

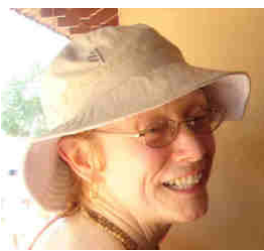
ISCOWP News



Herdmates
Remember
Shyama

WWW.ISCOWP.ORG

Dear ISCOWP Members,



Once again we ask for your help - for Ganda and his friends. We need to make some improvements for their increased safety and health. Read page seven & 15 and please help.

Another beloved friend, Shyama, is no longer with us. She joins 21 other beloved cows who have passed naturally through their protected lives on the ISCOWP farm. In honor of Shyama, we have included in this issue correspondence about cows in other places who have received loving care during disease and death. This is a necessity of cow protection often forgotten.

We have expanded our social networking for the purpose of educating more people about cow protection. Go to the internet links in the right hand column and subscribe/join and make comments or ask questions! Check out the ISCOWP 108 Youtube channel to view cows and ISCOWP farm life in action.

Thank you for all you do for cow protection.

Yours, Chayadevi

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ISCOWP Profile

The 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.

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Donations and Financial Reports

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Editor's note

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Herdmates Remember Shyama

Madhavi: I remember my arrival day to the ISCOWP farm. It was the beginning of winter. I had left the dairy and I didn't know what was ahead of me. The next few days I mooed a lot because I was scared and lonely.

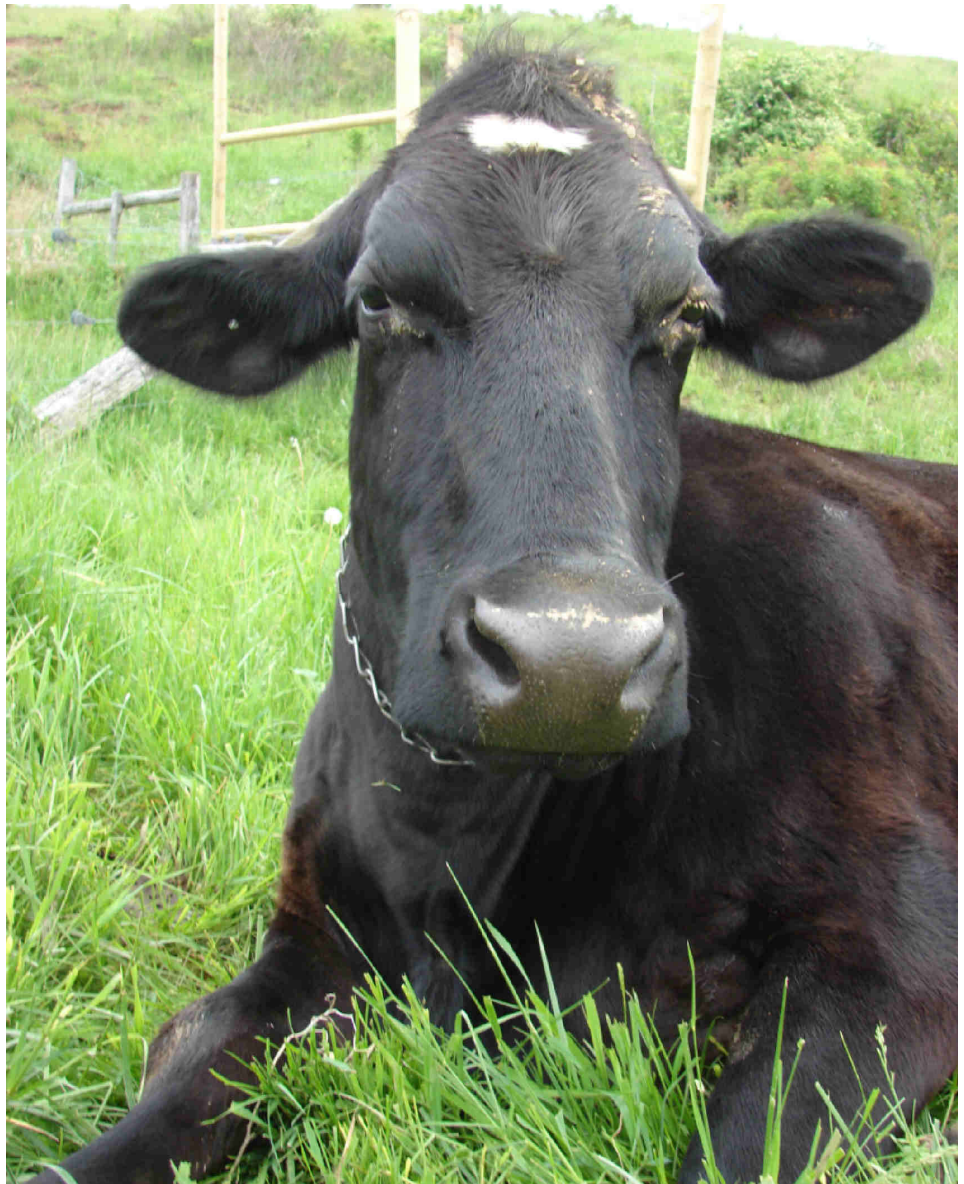
Then Shyama and Asha came to join me in the geriatric barn. We became fast friends. In many ways they were a blessing to me and also a heartache. Shyama, who was very old (125), left her body in the winter after a few days of not being able to get up.

I had never seen a cow die before. They all were just taken away and I never saw them again. This is the first time I have seen a friend die naturally.

Asha: In cow years Shyama was 125 years old and in human years she was 25 years old. She was a healthy cow and never had any health problems. Her disposition was gentle, caring and peaceful. She could be depended upon to be friendly to guests and careful around them. In the last few years she was slowing down. When all of us were on pasture, we would find her trailing way behind us. However, last summer we followed her as she lead us up the hills.

One day when Balabhadra went to feed and water us, he found her lying in a bad position in the barn and she couldn't move. He got some devotees to help roll her over and they got her into a sitting position. She never got up from that position. For four days, Balabhadra brought her food and water. She didn't drink the first two days, but she did eat. On the third day she drank and ate, but that evening she lay down and could not get back up into a sitting position.

