
❖ THE ISCOWP NEWS ❖

Volume 9 Issue 1

The International Society for Cow Protection

1999

As we began to write this newsletter, snow fell on the pastures and the thought of spring was far away. Now, as this newsletter is about to be mailed to you, fresh grass is growing and the cows and oxen are grazing enthusiastically. The grass is short, but such a delight after the snow and ice. This change took place only within a week or two, but at this time of the year the seasons change dramatically.

Spring means grazing and planting time. In this issue we have provided some sources in the Letter section for "heirloom" or "heritage" seeds (non-hybrid seeds used historically in sustainable, locally viable systems). We do recommend their use to get your garden planting off to a good start. Of course if you have some oxen handy you can prepare your garden site with ox-power.

Rejuvenation is the key word for spring, and as we review the activities of the past year, the plans for this year begin. ISCOWP is now entering its ninth year. We ask for your good wishes and participation to make this year as productive and progressive as the last eight. Thank you.

Grazing the Fresh Grass



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Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1/1/98 - 12/31/98

International Society for Cow Protection, INC. (ISCOWP)

ISCOWP Profile

ISCOWP was incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania, U.S.A., March 1990, as a non-profit educational organization.

William and Irene Dove (Balabhadra das and Chayadevi dasi) are its managing directors. They are disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the Founder Acharya of the International Society for Krsna Consciousness (ISKCON). Through their spiritual master's teachings, they have imbibed the practices and benefits, both spiritual and material, of lifetime cow protection.

ISCOWP's primary concern is to present alternatives to agricultural practices that support and depend upon the meat industry and industrialized, petroleum powered machinery. To this end, ISCOWP trains oxen (male cows or steers) to replace farm machinery and thereby show an alternative to their slaughter. The tenets of cow protection and ox-power are universal and nonsectarian, available to all regardless of race, creed, or nationality.

ISCOWP Goals

1) To systematically educate all people in the practice of cow protection in order to check the imbalance of values in life and to achieve real unity and peace in the world.

2) To bring the members of the Society together with each other, thus developing the idea within the members, and humanity at large, the great necessity and benefit of recognizing the cow as the mother who gives milk to the human society and the bull as the father whose labor in the field produces food for humanity in the form of grains and vegetables.

3) To teach and encourage peaceful dietary practices based on lacto-vegetarianism.

4) To establish branches of the International Society for Cow Protection Inc. and encourage any organization that complies with this charter.

5) To bring the members closer together for the purpose of teaching and establish-

ing a simple agrarian lifestyle based on a cow-human-land relationship and utilizing the principle of cruelty free, lifetime protection toward all God's creatures, especially the cows and bulls.

6) To establish and maintain a traveling, educational program representing the relevance of the cows and bulls in society today.

7) With a view towards achieving the aforementioned purposes, to publish and distribute periodicals, books and other writings.

8) To receive, administer and distribute funds and all other things necessary and proper in furtherance of the above stated purposes.

ISCOWP Activities

Ox-power, An Alternative Energy

At ISCOWP's headquarters, Vrajapura Farm, fields for all crops (rice, rye, wheat, herbs and vegetables) are prepared by ox-power. In the winter, logging by oxen provides wood for heating and cooking. Due to the oxen's ability to haul loads, petroleum powered machinery is being replaced for farm chores and plans are developing for ox powered machinery to provide electrical power.

Ox-power Seminars

Seminars are given in living classroom settings involving hands-on instruction at locations such as Russia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, U.S.A. If you wish to partake in such a seminar or wish to have one in your area, contact ISCOWP for seminar schedules.

Training Teamsters and Oxen

Teamsters and oxen are trained world-wide. Prospective students are encouraged to contact ISCOWP for either individual instruction or seminar schedules. At Vrajapura Farm there are 6 trained ox teams available for the training of students.

Educational Videos, Newsletters, and E-Mail Network

"Training Oxen by Voice Com-

mands" and "ISCOWP Travels to Belarus" are videos filmed and produced by ISCOWP. 8 years in publication, the quarterly ISCOWP News informs its readers of cow protection activities world-wide. 5 years in existence, the ISKCON COM cow conference offers a forum for practical and philosophical discussions to over 80 members from 18 countries. ISCOWP's WEB page offers original cow protection T-shirts and further information.

ISCOWP Outreach

5 years of travel with oxen throughout the United States' major cities and towns has resulted in presenting thousands of people with the message of cow protection and ox-power.

Developing Vrajapura Farm

ISCOWP's headquarters, consisting of 137 acres, provides a setting for seminars, hands-on instruction, ISCOWP's office, and an example of ox-power and life centered on the land and cows. At Vrajapura Farm, twenty-four cows and oxen are provided lifetime protection. Recently purchased, it is presently in the beginning stages of development

ISCOWP Contact

USA Federal Tax Number

All donations to ISCOWP within the USA are tax deductible. The tax number is 23-2604082.

ISCOWP Mailing Address

ISCOWP
RD 1 NBU #28
Moundsville, WV, USA, 26041

ISCOWP Phone & Fax

Phone: 1-304-843-1270
Fax: 1-304-845-5742

ISCOWP E-Mail

ISCOWP@ovnet.com
ISCOWP@com.bbt.se
<http://www.angelfire.com/co/iscowp>

ISCOWP 3x yr Newsletter

Within the USA: Send \$21 check to snail mail address
Outside USA: Send \$25 bank draft or money order to snail mail address

ISCOWP T-shirts, videos, information

Please inquire at above addresses.

Letters

The Transcendental Cows

From: COM: Jaya Jagannatha (das) PDA
(Eugene, OR - USA)
<Jaya.Jagannatha.PDA@com.bbt.se>
Subject: The Transcendental Cows,
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 1999 6:20
PM

Krsna had one cow he named Mrdanga-Mukhi...Balarama das writes back. I offer this transcendental description of cows from Krsna's pastimes to make up for the less transcendental stuff I come up with...

In the Srimad Bhagavatam 10.35.21. Purport by Srila Prabhupada..Srila Jiva Goswami explains that in the afternoon Sri Krsna dressed Himself in new clothing and then went out to call the cows home.

Srila Visvanatha Cakravarti gives the following information about the transcendental cows of Vrindavana: For each of the four colors of cows -white, red, black and yellow - there are twenty five subdivisions, making a total of one hundred colors. And such qualities as being colored like sandalwood-pulp tilaka (speckled), or having a head shaped like a mrdanga drum created eight further groups. To count these 108 groups of cows, distinguished by color and form, Krsna is using a string of 108 jewel-beads... (gems)

....."Those in the group with tilak marks on their foreheads are called Citrita, Citra-tilaka, Dirgha-tilaka and Tiryak-tilaka, and there are groups known as Mrdanga-mukhi (having a head shaped like a mrdanga drum), Simha-mukhi (lion head) and so on.

"Thus being called by name, the cows are coming forward, and Krsna, thinking that when it is time to bring them back from the forest none should be forgotten, is counting them on His jewel-beads."

In S.B.10.19.7..it says..

The Supreme Personality of Godhead called out to the animals in a voice that resounded like a rumbling cloud. Hearing the sound of their own names, the cows were overjoyed and called out to the Lord in reply.

