditional neck yoke will slide forward and in many cases the horns will help to keep the yoke from sliding over the ox's heads. In addition, Some people consider that a lot of the ox's potency is in his horns.



At the Czech farm oxen are using horse collars instead of yokes.

anesthesia wears off the animals are up and eating, albeit walking a little sore for a couple of days.

3) I would rather NOT have horns on my oxen, but is it impractical to have an ox without horns?

Balabhadra answers:
Horns are essential. Dehorning is very painful and a good many vets will

If an animal is dehorned, especially if he is full grown, a lot of his potency will be minimized.

4) Since I am getting old, with bad back I need a well trained animal and want/ need to have control easily, what do you think of bits and do you have any suggestions? What type, where to get it etc.

Balabhadra answers:
Bits are used with horses as horses are historically controlled by the mouth. Bulls are historically controlled by the nose. Hence nose rings. However, I don't use nose rings as I consider them to be very painful for the animals.

The first and foremost part of controlling your oxen is by establishing with them a bond of friendship and trust. They must know that you are the boss and whatever command you give to them you expect them to carry through. You will need to convey to them that you will never put them in harms way or abuse them.

The "old timers" say that if you get angry with your animals you should immediately put them away as your anger can "spoil" them. The term "spoil" means that they will not have faith in you to take care of them in a safe loving way.

The type of training we are using is by "Voice Command" so in the training process they need to know their names and how to respond to the different commands. There is a certain part of the animal's body which can also be touched with the "Lash" or "Stick" which is carried by the teamster. The "Lash" is to emphasize the command and is not used to beat or harm the animal in anyway. You can also use a halter with a lead rope attached in case of emergency.



Overlooking the farm from the men's ashram.

Cow Protection at New Govardhana

On August 28, I departed for Australia to visit one of the ISKCON farms there. My trip was hosted by several devotees there who wanted my input on the development of cow protection at their farm. The name of the farm is New Govardhana and it is located on approximately 800 acres of hilly land on the Eastern side of Australia about 1 & 1/2 hours from Brisbane. There is approximately a herd of 80 cows and oxen on this farm.

The devotees have recently opened a new Govinda's restaurant on the Gold Coast about 45 minutes from the farm. The restaurant has been doing a brisk business of very tasty prasadam (food offered to Lord Krishna). The Temple President, Ajita das, made a pledge to Lord Narashimha dev in Mayapur that any profits from the restaurant would go to the cows and developing the agriculture at New Govardhana. He is keeping his word and the cows and farm are undergoing better care and a facility facelift.

When I was there new fences were being built and roads repaired to access remote parts of the farm where some of the pasturing grounds are located. In the repairing of one road a dam was repaired to the joy of the cows and cowherds.



The farm has a small herd of Gir cows, 13, in addition to the larger herd of 67 animals.

The old facility for the cows will be undergoing a complete make over in the very near future to make it more user friendly for the cows and cowherds as well as visitors.

Ajita das would like to see the farm become an accredited educational facility for all aspects of Krishna conscious education for all of Australia.

Ajita das has been the Temple president for 10 years at New Govardhana and has slowly but surely been working to develop a catering business which has three traveling catering trucks that cater many concerts and other events on the East Coast of Australia distributing great prasadam and Srila Prabhupada's books.

I look forward to New Govardhana being a great rural community spreading cow protection and Krishna culture in Australia.

I returned home Sept 12th very tired but assured that the cows and direction of New Govardhan farm and community are progressing nicely under the leadership of Ajita das.

All About You



Navin and Krsna Priya Jain

For both of us, our connection with cows started in New Vrindavana. Krishna Priya was raised in the community, and so grew up surrounded by thousands of cows. My first contact was while living there in the winter of 1996, after I graduated from college. Near the old ISCOWP property, Balabhadra would take me over to the half dozen calves he was taking care of, and he'd let me feed and pet them.

To me, cow protection starts with simply being grateful. I drink milk and enjoy all varieties of milk products -- from ghee to yogurt lassis -- and out of gratitude to the cow for making such tasty and nutritious items possible, I believe she should be honored not slaughtered.

As I have taken up the time-honored tradition of gardening, I have come to

see even more reason to appreciate cows. When I first planted some lettuce, collard and mustard greens in the Alachua, Florida community garden, I just popped them right in. Not noticing much growth, however, I started to talk to some local experts. It turns out the soil here is mostly sand, with no nutrients to speak of, and so everyone insisted that I had to fertilize.

"But I don't want toxic chemicals in my vegetables!" I exclaimed.

When I was directed to organic alternatives, I was shocked at the prices.

"Isn't there a cheap, effective and safe way to feed my plants?" I cried in exasperation.

Finally, a close friend e-mailed me back with the magic solution: cow dung! He said that's all he ever

used, and it not only saved him money, but gave him the most flavorful vegetables in town.

"Wow," I thought. "The gifts of Mother Cow are without end!" Simply by eating grass, she's able to produce the most exquisite food and the most amazing fertilizer known to humanity.