Madhavi: I talked to her and I licked her profusely. I loved to lick her thick furry winter coat. I had come to love her as she was very kind to me when I



Asha: I know Shyama (pictured above) has gone onto greener pastures.

was adjusting to my new home. She was very weak and didn't want to fight anymore to live. I had a hard time accepting that, but then I began to realize she had a good life as a protected cow. She told me that she had known 21 other cows and oxen that had left their bodies naturally at the ISCOWP farm. She thought it was time for her to leave and she was thankful for the good life she had.

I watched as Balabhadra would sit next to her and speak to her, stroking her body. I could see how much he cared for her and how her weakness

was painful to him. That's when I began to trust him.

Asha: On her last day, she was sprinkled with Radha Kund water, dust from Govardhan Hill and chartamrita from ISCOWP's Giriraj. She wore a pavitra from Lord Nrsinghadeva in Mayapur and was listening to Srila Prabhupada chanting on Balabhadra's I-phone laid next to her ear. She left her body in this way.

She was buried the following day on the ISCOWP farm next to Big Shyam.

Letters

Udhava

from: Alexander Jan
to: iscowp@earthlink.net
date: Tue, Jan 31, 2012 at 10:06 AM
subject: Udhava

Hare Krsna Chayadevi,

Thanks so much for your newsletters. I just read through this latest one and it gladdens my heart.

Our little herd is down to five now, since old Rukmini passed away. And now Udhava, our gorgeous big 12 year old bullock is unwell. He has arthritis in his hips and is not moving that much. His digestion has slowed down and he can't pass good healthy stools any more. He's still very happy to eat and enjoys our company and the company of the herd.

Today was the first day I've had to close the gate and not let him out with the others. It's the first really beautiful sunny day for weeks and I knew they'd want to head out to the far fields. Too much of a journey for him. He's starting to get bed sores on his big hips from all the lying down. (If you have any advice about helping with this, I'd be very grateful.) We make huge efforts to keep his bedding straw dry and clean and are putting antiseptic nappy cream on his sores. But slowly they are getting worse. Of course the longer he is down, the weaker his legs get. I suppose with working bullocks they are able to keep fit and active muscles until old age. But our bullocks were never trained to work.

So it's a day at a time with dear Udhava. We are doing our best for him with bute powder and homeopathic remedies and a stomach tonic, but at this stage every vet we've had here says that if he doesn't improve we must 'put him down' and

not let him suffer. It's very tough going. If you have any words of encouragement or advice, I'd be so grateful.

Haribol, and thanks again.
Your servant, Jan

from: Balabhadra Dove
to: Jan Alexander
date: Thu, Feb 2, 2012 at 6:40 AM
subject: Re: Udhava

Hare Krsna, Jan,

Thank you for your letter about Udhava. It does sound like you are doing what you can for him in his declining health. One thing that you might try for his arthritis is to give him some apple cider vinegar. Does he have a separate water bucket for his water? Or do you give him any supplements where you could add a couple of tablespoons of apple cider vinegar? I have heard from a number elderly men that they take a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar in a glass of water and drink it every day for their arthritis and it helps them tremendously. If you can give it a try it might help him.

Regarding his stool. What does it look like? Is it small dry looking stools? Is he getting enough water. People often ask how long can the oxen work? My reply to them is that the two limiting factors for a working ox is his legs and lungs. If he dose not have the lung capacity for working he will not be able to keep up with the work or his partner if he is working in a "SPAN" or yoke with a partner. If his legs weaken then he will not be able to pull his load either. Trained or not I have seen these two difficulties afflict most of the oxen, especially the legs and hip problems caused mostly by arthritis. Normal wear and tear and the body parts wear down and cause problems.

Regarding the bed sores. It does sound like you are doing the right things for him.

Is it mandatory in your country to "put down" a sick animal? Our vet here is very understanding and we also do not have the "put down" laws as does EU and other countries. Our vet is very supportive of what we are doing and calls our small barn our geriatric barn.



Gour Nitai (Gabriel) with Udhava in Ireland July 2010

You are doing a good job so keep on doing what you can for him. Twelve is not so old but is approaching old age. The ratio of a cow's life to a human life is five to one. For each human year in time a cow will age by five years. So Udhava at 12 human years will be 60 in cow years. Certainly not OLD but nonetheless he is slowing down according to his own time schedule as set for him by Lord Krsna.

I also get very worried when our animals start to show signs of difficulty in getting to their feet. I also do not let them go to distant pasturing grounds when there is deep concern for their safety. Just last year we lost one of our old oxen, Bhima, because he could not get up and had actually placed himself in a difficult place for us to find him. Several days of searching and he was found but he had already left his body. It was like he had gone into the forest to a secluded spot to leave his body. he did not wish to prolong his life any longer. He knew it was time for him to go. Bhima was 16 years old.

How much Bute powder do you give him? Do you mix it with anything?

Thank you for all your love and care you are giving to your animals. You are a great soul in this age of Kali-yuga. Thank you for all your help in pushing forward cow protection.

Begging to remain your servant in the service of Lord Krsna's cows

Please keep in touch.
Balabhadra das

On Fri, Feb 24, 2012 at 5:21 PM,
Jan Alexander wrote:

Our dear, gentle Udhava passed away today. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. He was an extraordinary sweet and kind being who loved human company and had such an optimistic interest in life.



Jahnava, daughter of Sacipriya and Krsna das, is petting Priya.

Thanks to all of you for your help and prayers over the last very tough month. We also received good help from Pea Horsley, whose link Animal Thoughts you will see on my Facebook page Life With Animals.

We've been so lucky with the weather this last week. It has helped our cattle so much to be outdoors each day, letting Nature soothe and heal their pain and loss. We can really notice the enormous role Udhava played in the herd now that he's gone. His role was subtle, yet obviously profound within the herd. It was hard to witness their grief and sense of bewilderment and loss. But lots of hands-on brushing and some spring grass starting to appear, and today they all seemed back to themselves again. Gour Nitai and I are also feeling well again and realizing just how extremely fortunate we are to have known Udhava in such a close way for the nearly 12 years of his life. He was an exceptionally gentle and kind being and his life was such a blessing to us.

I pray for Shyama, her herd and for you, her guardians.

My gratitude to you Balabhadra for all your words of encouragement. It is wonderful to read your posts and to hear about your work.