I am sending this to illustrate how Krsna protects his cows (go-dhanams-herds of cows) by always counting and calling out their names. It describes

Krsna's evening pastime so nicely and is a purely Krsna conscious way of looking at our mothers.

ys jjd

Seeds

From:Radha.Krsna.AC BSP@com.bbt.se
To:
Agriculture.and.the.Environment@com.bbt.se>
Subject: Re: au!
Date: Wednesday, March 03, 1999 5:14
PM

In the UK and available for Europe also is the Henry Doubleday Heritage Seed Library, of which I am a member, so people here can order through me. It has over 700 varieties and their aim is to make available to farmers and growers the outlawed varieties that are not dependant on pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

They say: Vegetable seeds did not always come in glossy packets. Gardeners used to save seeds themselves - keeping the best varieties from year to year, giving them to other gardeners, and passing them on from generation to generation. It is a practice that has almost died out.

Radha Krsna das
U.K.

From: Samba.SDG@com.bbt.se>
To:
Agriculture.and.the.Environment@com.bbt.se,
Subject: Heirloom seeds Illegal?

I was pondering the reason for the illegality of Heirloom seeds, when I read an article about the power of multinational companies. Apparently there are about 40,000 powerful multinational companies worldwide. Many of these companies spent more on local investment than many national governments can afford.

Many politicians actively court these multinationals to invest in their countries, which the politicians use as political fodder (the creation of jobs in their areas etc) for their on going power struggle. But this comes at a price. The multinationals secure policy changes from these politicians to ensure their market goals are reached.

Seed companies develop engineered strains of seeds which give good yields, and are hardy. Just recently there was an article describing a new gene sequencing seed which, after having grown into a plant, self destructs the seeds of that plant, so that they will not reproduce (good for profits).

Many environmentalists are disturbed by this, due to the danger of cross pollination, effectively endangering wild species. Anyway I am digressing here.

It is not in the interest of these powerful multinational seed companies to have high yielding natural varieties of heirloom seeds available on the market, because these cannot be patented, and therefore profits will be reduced as one does not have to buy them from the company.

Probably many of you are aware that out of the thousands of species of grains, vegetables and others, only a handful of species are currently marketed in the world nowadays, and this is under the control of the multinationals. Some say that in a few years these multinationals will have wiped out natural varieties, and will own all the patents to all food species. If this came about, they could effectively rule the world, as the entire food supply would be owned by them. Scary, no?

Bear in mind that many of these multinationals are actually combined companies dealing in many different business areas, not just food production, so once they have us by the neck with food they can then implement whatever ecologically unsound, and environmentally damaging yet highly profitable enterprises they wish, with full governmental support. The only hedge against this is a few environmentally minded people who are prepared to make a noise about it. Fortunately this group is growing, but the multinationals are formidable foes, and are not past the odd termination if profits get too threatened.

This is going on very quietly, and it is only occasionally that their devious plans leak out. Seems to me that an alternative society of people with sound philosophical answers and practical solutions to ecological problems is needed. A people who live simply and widely propagate heirloom species, for the health of all.

Prabhupada,s vision is the answer.
Varnasrama anyone?

Now, regarding the heirloom seeds and the reason for them being banned, this is my speculation. Are there other reasons for their control, does anyone know?

YS Samba das

Open-Pollinated Seed Sources

From: Hare.Krsna.dasi@com.bbt.se

To: Cow@com.bbt.se;

Subject: Open-Pollinated Seed Sources

Date: Sunday, February 21, 1999 11:44 AM

Here is some brief information on open pollinated seed sources. This list comes from a full-length article in the Winter 1998 edition of *People, Places & Plants: The Gardening Magazine for Maine.* www.maine.com/ppandp (You will see a number of northern suppliers here.) The article is called "Heirloom Seed Sources" by Amy LeBlanc. I have been meaning to type up the whole thing, but I don't really have time. So here is a basic list. Ms. LeBlanc has listed some of the seeds as her "favorites."

Many of these companies sell both hybrid and open-pollinated varieties.(I believe that the heirloom varieties are nearly all open-pollinated.) Most of these companies also have a FAX number and additional information. If you are interested in any particular company but can't use the web to reach them, contact me and I will look up the information. Please keep in mind that sometimes it is best to purchase from suppliers in a climate zone similar to yours so that seeds sprout and mature at an appropriate time of year. A few non-US sources are listed near the end.

BIG COMPANIES

W. Atlee Burpee Co.

Warminster PA

1-800-888-1447

www.burpee.com

Free catalog Est. 1876

Burpee Heirlooms *favorite*

(same as above)

"In response to the growing interest in

heirloom vegetable and flower varieties, Burpee introduced a separate heirloom catalogue in 1997. This beautiful full-color booklet features photos from old Burpee catalogs and offers a nice selection of old varieties of flowers and vegetables. Many of these varieties were originally introduced by Burpee but have not been offered for sale for decades!

Park Seed Co.

Greenwood SC

1-800-845-3369

www.parkseed.com Free catalog Est. 1868

Totally Tomatoes

Augusta GA

1-803-663-0016 Free catalog

MEDIUM COMPANIES

Bountiful Gardens

Willits CA

1-707-459-6410

bountiful@zapcom.net Free catalog

The Cook's Garden

Hodges SC

1-800-457-9703

www.cooksgarden.com Free catalog

FEDCO

favorite

Waterville ME

1-207-873-7333 Free catalog

"FEDCO is a vibrant customer-and-employee-owned cooperative that offers,vegetable, herb, and flower seeds, spring- and fall-planted bulbs, fruit trees, tubers, perennials, tools, books, and soil amendments and green manure for organic growers. FEDCO offers low prices and encourages cooperative orders for bulk discounts. Varieties are selected for suitability to Northeast growing conditions. There is a full range of hybrid, open-pollinated and heirloom seed, no treaded seed, and the catalogue makes such a great read, it's worth sending for it for that reason alone!"

J.L. Hudson, Seedsman *favorite*

Box 1058, Redwood City CA 94064

Free catalog

"J.L. makes no attempt to be

"contemporary," and every order is filled personally, the old-fashioned way. I've

asked him some "picky" cultural questions and received prompt hand-written answers."

Johnny's Selected Seeds

Albion ME

1-207-437-4301

www.johnnyseeds.com Free catalog

[I'm not sure why this Maine seed company is not on Ms. LeBlanc's "favorite" list. It's on my boss's favorite list, because her husband is on the board of directors. Johnny's was the first seed company I ever heard of that actually promoted open-pollinated seeds to its customers.]

"The Johnny's catalogue is beautiful, filled with color photos of vegetables, herbs, and flowers that can be grown from their seeds. Johnny's also features a good tool selection, books, and extensive cultural information. In recent years, the selection of heirloom varieties has increased dramatically."

Nichols Garden Nursery

Albany OR

1-541-928-9280 Free catalog

Pinetree Garden Seeds

New Gloucester ME

1-207-926-3400

www.superseeds.com Free catalog

Seeds of Change

Santa Fe NM

1-888-762-7333

www.seedsofchange.com Free catalog

Shepherd's Garden Seeds

Torrington CT

1-860-482-3638 Free catalog

www.shepherdseeds.com

Tomato Growers Supply

Fort Myers FL

1-888-478-7333

www.tomatogrowers.com Free catalog

Vermont Bean Seed Co

Vauchuse SC

1-803-663-0217

fax 1-888-500-7333 Free catalog

"Vermont Bean Seed Company

begin as a tiny source for fresh and dry bean seeds, and has grown into a much larger company offering full selections

of vegetables and herbs, including rare, hard-to-find, and European varieties. It offers a limited number of flower varieties and recommends the Seymour's Selected Seeds catalog for a larger selection.

Vesey's Seeds
Calais ME [Canadian border]
1-902-368-7333
FAX 1-207-555-1620

SMALL TO TINY

Allen, Sterling & Lothrop
191 U.S. Route 1
Falmouth ME 04105
1-207-781-4142 \$1 catalog
Est. 1911

"Maine's oldest seed company specializes in older, open-pollinated varieties of flowers and vegetables. The catalogue is simple, straightforward in black-and-white. The company's main focus is in seed racks, available in more than 100 locations in Maine."