So even though we're just a couple of thirty-something

educators with no land to keep cows ourselves and not much money, we're happy to help maintain young Krishna through ISCOWP's adoption program. Not only does ISCOWP treat their dozen or so cows and bulls as these gentle and intelligent animals deserve, but they continually educate and remind the rest of us about the wonders of humanity's true best friend.

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Navin and their adopted ox Krsna



Like the rest of the herd, Ujala would lose her furry winter coat to a sleek, shiny coat in the spring.

In Memory of Ujala

Ujala passed away. As you know, she had a great deal of trouble with her hip. This problem had been going on for about one year. Last winter she was put into the geriatric barn with the Brahman and Big Shyam. She became great friends with the Brahman and sometimes she seemed excellent and sometimes she would sit down for a long time and not get up. Then she would surprise us, get up and walk very well.

The vet said that she incurred a hip injury and with rest she may get better. Even though she received much rest and would heal, she had the habit of jumping other cows when they were in heat (fertile period) which gave her more trouble with her hip. In fact, we believe this habit of hers was the cause of her hip injury.

A month ago we moved all the cows from one side of the farm to another. She did not want to move from a very nice spot near a spring and in the shade. At this spot she could sit down and have grass and water. We convinced her to move with the other cows. A few weeks later she was missing when we counted the cows as we do every day. We looked and looked for two days. On the side we were looking there are innumerable places along the creek and in the forest where she could have sat down. She was not to be found. Then it occurred to us that possibly she could have pushed through the fencing to get to the other side of the farm to the spot she did not want to move from a few weeks ago. We took a look and there she was already passed away.

We were very surprised as cows are very herd conscious and do not like to be separate from each other. She had to be greatly determined to get to this spot. We could not find any broken fences. It is as if she made up her mind it was time to leave and where to leave.

She was always the one to make a huge fuss over any other cow that went down and could not get up. She would bellow and bellow to tell us something was wrong. We would then follow her bellowing and find the needy cow or ox. However, she would also bellow at other times and we never knew if she just wanted to let off steam or if there was something actually wrong.

We will miss her bellowing and her beautiful face.

Letters

Continued from page 7

several devotees offer to take on one or two older animals if we need them to some day. Two of our oxen stay over at a friend's farm. I helped him learn how to train and work oxen and when we ended up having some extra oxen I let him take 2 over to his place. He uses them to cultivate his garden and bring in firewood. He uses the firewood to heat his house but also sells the extra. We have found that draft animal power is cheaper, easier to maintain, and more fulfilling than tractor power.

Some places in the USA do have high land prices and high taxes and the government does not help out as much as it could. But there are places with low land prices, low taxes, and very lax building codes. Our family found that we could not live in our first-choice place if we wanted to continue to take care of cows. The land prices and taxes were too high. So we moved to a different place that was cheaper. And although the government does not support cow protection, there are many programs that help farmers. You can get reduced tax rates on your land, get grants for fencing and watering systems, etc. Of course these kinds of programs will vary depending on what country, state, county, parish or province you live in.

It seems like any article I have seen on cow protection focuses on how it is too hard to do in these modern times. I think it might be more constructive to focus on what we can do, rather than what we can't do. And there is plenty that we can do. I don't know what varna I am, but I'm pretty sure I am lower than a sudra. I am not a hard worker, I am very good at procrastinating and have hardly any business sense. But still we manage to keep some cow and oxen and even

seem to profit from it, both economically and spiritually. I am convinced that a qualified Vaisya or even Brahmana could do a much better job at taking care of cows than I. I would love to see such qualified people get into cow protection based agriculture.

Meadow and her Prosthetic Legs

From: Shelda Bloomingdale

To: iscowp@earthlink.net

Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 8:40

Subject: Meadow & her prosthetic legs



Meadow is not your average cow with her two prosthetic legs.

I found this photo on SFGate, www.sfgate.com, and I thought you would be interested.

Meadow, a Black Angus yearling who lost her hind legs to frostbite, shows off her new prosthetic limbs at Colorado State University's James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She is believed to be the first bovine calf fitted with double prosthetic legs.

The Average Cow

From: WJBOYLE3@aol.com

To: iscowp@earthlink.net

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2009 5:12 PM

Subject: The Average Cow

The average cow in America produced 20,450 pounds of milk in 2008. That's more than 26 quarts of milk each day. In 1960, the average cow produced just 8 quarts of milk per day. When Pilgrims brought cows to America, the average cow produced less than 2 quarts of milk per day.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the average price a dairyman received for that milk in 2008 was \$18.35 per hundred pounds. That averaged out

to about 39.5 cents per quart. In 2008, the average cow generated \$3,750 in gross income for her farmer.

USDA projects the average price dairymen will receive for milk in 2009 will be \$12.20 per hundred pounds. That averages out to 26.2 cents per quart. At that projected number, the average cow will earn \$1,250 less in 2009 than she did in 2008. For the dairy industry, that adds up to \$11 billion less income in 2009 when compared to 2008.

Robert Cohen

<http://www.notmilk.com>

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RD 1 Box 322 A
Moundsville WV 26041 USA

iscowp@earthlink.net

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