Hare Krsna. Your servant, Jan

Priya Survives Johne's Disease - Bhaktivana, Kansas

From: Sacipriya Sibilla
To: "balabhadra.iscowp@gmail.com"
Sent: Saturday, September 17, 2011
Subject: Priya

Please accept our humble obeisances. All Glories to Srila Prabhupada! We hope this finds you well and enjoying the results of a good garden year.

Since your last visit here in Kansas, we bought a Jersey cow to add to the Brown Swiss we had. About half a year into having her, we noticed an increase and severity of scours, so we de-wormed, but to make a long story short, the vet has just tested and confirmed suspicions that she has Johne's disease, and that we bought her with

(Continued on page 14)



So much nutritious food can be grown, like this tasty rainbow chard, in a small area.

UN Urges Global Move to Meat and Dairy Free Diet

In this article, written by Felicity Carus of the Guardian News and Media in 2010, humane and environmental reasons as to why we should refrain from meat and dairy industry products are presented. Considering the UN presented this report in 2010 and there has been no visible progress in the recommended diet change of the world, we are even closer to disastrous results warned of by the UN. (Editors Note)

Lesser consumption of animal products is necessary to save the world from the worst impacts of climate change, UN report says.

A global shift towards a vegan diet is vital to save the world from hunger, fuel poverty and the worst impacts of climate change, a UN report said today.

As the global population surges towards a predicted 9.1 billion people by 2050, western tastes for diets rich in meat and dairy products are unsustainable, says the report from United

Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) international panel of sustainable resource management.

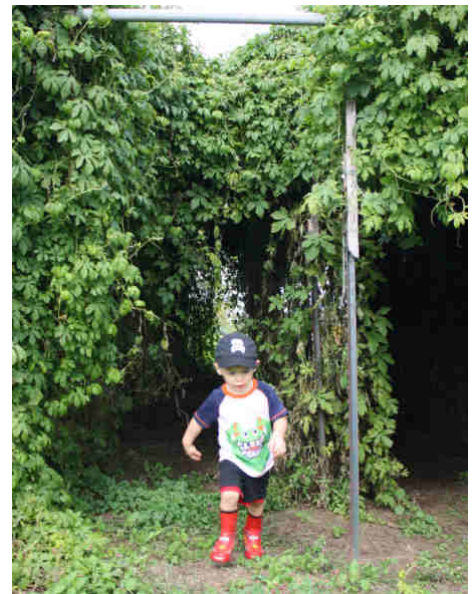
It says: "Impacts from agriculture are expected to increase substantially due to population growth increasing consumption of animal products. Unlike fossil fuels, it is difficult to look for alternatives: people have to eat. A substantial reduction of impacts would only be possible with a substantial worldwide diet change, away from animal products."

Professor Edgar Hertwich, the lead author of the report, said: "Animal products cause more damage than [producing] construction minerals such as sand or cement, plastics or metals. Biomass and crops for animals are as damaging as [burning] fossil fuels.

"The recommendation follows advice last year that a vegetarian diet was better for the planet from Lord Nicholas Stern, former adviser to the

Labour government on the economics of climate change. Dr Rajendra Pachauri, chair of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), has also urged people to observe one meat-free day a week to curb carbon emissions. The panel of experts ranked products, resources, economic activities and transport according to their environmental impacts. Agriculture was on a par with fossil fuel consumption because both rise rapidly with increased economic growth, they said.

Ernst von Weizsaecker, an environmental scientist who co-chaired the panel, said: "Rising affluence is triggering a shift in diets towards meat and dairy products - livestock now consumes much of the world's crops and by inference a great deal of freshwater, fertilizers and pesticides."



Bitter Melon vines.

Both energy and agriculture need to be "decoupled" from economic growth because environmental impacts rise roughly 80% with a doubling of income, the report found.

Achim Steiner, the UN under-secretary general and executive director of the UNEP, said: "Decoupling growth from environmental degradation is the number one challenge facing governments in a world of rising numbers of people,

rising incomes, rising consumption demands and the persistent challenge of poverty alleviation."

The panel, which drew on numerous studies including the Millennium ecosystem assessment, cites the following pressures on the environment as priorities for governments around the world: climate change, habitat change, wasteful use of nitrogen and phosphorus in fertilizers, over-exploitation of fisheries, forests and other resources, invasive species, unsafe drinking water and sanitation, lead exposure, urban air pollution and occupational exposure to particulate matter.

Agriculture, particularly meat and dairy products, accounts for 70% of global freshwater consumption, 38% of the total land use and 19% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, says the report, which has been launched to coincide with UN World Environment day on Saturday. Last year the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said that food production would have to increase globally by 70% by 2050 to feed the world's surging population. The panel says that efficiency gains in agriculture will be overwhelmed by the expected population growth.

Prof Hertwich, who is also the director of the industrial ecology program at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, said that developing countries -where much of this population growth will take place- must not follow the western world's pattern of increasing consumption: "Developing countries should not follow our model. But it's up to us to develop the technologies in, say, renewable energy or irrigation methods."

This article can be found at: www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/jun/02/un-report-meat-free-diet. The 112 page UN report can be purchased or viewed in pdf form online at: www.unep.fr/scp/publications/details.asp?id=DTI/1262/PA

Ganda Needs YOUR Help!