Fox Hollow Herb & Seed
Heirloom Seed Co.
Favorite
Box 148
McGrann PA 16236
1-888-548-SEED \$1 catalog

"Fox Hollow is still a family-operated business. Since they only advertise by word-of-mouth, I only recently discovered them. Fox Hollow offers a broad selection of open-pollinated vegetables, herbs, and flowers. They carry lots of heirloom varieties, including some unique tomato varieties. Their black-and-white catalogue is filled with good cultural information."

High Mowing Organic Seed Farm
Tom Stears
RD #1
Derby Line VT 05830 \$.50 catalog
1-802-895-4696

Le Jardin du Gourmet
Box 75
St. Johnsbury Vt 05863-0075 Free cata-

log
"The really nice feature of Le Jardin is the seed packet sizing. It is possible to buy a sample of seed for only 25 cents..."

Peters Seed and Research
Box 1472
Myrtle Creek OR 97457
1-541-8863-3693

Salt Spring Seeds *Favorite*
Box 444, Ganges
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2W1
CANADA Free catalog

"Salt Spring Seeds offers only certified organic seeds for food crops. The emphasis is on high-protein, good-tasting, and high

Abundant Life
Port Townsend WA
1-360-385-5660
<http://csf.Colorado.EDU/perma/abundant>
"A non-profit organization dedicated to preserving genetic diversity and supporting sustainable agriculture."

Alfrey Seeds
Knoxville TN
(mostly hot peppers)
Eastern Native Seed Conservancy
Great Barrington MA
www.berkshir.net/ensc/seedmain.html
"A nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving food crops native to the Northeast."



Agni likes the new feeding aisle in the barn at Vrajapura Farm.

yielding crops. The selection of GRAINS, particularly hull-less wheat and barley, is extensive. All the varieties are adapted to northern areas. The Salt Spring seed catalogue is put together simply, and filled with extensive cultural and seed-saving information. I've found Salt Spring to be very prompt and personal!"

Territorial Seed Co
Cottage Grove OR
1-541-942-9547
www.territorial-seed.com Free catalog

OTHER SEED SOURCES
(small companies and historical preservation foundations, etc.)

Garden State Heirloom Seed Society
Delaware NJ 07833
1-908-475-4861
"An heirloom seed saving and educational group."

Heirloom Seed Project
Favorite
Seed-Savers Program, MVHS
Box 309
Waldoboro ME 04572 Free catalog (donations accepted)
School: 1-207-832-5389
"The seed catalogue is the result of seed-saving that is part of the second- and third-year program in Practical Botany Class offered at the Medomak Valley High School. The students research

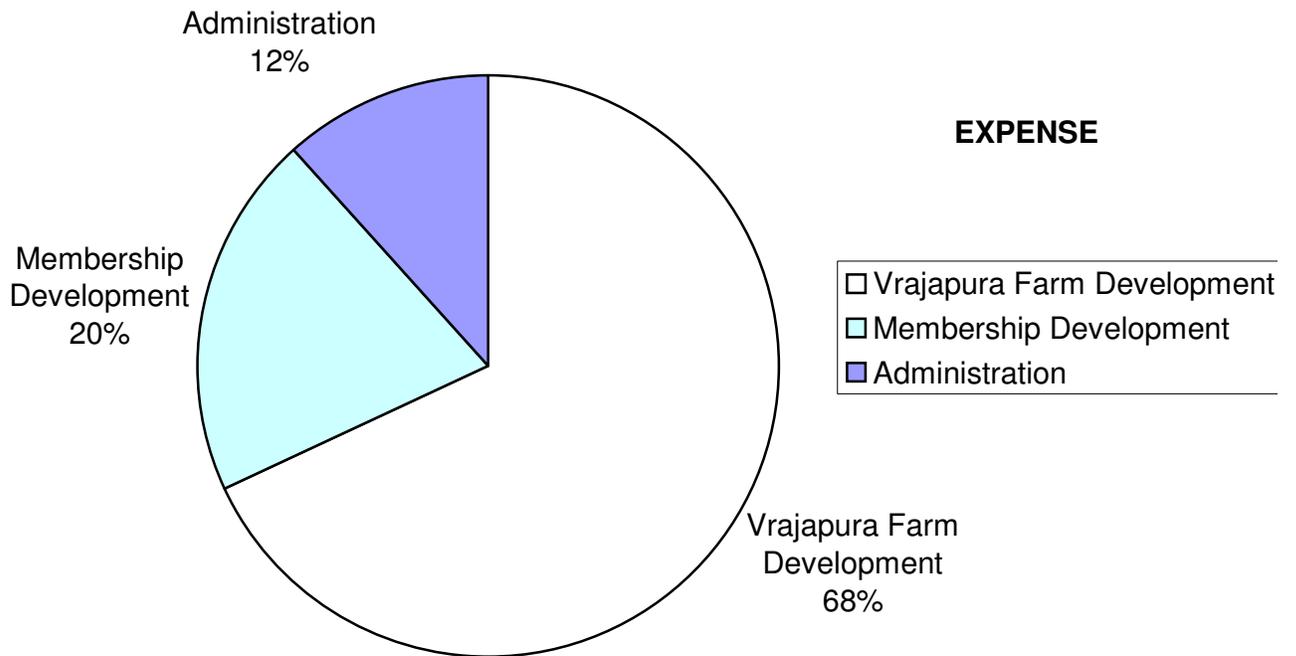
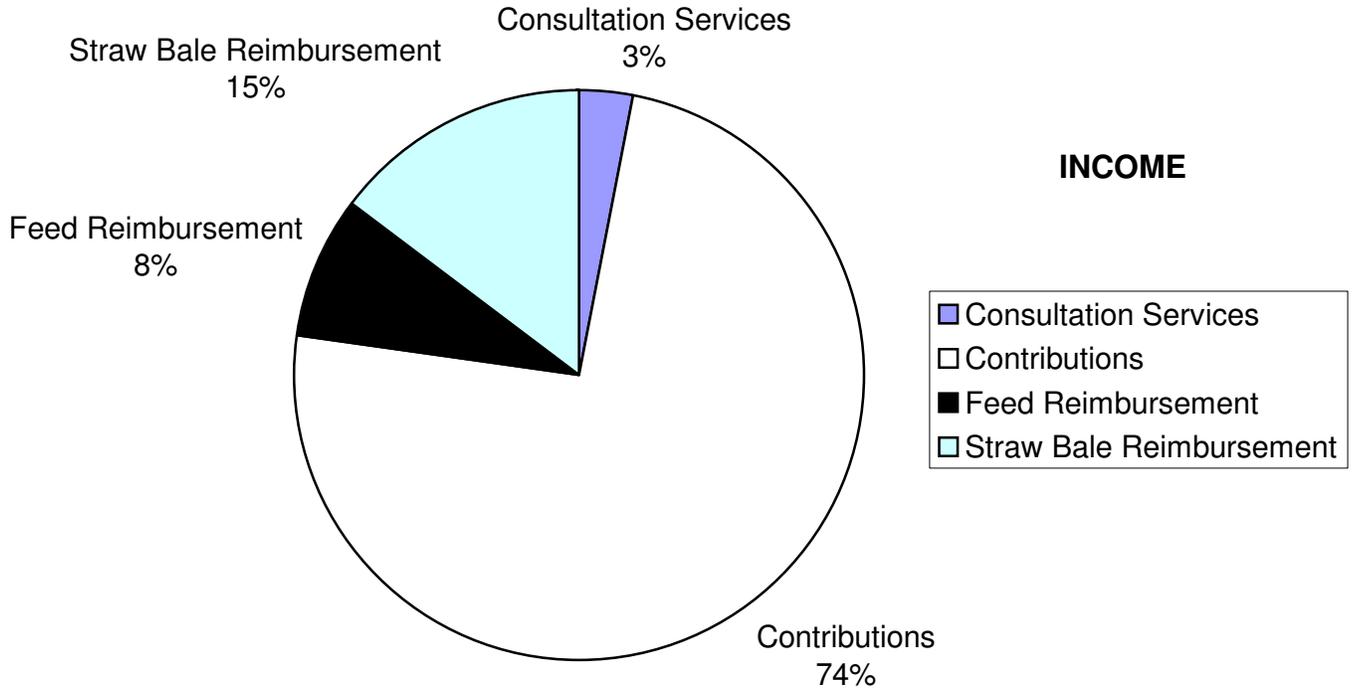
the history of each heirloom variety, the seeds are carefully grown out, and the resulting seeds are saved."

