

BUZZWORDS

"The resolution was delivered dead. Ten more similar resolutions will not affect our economy and our policy."

— Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, after the UN voted to condemn Iran's weapons program (Jan. 22)

"The parents are responsible, not fashion."

— Supermodel Gisele Bündchen, blaming suspect parenting for the rise in eating disorders (Jan. 22)

"No question, 2006 was a lousy year for Iraq."

— U.S. President George Bush, retrospectively calling a spade a spade on his country's involvement in Mesopotamia (Jan. 17)

"Thank you to every American who has not sued me so far."

— British comedian Sascha Baron Cohen, accepting a Golden Globe for his film *Borat*, on the lawsuits against him arising from it (Jan. 16)

"What is Israel providing you? Nothing. What are you achieving from such policies? What have you gained? Nothing, except the hatred of innocent people. If you would like to be the tail of the American dog, it's up to you."

— Palestinian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar to Canadian counterpart Peter Mackay, criticizing sanctions against the Hamas-ruled Palestinian Authority (Jan. 21)

"I said yesterday—and some people laughed at me—but I said that this move for me is not about the money; it's hopefully making a difference in the U.S. with the soccer."

— Soccer legend David Beckham, after accepting a U.S.\$50 million per year contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy of the U.S.-based Major League Soccer (Jan. 12)

NOTEBOOK**Enabling self-reliant cattle**

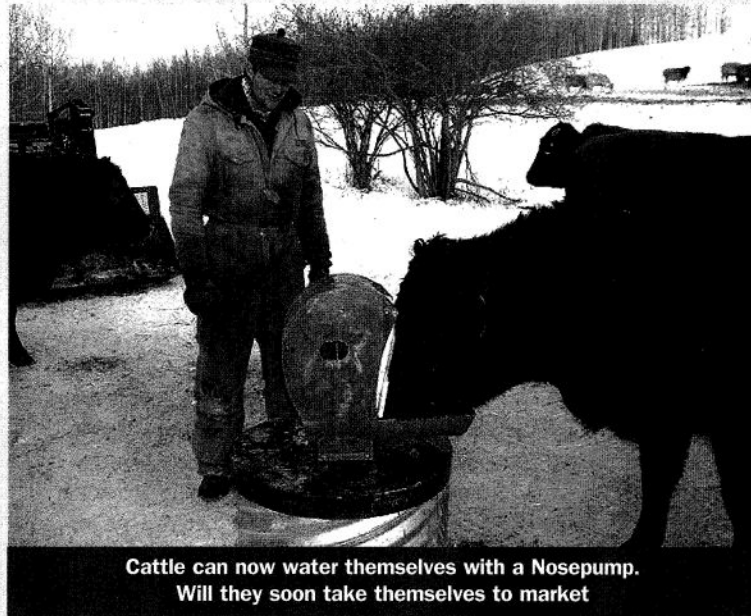
For millennia, farmers from Yorkshire to Sapporo have been using bovine livestock for traction power. But in the modern world, as we scramble to find "non-traditional" energy sources, most of us have forgotten to look at beef cattle as anything but mini-factories for turning hay into protein. Rimbey, Alta.'s Jim Anderson is different. In 1999, while trying to figure out a cheap

an insulated vertical culvert from freezing. Rewarded Pavlov-style with a fresh cool drink, the beasts learn to operate the Frostfree Nosepump with surprising ease, and calves learn the technique without trouble from what Anderson calls "the best teachers in the world—their mothers." For a price of \$1,200 plus the cost of some pipe and a little digging, cattle farmers can train herds to

to become agripreneurs. "You know the old saying, necessity is the mother of invention," he says. In his case, facing \$6,500 in installation charges and \$30 per month meter fees to run electricity out to a new grazing quarter was the mother of innovation. Some skeptical customers expressed concerns that calves may go thirsty at a developmentally vulnerable time, while learn-

ing to use the pump. So in 2005, the couple asked Olds College to conduct a controlled independent test of their system. It officially passed muster a few months ago, when 25 cow-calf pairs taught to use the nose pump attained the same growth rates as 25 genetically related pairs drinking from a traditional water source.

Jim Anderson, who has 135 Simmental-Angus pairs on his Rimbey spread, isn't surprised that the pump survived the trial. "We've just never worried about our own calves. . . . Every year we weigh them and turn them out into the pasture, and since 1999 we've never had a rate of gain of less than three pounds a day." With quality components and no vulnerable electronics in the pumps, he says his units can last for decades. The primary maintenance requirement



Cattle can now water themselves with a Nosepump. Will they soon take themselves to market

way to get water to some undergrazed quarter sections of pasture land, he looked at his cows and remembered something: "They're supposed to be working for us."

Today, the cattle-operated water pump he invented with wife Jackie is used on 400 farms in Canada and the U.S. And it is recognized as a state-of-the-art labour- and cost-saving device. Yet it's so simple, it could have been designed in the Middle Ages. Anderson found experimentally that cows can use their noses to push a pedal and raise fluid from a depth of 20 feet below the surface—deep enough to prevent water in the bottom of

self-replenish, sparing themselves the effort of having to chop ice away from open water sources on cold mornings. The system is compatible with dugouts, water tanks, and pressurized and unpressurized wells of all bores.

The Andersons never intended

is for farmers to go out on the very coldest days and spend 10 seconds or so knocking ice off the pump casing. "This is not high technology," Anderson says. "It's a question of giving a cow the right tools to do part of the job for you. **WS**

— COLBY COSH