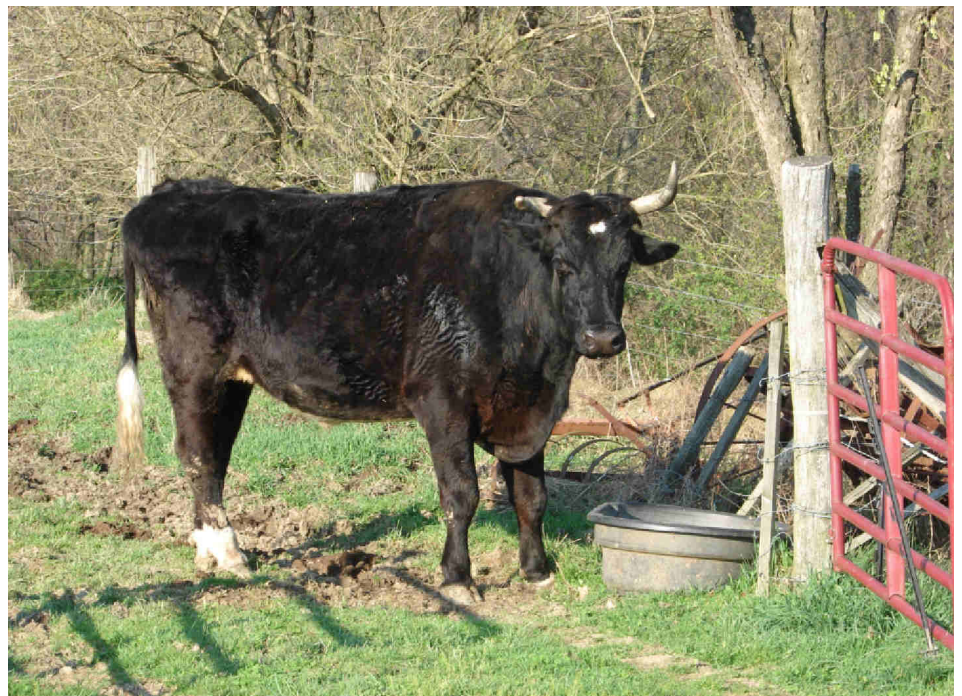
A few days ago, Balabhadra found Ganda, a 17 year old ox, sitting at the end of the ramp that provides entry to the barn. Ganda was just sitting there looking up at the ramp. We had noticed that he would hesitate to leave the barns and to enter the barns. Now we knew why. He was afraid of slipping and falling. Apparently he had slipped and that was why he was sitting at the end of the ramp. The ramp is two feet from the ground due to erosion and when it rains there is boot sucking mud at the end of the ramp. It is just too much for Ganda, due to his arthritic back legs, to get through the mud and step up two feet.

We need to extend the ramps so they are level with the ground to help cows and oxen like Ganda. Half of our herd is in old age. The plan is to reinforce with stone and extend the ramps to a slight uphill location to divert the water that causes the erosion and mud. This is one project we need your help to complete. Another is replacing some fencing so Ganda and his friends are protected from roaming

outside the ISCOWP farm where they may be taken away to be sold for meat. The last project is the hay barn roof which needs to be extended and replaced due to the many holes in the old recycled tin which leak water onto the hay spoiling it. The spoiled hay is not good for Ganda and his friends to eat; in fact they often refuse to eat it. To prevent waste and to ensure the health of the cows we need to replace the roof.

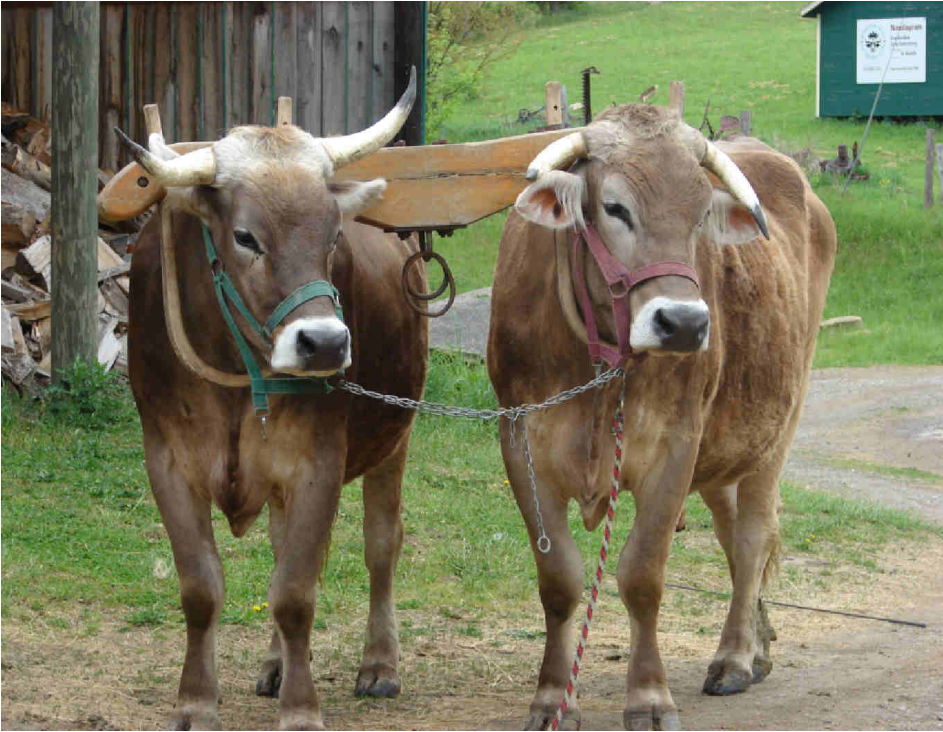
We need to complete these projects as soon as possible. The hay barn is mostly empty right now but will fill up in a couple of months with hay for the winter. Now, would be a good time to replace it. There is an immediate need to fix the fencing and the two ramps to the barn.

Please read page 15 to find the financial breakdown of the cost of all projects. The total cost of all projects will be \$17,021. Please use the enclosed envelope and form and do what you can to help the cows. Thank you so much!



After he slipped, Ganda was moved to a small, private pasture with a water trough.

Why Train Oxen?



Kesava and Madhava are the current training team. Such handsome boys!

When we speak of cow protection, most people think of cows (females) not oxen or the males. When a cow gives birth she has a 50% chance of producing a male. Since the male will not produce milk, what value does he have to the farmer? As we know, in the dairy industry, he has no value except to be kept on a feedlot to be fattened for meat or confined in a veal crate to be sold for veal after a few months. Since the ox will live possibly 25 years, not produce milk and eat a great deal, what will be done with him when you are protecting him for life?

A few years back, there was an animal sanctuary in a neighboring state that protected farm animals including cows. They said the cows were the most difficult to protect because they ate so much. With the cost of protecting one cow, they could protect hundreds of chickens. They decided they would not take anymore cows.

His Divine Grace, Srila Prabhupada, founder acharya of the International

Society for Krishna Consciousness, explained the position of the ox in the following 1975 conversation at the ISKCON New Orleans farm.

“Devotee: Srila Prabhupada? A materialist or someone who wouldn't know, he may say that when the bull is not plowing, all he is doing is eating. You have to pay money to feed him grain or to grow grain to feed the bull.