Kids in Bloom
Box 344
Zionsville IN 46077
317-290-6996
"An inner-city education program using land reclaimed after buildings are razed. Children grow and harvest produce for their families and others in need and harvest much of their own seed!"

ME. Seed Saving Network *Favorite*
Box 126
Penobscot ME 04476

Continued on page 12

ISCOWP: AN ETHICAL INVESTMENT



INCOME = \$39,313.86

EXPENSE = \$29,100.24

BALANCE = \$10,213.62

Evaluation of Fiscal Year 98

INCOME

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$29,116.84
FEED REIMBURSEMENT	\$ 3,157.02
STRAW BALE REIMBURSEMENT	\$5,840.00
CONSULTATION SERVICES	\$1,200.00
TOTAL	\$39,313.86

Thank you for your help in fixing the barn roof after the tornado destroyed most of it. Also, thank you for contributing to the beginning of the Ox-Power Herb Company. You may look at the ISCOWP Update on page 10 to read the details of these two endeavors.

Since we are mostly caring for New Vrndavana's cows and oxen, we were reimbursed for feed and also partially for services rendered in the form of consultation to New Vrndavana's cow program.

In our last issue we described the basement completion of our straw bale home. Baladeva, our son, has been in charge of its construction and has now fully reimbursed ISCOWP for the 1997 and 1998 construction expenses. Thanks to his service, we are now all living here at Vrajapura Farm in the finished basement.

EXPENSES (Total:\$29,100.24)

Vrajapura Farm Development

ANIMAL	\$ 4,081.52
AUTOMOBILE MAINT/GAS	\$ 2,779.52
BARN CONSTRUCTION	\$ 5,052.41
EQUIPMENT	\$ 459.77
FENCING	\$ 919.71
LAND PURCHASE	\$ 1,580.94
OX POWER HERB COMPANY	\$ 3,119.39
STRAW BALE CONSTRUCTION	\$ 810.91
UTILITIES	\$ 676.75
WATER DEVELOPMENT	\$ 350.00
TOTAL	\$19,830.92

We are presently protecting 25 cows and oxen at Vrajapura Farm. Animal expenses reflect feed and vet expenses. We installed a complete water system in 1997 enabling us to properly care for the animals throughout the year. We had a little more work done on this system this year.

Another project continued from 1997 was the construction of the basement to our straw bale home. We moved into this dwelling in September 1998 and we incurred a few more expenses for its construction at that time. The expense has been reimbursed (see full reimbursement in INCOME).

Fencing is yet another ongoing project, started in 1997 with all the fencing materials donated by Vanamali Pandit Prabhu. Since we now have 137 acres with most of the fencing being barbed wire and in poor condition, we are foreseeing a lot of hand labor to be done. All fencing that we install is of high tensile wire, not barb wire. The fencing expense reflects labor by Gurukulis.

As reported in our Spring 1998 issue, ISCOWP has expanded to 137 acres. The land expense reflects a small portion of that purchase. Also, we have been working on refurbishing the barn and improving the grounds surrounding the barn. (described in detail on page 10, ISCOWP Update).

The Ox Power Herb Company development was begun in 1998 with the clearing and filling of the site for the processing building and the road construction to and from the building. Clearing the garden site of rose bushes has begun also. As you can see by looking at the final balance there is money left over from the campaign to continue on with the campaign in 1999. For now we will mostly be clearing and planting part of the herb garden and building a drying shed. Please refer to page 10, ISCOWP Update, for more details.

Membership Development

FUND RAISING	\$ 1,081.17
NEWSLETTER. (printing & postage)	\$ 1,730.28
PHONE, INTERNET	\$ 1,806.35
PHOTOS	\$ 120.00
T-SHIRTS	\$ 576.00
TRAVEL	\$ 520.34
TOTAL	\$ 5,833.88

The ISCOWP News, which now comes out 3 times a year, has been published since 1990. It provides news of ISCOWP activities and educational information in regards to providing cow protection for individuals as well as organizations. The other means of communication and education are the ISCOWP COW conference (cow@com.bbt.se) on which we and the other COW members formulated the Minimum Cow Standards, and our newly developing WEB page, <http://www.angelfire.com/co/iscowp>. We can be reached at iscowp@ovnet.com, or iscowp@com.bbt.se. However many of our members cannot be reached by e-mail but by phone only.

Consultation for various cow protection facilities is provided through e-mail, phone, and travel to said facilities. By helping other facilities, more cows and oxen can be protected than can possibly be protected at Vrajapura Farm alone. Part of the consultation services is to train and maintain communication with persons either beginning or maintaining such facilities. In addition, land use, working out management problems, etc., are part of the consultation services and necessary to ensure the proper atmosphere for cow protection.

Administration

OFFICE, TAX PREP, BANK CHARGES	\$1,219.94
WAGES	\$2,215.50
TOTAL	\$3,435.44

The wages reflect what ISCOWP paid Balabhadra and Chayadevi for their services. Balabhadra acquired a full time night job in November of 1998. Now for the first time we will have some reliable personal income even though it is considered on the poverty level. But since we live simply, cook a lot, grow some of our food, our expenses are low and a little goes a long way.

