



## ECO-Vrindaban Board Meeting Minutes 10/25/2020

**Mission Statement:** ECO-Vrindaban promotes cow protection, local agriculture, and above all, loving Krishna, as envisioned by Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON New Vrindaban's Founder-Acharya.

Participating Board Members: Anuttama, Jamuna Jivani (board secretary), Makara (chair), Ranaka, and Vraja.

Participating Advisors: Chaitanya Mangala, Ishana, Jaya Krsna, and Lalita Gopi.

### 1. Ranaka's Monthly Report

Ranaka reported on the previous month's projects:

- Lalita Gopi (Temple Barn)
  - There are six cows giving milk: Sita, Sriya, Lalita, Usha, Gopi Katyayani, and Vamsika. Jaya Radhe is dried off and waiting to go to the Valley Barn for breeding with Dharma.
  - There are three calves at the barn: Vaisnavi, Bhisma, and Radhika Keshavi.
  - The cows are producing 20 gal of milk per day.
  - Anandavidya is making 20-30 lb of butter per week.
  - Gopi Katyayani had a bad fall and smashed her horn. Dr. Mores cleaned it up and applied a topical medicine.
  - The new hay feeder seems to have caused some minor injuries to the cows. It is being removed and replaced with a plastic-based feeder.
  - Harley, Nikita, Jacob, Sri Badarayani, Bhakta Sean, and Gopika have been helping out.
  - Bahulaban Herd Count
    - 16 retired Cows
    - 7 steers
  - Valley Barn Herd Count

- 1 bull
  - 3 bred heifers
  - 1 being bred heifer
  - 2 open young heifers (not yet breeding age)
  - 1 old cow separated from the rest of the herd
  - 3 retired milk cows
  - 2 retired cows
  - 2 steers
- Ray
  - Filled in the potholes in the Valley Barn driveway from the state road back to the High Tunnels.
  - Cleaned and stored all hay making equipment for the season.
  - Repaired the outside frame around the Valley Barn conference room picture window.
  - Maintained and repaired farm equipment.
  - Brush-hogged pastures at Valley Barn, Bahulaban, and Nandagram.
  - Cleaned manure and bedding out of the Temple Barn calf area and prepared to build a covered hay feeder there.
- Caitanya Bhagavat
  - Daily general cow care and ensured the safety of the Nandagram herd.
  - Monitored the herd numbers:
    - 1 bull
    - 3 yearling steers
    - 1 bred milk cow
    - 3 ox
    - 3 retired cows
    - 7 steers
  - Ensured cow safety, and planned and arranged for favorable social dynamics among the cows.
  - Took weather precautions.
  - Cow checks, arranged and facilitated veterinarian visits
  - Oversaw and supplemented Nandagram's hay stock
  - Facilitated, monitored, and cared for the aging cows, cow pregnancies, and herd accommodations.
  - General barn maintenance.
  - Assisted in the burial of Surabhi
- Bhakta Joseph
  - Assisted by Noah
  - Winterized the bullpen
  - Maintained the Nandagram fenceline

- Assisted in the burial of precious Surabhi
- Training under Caitanya Bhagavat for herd maintenance and counting
- Hari Bhakti
  - Organized and facilitated the community gathering/staff event with Lalita Gopi.
  - Strengthened our outreach efforts by creating attractive ECO-V related content on social media and appreciating ECO-V staff and volunteers.
  - Set up an ECO-V quiz on Facebook as an educational outreach strategy to promote ECO-V's mission by actively interacting with the local (devotee) community as well as the broader public through social media.
- Suchandra (Teaching Garden and Barn)
  - Basic garden maintenance:
    - Weeding
    - Watering
    - Deadheading
    - mowing / weed-whacking (Teaching Garden only)
    - harvesting
  - Started pulling dead marigolds and clearing beds for bulbs.
  - Picked and delivered to the temple during September:
    - Small marigolds – 2,610
    - Large Marigolds - 185
    - Zinnias Large - 520
    - Dahlia – 191
    - Torch Flowers – 120
    - Globe Flowers - 175
- Analaksita dd (Valley High Tunnels, Vidya Outdoor Garden & High Tunnel)
  - Crew: Moksha, Hari Nama, Gopal, Melody, and Elizabeth.
  - Vidya's Garden
    - Vidya spouted carnations and planted fall flower bulbs.
    - Planned for a sprouting station to provide all the plants
  - Valley High Tunnels #1 & #2
    - successfully grew an outdoor marigold garden and planted watermelon, butternut squash and kabocha squash on the sides without the animals bothering it.
    - Cleaned up the parameter of the outside of the building near high tunnels
    - Beds are currently being prepped for the last planting of this season.
    - The Farmers market wrapped up this month. Plans are in the works for expansion next year.
    - Analaksita had a meeting with Kacey Gantzner who previously worked for ECO-V regarding joining the WV Farmers Market Association and grant eligibility for \$3,500 to assist us in advertising and set-up.

- Production from outdoor gardens and High Tunnels (Vidya, HT #1 & HT #2) for the month of September 2020:
  - Valley High Tunnels 1 & 2
    - Dahlias - 227
    - Marigolds Small – 2,341
    - Marigolds Large – 2,164
    - Tomatoes - 431 Lb
    - Green Beans - 32 lb
    - Green Peppers - 39 lb
    - Cucumbers – 130 lb
    - Basil Bunch – 5
    - Radish - 4 lb
  - Vidya’s Garden & High Tunnel
    - Small Marigolds - 1,159
    - Large Marigolds - 1,581
    - Green Peppers - 4 lb
    - Bittermelon - 6 lbs.
    - Tomatoes – 101.5 lb
    - Gladiolas - 13
    - Sunflowers- 22
    - Loki - 7 lb
    - Green Beans lb. – 2
    - Zinnia - 34
- Ranaka
  - The top half of the Art Studio has been pulled down. Salvaging work is being performed by Ishana, Chad, Jacob, and Yudhisthir. Once this is cleaned up, the second half of the building will be torn down.
  - Met with Jennifer Kyle to finalize USDA cost sharing on agricultural lime spreading program.
  - ECO-V will receive a check for \$1,991.20 to cover half of the expense of the lime that was spread on the Valley Barns fields last month.
  - Surabhi, a Red Ayrshire retired milk cow, died on 10/17/20. She was residing at Bahulaban when she passed. She is estimated to have been approximately 16 years old. With her death, the herd count is 66.

## **2. ECO-V Covid-19 Compliance**

Lalita Gopi has volunteered to be ECO-V’s covid-19 compliance point person.

### **3. Staff Appreciation Event Review**

Here are some of the highlights of the event:

- Approximately 30 people participated both in person and via video conferencing
- Positive response from staff and community
- Tour of valley barn, Vidya's high tunnel
- Trivia game was played
- Staff gave presentations on their projects
- Appreciation gifts given to staff

### **4. ECO-V Cow Protection Fund and Financial Planning**

The ECO-V board authorized a subcommittee, consisting of Jamuna Jivani, Lalita Gopi, and Ranaka, to investigate options related to ECO-V Cow Protection Fund investments and to report back recommendations to the board. In connection with this discussion, Makara will provide the board and subcommittee an update on the current financial commitments for ECO-V.