Prabhupada: They will grow, and they will eat. Rather, they will help you for your eating. The father also eats, but he maintains the family. Therefore the bull is considered as father and the cow as mother. Mother gives milk, and the bull grows food grains for man. Therefore Caitanya Mahaprabhu first challenged Kazi that “What is your religion, that you eat your father and mother?” Both the bulls and the cows are important because the bull will produce food grain and the cow will supply milk. They should be utilized properly. That is human intelligence.

This is filling up with paddy or...? No?

Nityananda: With food for the cows. This one has forage or fodder, and that one has grain.

Prabhupada: So everything is for the animals. Nothing for the man?

Nityananda: The cows give us milk.

Prabhupada: That's all? And you are not growing any food grains? Why?

Nityananda: Er... We've been trying to establish self-sufficient cow protection program first, to grow our own food for the cows.

Brahmananda: There is no land available for growing rice or wheat?

Nityananda: Yes, but the number of devotees we have to do it...

Brahmananda: But you have so many machines.

Prabhupada: All these machines require oiling and keeping nicely. Otherwise it will spoil.

Nityananda: Down the road we have fifteen acres of sorghum, grain for the cows.

Prabhupada: And everything for the cows, but what for the man? They will give everything for cows because they will eat cows, other farmers.

But you utilize the animals for growing your food.

Brahmananda: The idea is we should maintain the animals, but then the animals should provide foodstuffs for the men.

Prabhupada: Yes.

Brahmananda: And that way there is cooperation.

Prabhupada: Yes. The animals, bulls,

should have helped in spite of that... instead of that machine.

Then it is properly utilized. And others, they cannot utilize these animals. Therefore, what they will do? Naturally they will send to slaughterhouse. But we are not going to send to the slaughterhouse. Then what we will do? They must be utilized. Otherwise simply for growing food that the cows and bulls we engage ourself?

You are already feeling burden because there are so many bull calves. You were asking me, "What we shall do with so many bulls?"

Nityananda: Well, when they grow up we will train them as oxen.

Prabhupada: No, what the oxen will do?

Nityananda: Plow the fields.

Prabhupada: Yes. That is wanted. Transport, plowing fields. That is wanted. And unless our men are trained up, Krsna conscious, they will think, "What is the use of taking care of the plows (cows)? Better go to the city, earn money and eat them."

Ref. VedaBase, New Orleans, August 1, 1975 Walk around NEW TALAVANA FARM

One may say that was 1975 and this is now 2012. We live in the age of technology now. Anything man or animal can do, a machine can do better. But let us examine this position more carefully.

Recently, Taraka das posted a link to a New York Times article on the ISCOWP Facebook page entitled On Small Farms, Hoof Power Returns. It was written by Tess Taylor and published on May 3, 2011. Here are some excerpts from that page discussing ox power in this age.

Now, as diesel prices skyrocket, some farmers who have rejected many of the past century's advances in agriculture have found a renewed logic in draft power. Partisans argue that animals can be cheaper to board and feed than any tractor. They also run on the ultimate renewable resource: grass.

"Ox don't need spare parts, and they don't run on fossil fuels," Mr. Ciotola said.

Animals are literally lighter on the land than machines.



Dhananjaya and Madhava in the woods learning to navigate an obstacle course.

"A tractor would have left ruts a foot deep in this road," Mr. Ciotola noted.

In contrast, oxen or horses aerate the soil with their hooves as they go, preserving its fertile microbial layers. And as an added benefit, animals leave behind free fertilizer.

"You still have to walk nine miles for every planted acre," said Dick Roosenberg, the founder of Tillers International, a 430-acre farm learning center in Scotts, Mich. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Mr. Roosenberg helped farmers who practiced hand cultivation in third world countries learn about oxen. Eventually, he also taught ox techniques to interpreters at historic communities like Plymouth Plantation.

But now Mr. Roosenberg's plowing workshops fill with a new demographic: farmers from Wisconsin, Minnesota and even Alaska who hope to use animal power in their fields. Last year, about 320 signed up.

"It's suddenly not just historic replication, it's reinvention," he said. "A new generation wants to do this again, now."

Oxen are also cheap, at least compared to a tractor, and can work for 10 to 14 years. Since the dairy industry relies on keeping cows

pregnant so they lactate, millions of baby bulls are born each year. A pair of calves start at \$150 and range up to \$1,500, depending on their breed and how much training they have.

As draft power spreads, a 7,000-year-old technology is being looked at in different ways. Some young farmers are developing a hybrid practice, using oxen to supplement, rather than replace, tractors. Some use them just to log and plow, while others have their teams haul machines with engines. Even this can be energy efficient.

"If you use animals to pull a motorized hay-baler," Mr. Roosenberg said, "you can bale hay pretty fast with about one-third the gas."



Dhananjaya with Kesava and Madhava in the yoke learning how to walk together.

ISCOWP Farm Update

Ox Training

Dhananjaya is now back from his trip to India and has started his one year of ox teamster training. Kesava and Madhava are the training team and are also learning and completing their training as a working team.

Balabhadra would like to train teamsters who eventually can train others. Therefore the knowledge he has can be passed on. Qualifying to train others attracted Dhananjaya to the program.

The first part of training is developing a personal relationship with the oxen. Understanding how the oxen think is very important also. When one has a personal relationship with the oxen and the oxen trust the teamster, then there is a dynamic bond created and a lifetime friendship established.

When actually doing the practical work, the oxen are the ones who are actually doing the work, pulling the load, cultivating the land or pumping the water. The teamster is the one who is directing the activities.

Bottom photo: Balabhadra with Priya in the barn yard right before spring. Priya is in need of an adopter. To adopt Priya go to: www.iscowp.org/how-to-adopt-5.html
Right photo: Even children can help in the garden to grow food. One way is to fill pots with potting soil so vegetable seeds can be sprouted.

Basically the teamster is just walking and talking. The teamster is the brain and the oxen are the brawn. Together they can accomplish the activities of an agrarian lifestyle.

Madhava and Kesava were taught their basic commands a few years ago. They needed a refresher course and this gave Dhananjaya the opportunity to also learn the commands as a teamster. Individually they were taken through obstacle courses in the woods and elsewhere.



Now we have Madhava and Kesava in the yoke for the first time and they are learning how to do the basic maneuvers in unison. Everyday we are working with the oxen for two hours learning the basic commands of how to move forward, stop, turn to the right and turn to the left.