***Thank you for Contributing During the Fiscal Year 1998
(1/98 - 12/98)***

PATRONS (\$5,000.00 - \$1,000.00)		Parampadam d (Kenn Perry).....\$ 200.00
Gour Govinda d & Sita dd (The Davidson Family)	.....\$5,000.00	SUPPORTERS (\$199.00 - \$99.00)
ISKCON of West Virginia.....	\$4,357.02	Pusti dd (Connie Humphrey).....\$ 195.00
Vanamali Pandit d (The Mody Family) ..	\$4,000.00	Jim & Theresa Devine.....\$ 158.00
Shastra d (Scott From).....	\$1,612.00	Henry Schoellkoph.....\$ 150.00
Vrajabhadhu dd (Marie Pritekel).....	\$1,540.00	Ram & Aruna Singhania.....\$ 135.00
Anuttama d & Rukmini dd (The Walker Family)	.....\$1,500.00	Srimate Radharani.....\$ 135.00
Labangalatika dd (Mrs. Malik).....	\$1,450.00	Thakur Haridas d & Kalindi dd (Chavez Family)
Kanina d & Arjuna d (Quinn Family) ..	\$1,029.00	.....\$ 111.92
Malati dd.....	\$1,000.00	Shakti Ganapatni Subramanian & Suzanne Hop-
Saraswati dd (Betty Woodhouse).....	\$1,000.00	kins.....\$ 110.00
ASSOCIATES (\$999.00 - \$500.00)		A. Gopal Krishna. (Advocate BABI)\$ 108.00
Ram Paliwal MD.in honor of father Dhannalal		Anthony, Rawtee, Omah, & Sapna Lutchman.....
Paliwal.....	\$ 950.00	.....\$ 108.00
Kamalesh & Arti Shah.....	\$ 781.00	Amrita dd & Rasamanjari dd (Anne Kellogg &
David Thiessen.....	\$ 500.00	Marilyn Stein).....\$..108.00
Dharma Vidya d & Nama Priya dd. (Grant Family)	.....\$ 500.00	Bhadra d & Hladini Sakti dd. (Sherman Fam-
Tulasi d. (John West).....	\$ 500.00	ily).....\$ 108.00
GUARANTORS (\$499.00 - \$200.00)		B.H. Arthur & L. McCaskey.....\$ 108.00
Stephen Sorra.....	\$ 480.00	Brij Lata Agawal.....\$ 108.00
Amala Bhakta d.....	\$ 410.00	Dan Duer.....\$ 108.00
Doug Carlton.....	\$ 450.00	Devarsi d & Nirmala dd (The Eldridge Family)
Giriraj d (Ramos Family).....	\$ 393.00	.....\$ 108.00
Janesa d (George Willmon).....	\$ 344.00	Edna Galicia & William Vidal.....\$ 108.00
Pavamana d & Sampada dd (McCloud Family).....		Ethel Dobson. (Bhabarhishmati dd) .. \$ 108.00
Maha Mantra d (David Fuller).....	\$ 331.00	Hansa Chagan.....\$ 108.00
.....	\$ 300.00	Kimberly Smith.....\$ 108.00
Jack Baldwin & Kunti dd DePoo.....	\$ 270.00	Mahesh & Kashmira Sutaria.....\$ 108.00
Mary Goerke.....	\$ 263.00	Padma Malini Smith.....\$ 108.00
Ramiya d & Ananta dd (Meier Family) ..	\$ 251.00	Ramanbhai B. Patel.....\$ 108.00
Lorraine Dove.....	\$ 250.00	.....\$ 108.00
Madhukanta d & Ann (Searight Family) ..	\$ 216.00	R.K. Dhingra M.D.....\$ 108.00
		Rory Alden.....\$ 108.00
		Saranagati dd (Sarah Schofield).....\$ 108.00
		Suresvara d & Katayani dd (Hall Family)
		.....\$ 108.00
		Vidyananda d & Kirtida Kanyaka dd (Halvorson
		Family).....\$ 108.00

Vinod & Pramila Vig.....	\$ 108.00	Charrane Mahadeo.....	\$.21.00
BTG Service Center.....	\$ 106.00	Jodi Allmon.....	\$ 21.00
Isabelle Haas.....	\$ 105.00	Kaivalya d & Monorama dd (Mahajan.Family)	
ISKCON of Port Royal.....	\$ 100.00	.....	\$ 21.00
Mahatme Hira Dinanath.....	\$ 100.00	Sri Svarupa dd (Elizabeth Solomon)...	\$ 21.00
Sadananda d. (Stephen Knueppel).....	\$.100.00	Vandana dd (Teresa Cronin).....	\$ 21.00
Suryaram R. & Sushila S.Joshi.....	\$ 100.00	Akilananda d. (Al Fitch).....	\$ 20.00
Atmarama das (Bernard Faustino).....	\$ 99.00	Aroon & Lily Chaddha.....	\$ 20.00
		Namath Nayak.....	\$ 20.00
CONTRIBUTORS (\$99.00 - \$50.00)		Ramananda d (Ron Castillo).....	\$ 20.00
Isabelle Haas.....	\$ 89.00	Rene Waisvisz.....	\$ 20.00
Gayle Janzen.....	\$ 70.00		
Daruka d (David Corcoran).....	\$ 63.00	FRIENDS (\$15.00 - \$8.00)	
Jayapatni Gopi dd (Duncan Family).....	\$ 55.95	Ann Jackson.....	\$ 15.95
Bharati & Nikhil Joshi.....	\$ 51.00	Brajendrala Mukya dd (Miriam Tassinare).....	
Tarabhai Bhoot.....	\$ 51.00	.....	\$ 15.95
Anand & Pratima Shah.....	\$ 50.00	Caroline Constantine.....	\$ 15.00
Gail Toby.....	\$ 50.00	Erik & Karin Hazelhoff.....	\$ 15.00
Harinama Mink.....	\$ 50.00	Rene Waisvisz.....	\$ 15.00
Muniyappa Venkatesha.....	\$ 50.00	Shobha & Narendra Shah.....	\$ 11.00
		Dristadhyuma d (James McDonough)....	\$ 10.95
DONORS (\$49.00 - \$30.00)		Dulalee dd. (Grace Allen).....	\$ 10.00
Paula Gentsch.....	\$ 46.00	M. Grogan.....	\$ 10.00
Rupanuga d & Jayanti dd. (Robinson Family).....		Nirguna d & Vijaya dd.....	\$ 10.00
.....	\$ 46.00	Bir Laksman d (Darly Nauyokas).....	\$ 9.00
Ankottha d & Gopinatha dd.....	\$ 42.00	Arvind & Nidhi Sharma.....	\$ 5.25
Puspha H. Govind in memory of late husband			
Has mukhal Govind.....	\$ 32.00		
Kurt Mausert.....	\$ 31.00		
Chris & Paula Baymiller.....	\$ 30.00		
SUBSCRIBERS (\$29.00 - \$16.00)			
Rangavati d & Jitari dd (The Heintz family)			
.....	\$ 27.00		
Lenny Greenberg.....	\$ 25.00		
Mukunda Datta d & Krsnavesa dd. (Tandy Family)			
.....	\$ 25.00		
Robin Parmley.....	\$ 25.00		
Bob Roberts.....	\$ 23.00		
H.H. Chandravali Swami.....	\$ 22.00		

This annual report is dated from 1/98 to 12/98. In the past years it was dated from February of one year to March of the next year. This always made it quite difficult to do an annual report since everyone is geared to report their taxes from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. This report may have some overlapping from the previous annual report, but from now on everything should fall into place nicely.

Since we incorporated ISCOWP in March, we thought it proper to begin each annual financial report from that point in the year. Looking back on the original incorporation papers we have read that the government gave us the fiscal year beginning at the beginning of each year and ending on the last month of the year. So, preparing the report from the first month to the last month will be easier and more in-tuned with governmental concerns. Also, We will try to begin each annual fund raising campaign as close to the beginning of each year and closing at the end of each year. That way, the annual report will include the campaign results.

ISCOWP UPDATE

Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture

Last year, with the help of the members of the cow conference, The Minimum Cow Standards were written. A month ago the standards were passed as ISKCON law. Now, at least in ISKCON, there are basic standards as to how to care properly for cows within a cow protection facility.

We are presently dealing with various problems of cow care on various ISKCON farms and the standards as law has helped tremendously to convince others as to the proper cow care. Although many similarities are there, some differences in care exist in a cow protection facility in comparison to a cow facility where slaughter is an accepted practice.

Ox-Power Herb Company Campaign

Establishing the Ox-Power Herb Company to support ISCOWP's ox-power training and cow protection work is a major step to forming a future for ISCOWP which is not totally dependent on your donations. Now that we have our own land to develop solely for the purpose of supporting ISCOWP activities, the goal is to develop it in a way that will provide LONG TERM support that is a showcase of self-sufficient activities based on the land and oxen.

The 1998 campaign (12/97-12/98) for the Ox Power Herb Company enabled us to hire a contractor who cleared and leveled the site for the Ox Power Herb Company processing building. Also, the driveway into the farm was widened and expanded to circle the old house. This way there are two means of access to the process building site. Gravel was brought in and laid on both roads. At this time we need to lay more gravel, as the original

gravel has settled.

An old wash house was on the site where we plan to place the processing building. Actually there was a lot of garbage with it also. It took a great deal of work by Balabhadra to break down the wash house and clear the garbage and then clear the surrounding rose bushes and debris.

Actually, the contractor (John Hart) told us that we should wait 5 years to build on this site. The earth must settle properly, so that there is a stable earth foundation for the building. With this in mind we will

side of the house is in the process of being cleared. It is a 2 acres area and we figure we can clear a 3/4 acre area. Remember this area is infested with rose bushes. It is also not on flat land, but on a slight hill. So landscaping the garden will not be in the traditional manner of entirely straight rows. Vegetables and herbs will be planted in both areas.

We thank you all (see donors listing on page (8 & 9) for contributing to the beginning of establishing long term support for ISCOWP.



Paramesvari dd, Surabhi, and members of Gopala practicing cow protection in Serbia during better times.

build a drying shed this year which is to be eventually attached to the processing building.

Since we had some emergencies with a tornado destroying some of our barn, much of our energy and some of our funds got cycled into the barn to maintain it for the cows. It was also a more severe winter this year than last and we realized some inadequacies in the barn and immediate surrounding area that needed attention and care. But more on the barn later.

A 3/4 acre area above the house was plowed last fall and will be ready to plant this Spring (real soon). The area by the

The Barn: New Campaign

We thank all of you for contributing to fixing the roof on the barn. It is 95% fixed. All the tin and materials have been purchased from donations that came in for the roof's repair.

This past year of 1998 has seen more improvements on the barn. Balabhadra has put siding on 3 sides of the barn, the side facing the silo is half completed. Now the barn is mostly enclosed on 3 sides. Before it was open on 4 sides except for some rusty tin nailed on parts of 1 side.

Balabhadra completed the extensive floor system in the barn so that hay and equipment can now be stored in the barn. The materials both for the siding and the floor were mostly recycled from old barns that Balabhadra took down at the request of their owners.

Sliding doors have been installed at the front of the barn and cement and a drain have been laid by the silo area where the cows were once belly deep in mud during the rainy wet times. A feeding aisle has been built in the barn which provides more efficient use of the hay.

We have additional plans for the barn to make it more efficient. This winter we realized the practical situation in keeping 24 cows at the barn. We need to lay some cement in certain areas to minimize the mud. Especially at the feeding area where the large bales are fed out and at the back of the barn. Where the large bales are fed out, the cows are knee deep

in mud during wet times. At the back of the barn, a retaining wall has to be built to secure the cement fill. Also, Balabhadra wants to finish the siding, and roof.

In short, due to necessity we were forced to use some of the funds you donated for the Ox Power Herb Company for repairing and upgrading of the barn. Approximately \$5,052.41 was spent on materials and the contractor. This does not include labor which was extensive due to the labor intensive nature of the barn improvements done by Balabhadra.

fled to Hungary. The last we heard through e-mail from Maha-ratha was that he was still in Belgrade. We will keep you all in touch as to how their lives are unfolding. Please pray for their safety.

Bhakta Dave Hunt, who trained with Balabhadra for about 1 1/2 years as a recipient of the Train a Teamster Campaign, is buying the two parcels bordering us with the intention of developing his life around the oxen and land. He will be working cooperatively

an expert on Homeopathic remedies for cows, writes: " I have just returned from Delhi where I went at the government's invitation, courtesy of Laxmi Narain Modi, to a National Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture, and I got to speak for about 10 minutes on Cows and Homeopathy. The Minister of Agriculture was there and many government policy makers, scientists and so on. They are now interested in the farmer's traditional skills as the Green revolution has withered away. I met a lot of people with whom I'll keep in touch."

Unfortunately The government has decided to build an expressway from Mumbai to Goa right through our land, 100 meters wide. The survey just missed the cowshed. People are losing whole mango orchards and homes. It benefits no one , only the multinationals who have come over here to try to exploit India. "

Removing the Milk House

Top middle:

Balabhadra instructs Dirk Vansant from Belgium in the first principles of logging. Agni and Shyam are hauling a log down the road to Vrajapura Farm.



Bottom left:

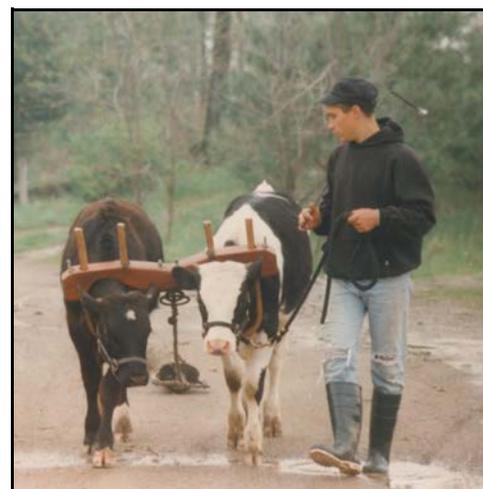
Labangalatika



dasi's herd is heading home, (Raigad, India) led by Gaura.

Right:

Dave Hunt trained with Balabhadra a few years ago and is now buying the 2 parcels next to us.



And due to the obvious need of more improvements for the barn and the comfort of the cows, this year's campaign will be centered on barn improvements. Soon we will be asking for your help to further improve the conditions of the cows. Thank you in advance.

ISCOWP Member Update

Paramesvari dasi and Maha-ratha das, founders of Gopala, Inc. in Serbia, have been living in Novi Sad and are now being bombed by the NATO forces. Paramesvari and her children, except Maha-ratha, have

with ISCOWP in this endeavor. Due to economic pressures, he will continue to work in Baltimore and come here when he can to develop his property. When he has enough money to build a house, he will then move here.

Bhakta Dirk Vansant is here from Belgium for a period of 3 months. He is training under Balabhadra to become an ox teamster and is acquiring other useful knowledge for developing food production. Balabhadra trains Dirk along with Krsna Balaram das, a devotee living here at New Vrindavana.

Labangaltika dd in Raigad, India,

As you know it has been a constant determined effort to clean up the property which we bought and now call Vrajapura Farm. Part of the effort to clean up is removing the old milk house which has been an obvious eyesore. The first step was collecting the thousands of empty milk jugs left inside the building. Then Balabhadra removed the insulation inside the building. The really gratifying work was to remove the upper structure by attaching chains to it and pulling with Baladeva's truck. Most of the remains have been burned and the rest will be burned in the near future.

Continued on page 14

LETTERS

continued from page 5

"MSSN is a nonprofit, publicly supported and membership-supported organization serving the needs and interests of farmers and gardeners who are growing and saving seeds in our region. Membership includes the newsletter, articles of interest, the catalogue of seed offerings, and notification of activities. Seeds are offered by savers from all across Maine, and may be obtained either from the catalogue, or at the annual Swap held in March each year.

Old Sturbridge Village
Heirloom Seeds and Plants
1 Old Sturbridge Village Road
Sturbridge MA 01566
1-508-347-3362
www.osv.org

"Seeds harvested from the 1830's era gardens at Old Sturbridge Village. Seeds are available by mail; plants, books and gifts are available at the Museum Gift Shop at the Village."