When they learn how to do the basics together they will be introduced to pulling a light load so they get the idea that they have to pull not just walk. After they become proficient in pulling a light load they will be taken into the woods which is in essence an obstacle course. This is where they will start their practical work.

Since we live in a cold climate, we use wood for heating our homes during the winter months. Therefore, we will be pulling out logs for firewood and also locust posts that will be used in fencing projects. Through these activities in the woods they will develop strength and condition their muscles.

Cows

We had an early spring weather wise and the cows were let out on pasture earlier than usual. Perhaps some of you have seen the video on our ISCOWP 108 Youtube channel of that event. They were very happy to taste the fresh green grass of spring after a long winter. They also were happy to roam the pastures after being confined to the barns and barnyard.

Madhavi, saved by ISCOWP members from going to the slaughterhouse last winter, was especially happy to pasture. She had never pastured before and it was a life changing experience for her.

Take a look at our Adopt A Cow program on our website and adopt a cow. Priya is presently not adopted and needs you to adopt him! There may also be other cows on the page that may attract you to adopt them. This program is the most popular and essential to our organization.

Garden

We planted broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, okra, four types of tomatoes, tomatillos, green peppers, musk melon, watermelon, chard, kale, spinach, lettuce, strawberries, cilantro, two types of eggplant and asters. Most of these are growing in the greenhouse and some in the ground. Our last frost is usually in mid May. After then we will be planting everything in the ground. By planting and canning we hope to provide the staff a variety of vegetables the entire year.

Office

It has been a real busy time in the ISCOWP office. The adjustment of premiums to meet the current IRS requirements took a lot of planning along with the development of video reporting of cow protection activities. We feel expanding ISCOWP's social media reach, especially our ISCOWP 108 Youtube channel and updating our Facebook page regularly will help us educate more people to the merits of cow protection.



Sri is usually friendly to guests. Here he socializes with Navadwip and Bhakta David.



Vishaka is happy to get a treat from Eri n.

Cow Grazing, Cow Happiness

Two Ways to Increase your cow grazing capacity

The natural tendency of a cow is to graze. This is when the cow is most happy. Unfortunately, the ability to graze is often minimized in both meat, dairy and cow protection facilities. When people consult with us about keeping cows, they often have not figured in the amount of land needed for grazing each cow.

On our farm we rotate the cows from one side of the farm to the other. This gives the vacant side of the farm a time to rest to reproduce more grass. This is a form of rotational grazing. In this case we must maintain a fence line. This is an ongoing service. Just a few days ago, in anticipation of spring and the cows going out on pasture, we walked the fence line. It had been a windy winter and we found large trees had fallen on the fence and completely destroyed it in various locations. We knew these areas must be fixed before the cows could be let on pasture as they may wander away from the farm through a broken fence.

Another way to get as much out of your land as possible and to allow grazing of the cows is Voisin rotational grazing. Here is a letter written by Balabhadra in a discussion about rotational grazing that will give you some idea of its benefits.

"This concept of rotational grazing is very good. We utilized this concept in the mid 1980s at Gita Nagari. At that time we had a herd of 157 registered Brown Swiss cows. We stopped breeding in 1985, if my memory serves me correctly, as we had passed our balance point of "carrying capacity". We had too many animals to support for the amount of land we

had. Even with our best year of crop production we could not feed them from our own land. In our best year of crop production we baled up 12,000 40-50 lb. square bales of grass hay, mixed grass/clover hay and straight alfalfa hay. We produced 800 tons of corn silage and grew enough shell corn for grinding for feeding at milking time. We also grew 25 acres of wheat and oats, both of which were added to the grain ration at milking time for the milk cows and for the

At that time we found a book entitled Greener Pastures on Your Side of the Fence, Better farming with Voisin Grazing Management by Bill Murphy. It was first printed in 1987. ISBN # 0-9617807-1-1 soft cover.

This book was read and studied by the cowherds at Gita Nagari and we decided to apply this concept to our herd and land at Gita Nagari. I was asked to give a \$4,000 donation to purchase the initial "temporary fencing"



This is one of four trees that fell and damaged the fence line around the cow pastures.

working oxen. The corn stocks from the ear corn (shell) operation were used as bedding for the cows during the winter as was also the case with the straw from the 25 acres of oats and wheat production. At that time we were milking 27 cows and working 14 oxen. At that time we had about 50 acres of pasture land and we did turn out some of the cows/oxen into our fenced wood lot of about 200 acres which was a help but also was not good for the growth of the wood lot.

to set up the different paddocks. I say "temporary fencing" because it was MOVABLE and could be used in many different locations. The first year we applied this rotation grazing concept we divided the herd into four groups (if I remember correctly) of varying sizes. They were in different groups by category such as milking cows, replacement heifers, working oxen, young up and coming working oxen and older oxen. And the last group was the older and retired milk cows. We also had a small pasture next to the barn which we used as our hospital pasture and birthing pasture during the spring, summer

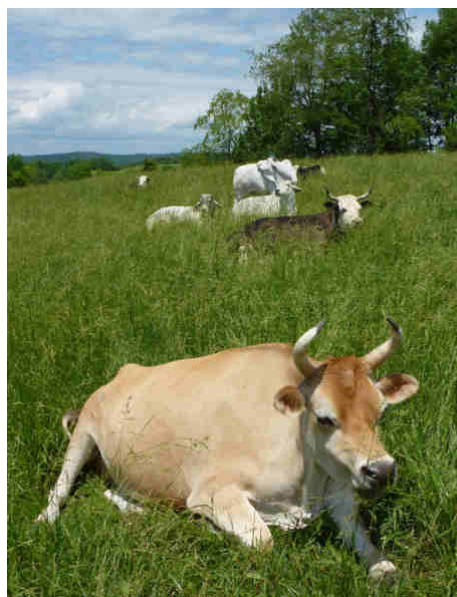
and autumn months. This small pasture was not included in the rotational grazing scheme.