The Pepper Gal
Ft Lauderdale FL
1-305-537-5540
(Lots of peppers)

Scatterseed Project
Box 1167
Farmington ME 04938

"Special mention goes to Will Bonsall for his extensive efforts to save vegetable, GRAIN, and fruit cultivars. He offers his seeds and grafts, usually around 1,500 varieties, exclusively through Seed Savers Exchange of which Will is a curator. He grows 500 varieties of PEAS and 300 varieties of POTATOES to maintain diversity within these important food crops.

Seed Savers Exchange **Favorite**
3076 N. Winn Rd
Decorah IA 52101
1-319-382-5990
fax 1-319-382-5872 free catalog to members (\$25)

"Members receive reduced seed prices. The SSE offers rare and heirloom vegetable seeds from seed savers all across the ***US and abroad.*** Roughly 8,000

members worldwide are working to rescue endangered vegetables, fruits, flowers, and fruit trees from extinction and to maintain this vast pool of genetic diversity. The recently gathered collections from EASTER EUROPEAN countries represent some of the most important areas of agriculture as yet untouched by 'modern' agricultural methods."

Southern Exposure Seed Exchange
Box 170
Earlsville VA 22936
1-804-973-4703

"'Saving the past for the future,' Southern Exposure offers a full line of vegetables including many heirlooms."

Thomas Etty, Esq.
Seedsman, Bulb Merchant *Favorite*
45, Forde Ave., Bromley
Kent BR1 3EU ENGLAND
0181-466-6785 Catalogue 1
pound sterling

"Seeds from the Henry Doubleday Foundation gardens, Thomas Eyys, Seedsman, are offered through their catalogue and through Seed Savers Exchange."

Twin Leaf
The Thomas Jefferson Center
For Historic Plants at Monticello
Box 316, Charlottesville VA 22902
FAX 1-804-977-6140
www.monticello.org/shop

"Seeds harvested from the historic gardens of Monticello, established in 1987."

[Jefferson was President of the United States around 1800, and was extensively involved with agriculture and agricultural improvements. He said, "I think our nation shall remain virtuous as long as it remains primarily agrarian..." Maybe he was right.]

Other India Press
admin@oibs.ibom.ernet.in (not so sure this is correct)

They have Vandana Shiva's book "The Seed Keepers" and also "Rapid Clonal Multiplication of Rice Seed. A field Guide" by Indian Society for Rural Gene Banks.

It says this simple 14 page manual

tells you how you can multiply thousands of seeds from a single rice seed. Essential for those interested in multiplying traditional varieties of paddy. (contributed by Labangalatika dd).

Sacred Cows Are Wily Too; Just Try Catching One

From: Jadranka Schauer <nimfa-promet@zg.tel.hr>
To: iscowp <iscowp@ovnet.com>
Subject: Re: New York Times article
Date: Tuesday, December 01, 1998
12:18 PM

>From New York Times
on the web

NEW DELHI JOURNAL
October 21, 1998

Sacred Cows Are Wily Too; Just Try Catching One
Related Article
Growth Called Threat to Delhi's Grace (April 1, 1988)
By BARRY BEARAK

NEW DELHI -- It takes eight men to capture a street-smart cow, so the municipal cow catchers of New Delhi must squeeze together tightly in the cab of their cattle truck. There are two parts to their important job and only one is easy: finding the cows. Getting the beasts into the truck is where these workers really earn their \$119 a month.

It is estimated that 40,000 cows wander the streets of this city, and most seem well informed of their sacred status. They are a study in nonchalance, slowly crossing a highway or, as many prefer, relaxing in the right-turn lane of a busy intersection.

The 100 or so cow catchers employed by the city have always thought their occupation a merciful one, saving sanctified creatures from a run-in with a front bumper.

"It is necessary if misunderstood work," said Raman Kumar Sharma, a crew chief. "Sometimes people do not realize we have the cow's best interests at heart. We've had violence with the crowds."

But these days, their mission has taken on added urgency because the ur-

ban cow has encountered a vicious new enemy: the plastic garbage bag. With little grass to graze on in the paved cityscape, cows scavenge through trash that is increasingly packed into polyethylene.

New Delhi's animal rights groups have recently begun campaigns against the lethal packaging. Table scraps may be fine fodder, they say, but the plastic wrapping is not digestible in any of the cows' four famous stomachs. They want use of the garbage bags banned, though as yet this appears unlikely. In modern India, the utility of the garbage bag may be a force beyond even the spirituality of the cow.

"Inside the cows we find glass, iron, wire, electrical cords, shoes, shirts and razor blades, but the real killer is the plastic," said Dr. Vijay Chaudry, a veterinarian who runs a refuge where the cow catchers deliver the caught cows. "We lose two or three cows a day, and when we cut them open it is terrible what we find. For an animal so sacred, they die a bad death."

Cows are as common to big-city India as bright lights are to Broadway, and revered though they may be, most live the life of vagrants. They are either unwanted animals, turned out because they are old and dry, or milk producers belonging to city dwellers who do not feed them.

"Cows that are still productive belong to people who think, 'Why should I feed this cow, when the cow can feed itself?'" said Sharma, 36, a bureaucrat whose official title is milk tax inspector. "These owners sometimes chase us when we take their cows.

"I tell you, there are many difficulties to this work. Old cows are tired and sick, and these are easy to catch. Young, healthy cows, well, this is something else. The cow is quick. The cow is intelligent. The cow has learned to recognize our truck."

Hindus venerate the cow as a symbol of motherhood and a giver of life. It is certainly the mainstay of rural India, providing milk and pulling carts. Dried cow dung is the slow-burning cooking fuel favored by most village households. It also makes a good hard floor.

Cow slaughter -- sometimes a volatile, violence-provoking issue here -- is banned in most of India's 27 states, though there is no shortage of juicy steaks for those who can afford them. Beef is sold on the black market, and butchers casually deliver their

prime cuts door to door.

This not-so-surreptitious killing is rarely discussed in a nation where the hallowed cow seems quaintly familiar on boulevards that are otherwise overpopulated with smoke-belching rattletraps.

For the cow catcher, the animal's high approval rating is a problem.

As a crowd gathers, more people are always rooting for the cow than the catcher. There is little use in talking to spectators about plastic bags and clogged digestive tracts.

"Why don't you quit torturing the poor animal!" a man called out as Sharma's crew took on its toughest challenge of the day, a horned, formidable-looking white brute.

Stealth is the cow catcher's principal tactic. Once a rope has been slipped onto the animal's head, the techniques of the rodeo cowboy usually work-- the headlock, the twisting, the tugging.

"If you grab the ears and put your hand in its mouth, the cow won't run," said Aji Ram, at 60 the most veteran of the crew. "Then someone's got to hold on to the tail." When the catchers sneaked up on her, the big white cow had been enjoying the garbage beside a vegetable stand along busy Okhala Road. Another, more alert animal had just bolted away, recognizing the green rust bucket that serves as the cow catcher's truck. She then agilely ran up a steep slope, eventually taking sanctuary in a taxi stand.

The white cow, however, had carelessly allowed herself to be roped and there was little else for her to do but use Gandhian tactics of civil disobedience. Whenever the catchers shoved her near the ramp of their truck, the beast went limp. If they wanted her so badly, they would have to carry her.

For 45 minutes, the catchers used all their wiles. When these failed, they used their poles, slipping the wooden prods under the animal and hitting her belly. At the same time, Aji Ram pulled the tail. Suresh Chand pushed the flank. Radha Krishna slapped the butt.

Sharma himself, dressed in a well-pressed blue shirt, never touched the cow, but he did survey the crowd, which was ready to declare the animal the winner. "I don't think we catch this cow," Sharma said, calling off the struggle.

Anyway, they already had eight cows in their truck, a good enough bounty for three hours' work. The animals were then driven to the city's outskirts and set free in a gosadan, a sort of a shelter for homeless cows.