At the end of the first year we analyzed what we had accomplished with our rotational grazing program. We realized that we had used the same land at least three or four times during the season. The cows had vacuumed the pastures and eaten plants which they had never eaten before. The manure handling was greatly minimized as the cows applied the manure to the pastures as they grazed. We were able to graze areas that we had never grazed before due to lack of fencing and water. Such areas were diversion terraces which usually are relatively narrow and channel water away from fields so they do not get soggy or stay wet for too long of a period. With temporary or movable electric fencing, we were able to put 25 animals on a diversion terrace for one week with seven different paddocks, each paddock being used for one day. If this area was used three times in a season it gave us feed for 25 animals for three weeks during the season. We experienced a big increase in farm productivity on the same amount of land. This is just one example of how we increased our grazing by using temporary moveable electric fencing.

The biggest challenge was getting water to each group in their specific rotations on a daily basis. This is a whole discussion in itself which I won't go into now.

The one thing I did not like about the concept was the lack of shade afforded to the animals during the heat of the day. Also in times of severe storms they have no shelter if there are no trees or access to a barn in the rotation. That means that your animals get no relief from high temperatures and humidity. In dairy cows this means the big possibility of milk production being cut down due to heat stress. For a cow protection

program we are not so much interested in super high production or high production of milk. We are interested in quality care and comfort of the animals so they are happy and peaceful. Krsna will work His magic if we take proper care of His dear most friends, the cows and bulls. In my present farm set up I can tell how hot the day in the summer will be by how early the cows come into the barn in the morning. If they are in the barn by 7:30 in the morning I know that the day will be hot and humid.



Spring pasture is such a joy to the cows.

If done correctly, rotational grazing is a big boost to the productivity of the farm in terms of additionally realized green feed for the cows and less labor for manure handling. Lord Krsna took the calves and cows to different pasturing grounds every day in Vrindavan. So, in essence Lord Krsna was showing us rotational grazing. Grazing is very healthy for the cows as it is their natural way of acquiring their food. Also there are herbs in the fields that they will eat along with the different grasses.

If rotational grazing is being considered by anyone, I do recommend reading this book by Bill Murphy as it has many practical tips and words of experienced wisdom as well as many references for all kinds of livestock care."

Did You Know?

A cow only has one stomach and it is divided into four parts. Each part or chamber serves a different need in the processing of food in the cow's diet. The rumen is the largest chamber of a cow's stomach. It can hold up to 50 gallons of partially digested food. A bacterium softens the food and extracts some of the proteins for the cow. The cud begins to form in the rumen.

The reticulum is where the separation of food and non food items occurs. Sometimes cows eat parts of fences, nails and other objects that are not food and should not be in the body. The non-food items are held in the reticulum. Sometimes the contractions force the foreign objects into the peritoneal cavity and it causes harm to the animal.

The grass that has been softened in the rumen chamber forms into small wads of cud. The cud returns to the cow's mouth in small wads. It is chewed between forty to sixty times and then swallowed again.

The cud after chewing moves to the omasum. The cud is pressed and broken down further and then passes to the abomasum. This is where the remaining nutrients are delivered into the bloodstream and the waste moves to the intestines.

The mouth of a cow is made for grazing. The top part of the mouth is made up a hard pad. The bottom part has a row of flat topped teeth. There are a total of thirty-two teeth; six molars, on the top and bottom on each side and eight incisors on the bottom.

Another distinctive feature of a cow's anatomy is their ears. They are able to turn in all directions and hear in complete surround sound.

Letters

(Continued from page 5)

it. This is especially devastating as she was bred in the beginning of July and settled. We had never heard of the disease before but are quickly learning there is no "cure." I was hoping that perhaps you might have heard of some kind of herbal or "alternative" treatment that we may try. It is very possible, according to the vet, that the calf she is carrying will not be infected "in utero", but would be as soon as exposed to any manure or by drinking her mother's milk. It seems a horrible prospect to take the calf from the mother, but that's in the future, as we have no way of knowing how long our Jersey (called Priya) will last. It's entirely possible she may not survive to give birth, although we are hopeful since she seems to be strong and perky despite being pretty skinny.

Please let us know if you have any experience or advice in this area.

Thank you,
Your humble servants,
Sacipriya and Krsna das Sibilla

On Tuesday, October 11, 2011
Balabhadra wrote:

Hare Krsna, Krsna das Prabhu and
Mataji Sacipriya,

It was really nice to receive your email. I'm sorry the contents were not such good news.

We have had two of our oxen die from Johne's disease. Everything I have heard about this disease is also as you have heard...there is no cure. However, there is one book I have read named *Natural Cattle Care* by Pat Coleby. put out by ACRES U.S.A. There is a section in the book explaining that Johne's disease can be cured with massive doses of vitamins.

It is a "wasting" disease. The animal will eat and eat and eat but lose weight at the same time. The linings of the intestines become scarred to such a degree that the nutrients in the food do not transfer from the intestines to the animal's system. In essence, the animal is slowly starving to death. By the time one sees the severe diarrhea the disease is already progressing. The diarrhea will continue to get worse and worse until it is basically brown water and the animal is just skin and bones.

It is thought to be caused by a mineral deficiency, specifically of copper, cobalt, iodine and manganese. If you can get a mineral lick for Priya and give it to her as free choice close by her water or in some supplemental grain it hopefully would help her. When I was at Gita Nagari we would supply corn and oats to the local co-op for grinding feed for our milkers. They had a whole assortment of minerals that could be added to the mix. Check out your local feed store and see if you can make some arrangements for Priya either as a loose mix or as an additional part of a grain mix.