There, they could chew their cud in relative tranquillity, and while their diet may neither be as varied or as tasty as human garbage, it would again be plastic-free.

Animal Traction Contacts

From: Hare.Krsna.dasi@com.bbt.se
To: Cow@com.bbt.se
Subject: [Fwd: Ox Yokes in Zambia, India, Bangladesh]

>Hi everyone,
>I am accompanying my husband to a conference in Turkey in early September >and wonder whether anyone has contacts there who are doing research on >animal traction. My interests lie in primary health care of donkeys, horses and oxen used for traction and transport in urban and rural areas.

>I have heard that animal traction is used extensively in Turkey. From Turkey I shall be visiting Southern Italy and then (hopefully!) France.

>Best regards
>Cheryl McCrindle BVSc PhD
>Associate Professor, Dept Production Animal Medicine
>Faculty of Veterinary Science, Medunsa, South Africa

Dear Mrs. McCrindle!
I don't know anyone in Turkey but I know some addresses in Italy and France. I am working on my PhD-Thesis concerning efficiency of modern horse-drawn implements for organic farming in Germany (and thankful for any contact to others working in that field!).

Adresse to contact for France:

- Sylvie Lafontaine; F-25430 Belvoir;
Tel.: 81863226

- Jean-Jacques Marquart; F-54570 Trondes; Tel.: 383638560; Leader of ARTAP (Association de recherches sur la traction animale et le portage)
- PROMMATA (Promotion du

Mat=E9riel Moderne a Traction Animale);
2 Ari=E8g=e;
F-09420 Rimont; Tel.: 61963660

Addresses in Italy:

Mipe Viviani snc; Officine meccaniche;
Loc. Pian del Casone; I-53035
Monteriggioni (SI); Tel.: 0577 / 304069 or
304070; Fax: 0577 / 304070;
They built modern horse-drawn machinery
and maybe they know about scientists in
Italy working on DAP

- Prof. Massimo Zoli, Dr. Francesco Gar-
bati Pegna; Dipartimento di
Ingegneria Agraria e Forestale; Universita
degli Studi di Firenze; P.zle

delle Cascine 15, I-50144 Firenze

Good luck,

Peter

Dipl.-Biol. (MSc.) Peter Herold
Universit=E4t Gesamthochschule Kassel
Fachbereich Landwirtschaft, Internationale
Agrarentwicklung und =D6kologisch=
e
Umweltsicherung
- Fachgebiet =D6kologischer Landbau -
Nordbahnhofstr. 1a

D-37213 Witzenhausen

Deutschland

Tel.: 0049 / 05542 / 98-1527
0049 / 05542 / 98-1565
Fax: 0049 / 05542 / 98-1568

e-mail: herold@wiz.uni-kassel.de
www.: [http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/
foel/index.html](http://www.wiz.uni-kassel.de/foel/index.html)

ISCOWP UPDATE

Continued from page 11

This leaves a cement brick foundation. We
have several ideas as to how to proceed,
one is to build a workshop on top. We still
have tons of manure to remove from inside
the foundation as the cows used to go in
there to find shelter before the barn was
enclosed.



Top: Balabhadra is burning the remains of the milk house.

Middle: Dirk Vansant (from Belgium) is training with Agni and Shyam by removing fallen tree limbs from the garden area designated for the Ox Power Herb Company.

Bottom: Balabhadra is training both Dirk Vansant (leading Vraja & Gita) and Krsna Balaram (from New Vrindavana and sitting on the disk) how to disk the field that was plowed last fall. The field was plowed and then cow manure from the barn was spread over it. The manure is now being turned into the soil by disking.

The Village System of Cow Protection

From an article by Shri Venishankar M. Vasu, published by Viniyog Parivar Trust

Two Types of Grazing Lands

Grazing lands were of two types: one belonging to the State which was protected, the other for the common people and open for all. The cattle from the village used to graze in these open grazing lands throughout the year. For the young calves or for the old and sick animals who could not go to the grazing lands, people would cut the grass from such grazing lands and bring it home for feeding such animals. Thus cattle used to get free fodder. In the protected forests the grazing was not allowed for common animals throughout the year. Grass in the common grazing lands used to last till March, April and when it was exhausted by this time, the State used to open up its grazing lands for animals of the village. If the need to open up these reserved grazing lands did not arise due to abundance in common grazing lands, the grass in the reserved State grazing lands was harvested and preserved in large heaps, which was freely made available in the years of famine or relatively poor years when the grass used to be in short supply. Such grass heaps also were maintained in each and every village. In this well thought out and managed system it was not at all difficult to feed grass to the cattle.

However, cows cannot be fed on grass alone. They need to be fed on cattle feed also such as deoiled cakes of oil seeds etc., so that their capacity to yield enough milk, as well as the quality of milk yielded, is maintained at a high level. It is possible for the affluent or middle class people to feed their cows with cattle feed. But what about the poor people? Their need for milk is the same as the need of the affluent and middle class people. To take care of this aspect and to ensure that their cows also get enough other feeds, the Hindu religion has laid command to offer "Gogras" whereby

each person of the Society before starting his meal sets aside some portion of his food for consumption of the cows. "Gogras" is not meant for one's own cow but it is meant for the wandering cows belonging to the poor people of the village. Thus each and every family in the village was able to get fresh milk and pure ghee in sufficient quantities as per their need. Sometimes a family would consist of only old people or sick people who were unable to look after a cow. In such cases the neighbors would give milk and ghee freely to such families.



Cow protection during the winter at Vrajapura Farm presents challenges not found in a warm climate.

The Scheme of Maintaining Stud Bulls

The responsibility of looking after and grazing stud bulls was that of the herdsman of a village, and the responsibility of providing cattle feed for such stud bulls was that of the Village Committee. In case a cow fell sick or became dry, each family would take care of the cow as if it was a family member. But this could be afforded only by the rich families. For the poor families there was a system of "Panjrapoles" which was managed by the Village Committee and would look after the old and incapacitated cows belonging to the poor section. When cows gave birth to a male calf, the calf was gifted away free to the farmers,

and when a female calf was born it was nurtured in the family and given away when fully grown into a cow.

Need for Developing the Herdsmen Community

Each family in the village kept cows. This helped in meeting the need for milk and fuel. If a family was capable of keeping more cows it helped in meeting the need of the ghee also. However, it was not possible for each and every family to keep cows in sufficient numbers. And hence a section of the Society was created in the form of herdsmen (called "Maldhari" in local language) who kept hundreds to thousands of cows. These herdsmen never stayed permanently

available. After a few days they would move to another place with their cattle. They did not sell milk but made curd and ghee from the milk and sold it. They reared the male calves and trained them and thereafter sold them to the farmers. From amongst the better male calves, they reared some into stud bulls and gifted them to the Village Committee as and when they needed them.

When a female calf became 3 years old it was mated with a stud bull. The stud bull of each village was changed every 3 years because if the stud bull remained longer than 3 years

there was a chance of its mating with its own pro-geny, and as a result of consanguinity, the future generation could become weaker.

No Commercialism in the Whole System

In this whole system, the financial viability, or non-viable profit or loss was not considered. This system could yield fresh milk, pure ghee, fuel, and good bullocks for farming as well as transportation for the entire society. Thus the entire population was robust and healthy. This was a very useful and essential system and part of our culture and nationhood.



THE ISCOWP NEWS

The International Society for Cow Protection
Rd 1 NBU #28
Moundsville, W.V. 26041, U.S.A.
Tel # 304-843-1270

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FORWARD AND ADDRESS CORRECTION

Saved From the Slaughterhouse