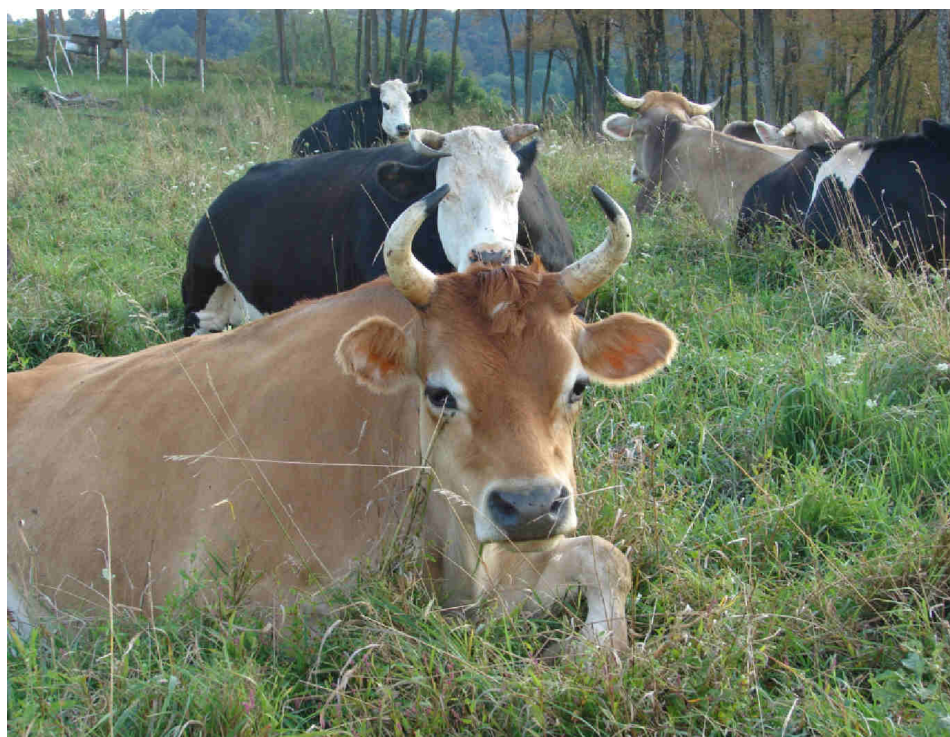
In this book it is also given as a case study how one dairy goat had Johne's disease and was given two ML of VAM, two ML each of Vitamins B1, B12, B15 and 17 ML of Vitamin C (8.5 grams) all in a 25 ML syringe. She was injected daily with this mix for nine days. In four days she was back on the basic diet which included copper, seaweed, hay and grazing.

Hopefully this will be helpful to you. I will write more later.

Your servant,
Balabhadra das

On Tuesday, March 20, Sacipriya wrote:

Please accept my apologies for not keeping you more informed about our little Jersey lady Priya. She's still going strong. She has an inner toughness that has really served her well throughout this battle with Johne's. We really focused on good nutrition along with the vitamin injections. We gave her cottonseed meal and soybean meal, extra barley and oats, beet pulp, and the best alfalfa we could get. The vet showed us how to do the injections, and



Krishna and his friends enjoy the breeze on top of the hill on the ISCOWP farm.

ordered B12, Vit. C and thiamine, and the doses, and we gave weekly injections, until about two months ago. The only way we could give the injections was if Krsna das held her nose with the nose clamps, and even then he had to use all his strength, she hated them so much. Unfortunately there was one injection where I hit her in the muscle on accident, and she never forgave me for it. She is so skinny it is so hard to lift skin to give injections, except around the neck, but then, giving her the injection in the neck puts me in danger as she slams her neck against the stanchion. Her nose got pretty torn up from fighting



"This is the photo of Priya when we first bought her. We hadn't even heard of Johnes disease yet," wrote Sacipriya.

the injections while in the nose clamp, so we gave it a rest and will start again. We don't feel desperate about her health now, and I would definitely say the injections helped a lot. I feel good food was really key, though, and with spring grass growing well here I feel most positive. Today we saw her in heat, and so it has confirmed suspicions that she is no longer pregnant. We never saw any fetus or any miscarriage, but we did see some discharge a while back, so after that I didn't hold much hope for a healthy birth. I am so thankful that Priya is still going strong, though.

Alright, the kids are back now from the back pasture, so I've got to go. Your servant,
Sacipriya and Krsna das

Ganda Needs YOUR Help!

Please read about Ganda on page seven. This is a breakdown of the cost of the improvements that need to be completed in order to make the lives of Ganda and his friends safer and healthier.

Cow Ramps

The two ramps the cows use to enter and leave the barn drop into sucking mud into which a cow can get her feet stuck. This is particularly unsafe for the older cows who have less strength to remove themselves from the mud and may fall in the process. When a cow falls, it can be a dangerous situation, especially when they can not get up. Due to the 4 stomachs and overall weight of a cow, lying down can make the organs dysfunctional. The ramp should be extended another 4 to 10 feet to avoid the mud and make life safer and easier for the cows. The cost:

Excavation	\$1,500
Stone for Base	\$2,200
Concrete 24 yards	\$2,520
6x 6x 8 posts 30@\$20 each	\$600
2x 6 x12 fence 50@\$7 each	\$350
Labor	\$1,000
Nails	\$50
Total	\$8,220

Cow Fencing

We have 165 acres, 80 of which is pasturing for the cows. Pasturing is the natural proclivity of a cow and makes the cow very happy. All of these 80 acres must be fenced to keep the cows from roaming beyond the farm where they may be taken by someone and sold for meat.

Fencing is an on-going project as there is always destruction in some part of the fencing each year by deer, weather which causes falling trees on the fence, the cows putting pressure on the wires, therefore loosening them, to eat the grass on the other side and the forces of time which can cause the posts to come loose.

There is a stretch of the fence that badly needs help as it lays in a swampy, overgrown area. We have been patching this area for years and it now is beyond patching and needs to be completely replaced. It would have to be done all by hand as machines could likely get stuck in the swampy overgrown location. Digging the holes for the posts by hand is hard labor.

Fence Posts 100 @\$4	\$400
Wire	\$300
Fence hardware	\$250
Labor	\$1,500
Total	\$2,450

Cow Hay Barn Roof

The hay barn does not provide shelter for all the hay. When the hay gets wet it gets mold and it is not good for the health of the cows to eat it, in fact they don't like to eat it. Therefore there is waste. The roof could be extended to cover all the hay stored for the winter. The hay roof, like all the other first roofs on the other cow barns, was made of recycled tin which had already seen a lot wear. There are numerous holes in the roof that are leaking rain and snow onto the stored hay. We thought at first we could patch the holes, but it looks like there are too many. It seems like the sensible thing to do is to replace the roof when extending the roof.

Tin Roof	\$2,489
Nailers 1x 5x 16 -28@\$4	\$112
Rafters 2 x 6 x 14-30@\$7	\$210
Bracers 2 x 8 x16 -16@\$10.85	\$170
Uprights 6 x 6 x 20 - 4@\$80	\$320
Labor	\$3,000
Nails	\$50
Total	\$6,351

The total cost of all projects is \$17,021. Please use the enclosed envelope and form and send what you can to help make the lives of the cows safer and healthier. Thank you so much.

ISCOWP News

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