



## **ECO-Vrindaban Board Meeting Minutes 11/29/2020**

**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: Allegra, 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 seven milk cows: Sita, Sriya, Lalita, Usha, Gopi Katyayani and Vamsika. Three have calves: Vaisnavi, Bhisma, and Radhika.
  - Jaya Radhe has been dried off and moved to Nandagram to be bred by Madhu and Subhadra was brought back from Nandagram to the Temple Barn to calve this month and rejoin the milk herd.
  - Two PVC black hay rings were purchased and are working well.
  - Ray built a new hay feeder for the calves and it is working well.
  - The cows are giving approximately 18 gal of milk per day.
  - Altogether there are five cows due to give birth between now and June. Subhadra is due soon.
  - Anandavidya is making 20-30 lb of butter weekly.
  - Harley has been steadily helping with evening milkings. He also cuts rose bushes from time to time and helped with the Govardhana Puja festival.
  - Nikita and his helpers are handling the evening milking every Monday night and Tuesday morning.
  - The children from Gopal's Garden Homeschool Co-op came for their annual Govardhana Puja visit. We cleaned the barn ahead of time and made sure

coronavirus safety measures were in place. They brushed, decorated and fed the cows. They made butter by shaking cream in mason jars while attending an enthusiastic kirtan and class upstairs in the barn. After they churned their butter, Anandavidya taught them how to wash it and they made beautiful butter balls to take home. Each child was given a NV burfi made from our cow milk by Lalita Gopi, since we discovered last year that the children were unfamiliar with burfi. Hari Bhakti took photographs.

- Bahulaban Herd Count
  - 3 Retired Cows
  - 6 Steers
- Valley Barn Herd Count
  - 1 Bull
  - 3 Bred Heifers
  - 1 Being Bred Heifer
  - 2 Open young Heifers (not yet breeding age)
  - 15 Retired Milk Cows
  - 2 Retired Cows
  - 3 Steers
- Ray
  - Built an outside covered hay feeder for the calves at the temple barn.
  - Worked on a major fence repair job at the Valley Barn pasture.
  - Moved 13 cows from Bahulaban pasture to the Valley Barn for winter housing.
- Caitanya Bhagavat (Nandagram)
  - Daily general cow care and ensured the safety of the Nandagram herd.
  - Monitoring the herd numbers:
    - 1 Bull
    - 3 Yearling Steers
    - 1 Cow being Bred
    - 3 Oxen
    - 3 Retired Cows
    - 8 Steers
  - Planned and arranged for favorable social dynamics among the cows.
  - Cow checks, arranged and facilitated veterinarian visits.
  - Oversaw and supplemented Nandagram's hay stock.
  - Facilitated, monitored, and cared for aging cows, cow pregnancies and herd accommodations.
  - General barn maintenance.
  - Assisted Ray in preparation of Bahulaban cows for loading and transport to the Valley Barn.
- Bhakta Joseph

- Helper: Noah
- Prepped Bahulaban for herd transfer to Valley Barn
- Moved/organized herd at Nandagram.
- Maintained Nandagram fence lines.
- Collected reusable gates from Bahulaban.
- Broad forked High Tunnel #1.
- Helped Ray load cows at Bahulaban for transport to Valley Barns.
- Hari Bhakti (Outreach Department)
  - Strengthened our outreach efforts by creating attractive ECO-V related content on social media and in this way also appreciating ECO-V staff and volunteers.
  - Continued our 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. In this way we also increase our organic social media reach and grow our page.
- Suchandra (Teaching Garden & Valley Barn Flower Beds)
  - Weekly maintenance like mowing, weeding, and picking.
  - Pulled dead marigold plants and dug up dahlia/canna bulbs
  - Cut back all dead perennials.
  - Started prepping beds for next year.
  - Picked & delivered to the temple in October:
    - Small marigolds – 1,910
    - Large Marigolds - 82
    - Zinnias Small - 205
    - Torch Flowers – 100
    - Globe Flowers - 300
- Analaksita (Vidya & Valley High Tunnels + Vidya Outdoor Gardens)
  - Crew: Moksha, Hari Nama, Gopal, Melody and Elizabeth.
  - Vidya's Garden
    - Cleared outdoor garden of all plant debris.
    - Manure was delivered and added to the beds
    - Harvested carrots from the outdoor garden.
    - Fig tree was trimmed back for winter and we are trying to propagate fig trees from the clippings.
    - The high tunnel is still producing tomatoes, some bitter melon, kale, and dahlias.
    - The outdoor marigolds around the high tunnel have been cleared.
  - Valley High Tunnels #1 & #2
    - High Tunnel #1 has been completely harvested and cleared. We had some ventilation problems which led us to do a disinfecting of the high tunnels. The moisture caused a mold problem.

- Cleared the high tunnel of all plant debris and tools. Then the entire inside was sprayed with vinegar.
  - High Tunnel #1 has had manure added and broad forked and is ready to be planted.
  - Measured a 60' x 80' outdoor garden for next year. One half will be for a regular outdoor garden with beans, flowers etc., and the other half as a squash garden.
  - Arranged a cleanup of the entire outside area of high tunnels.
  - Ordered screen doors and a vent with an exhaust fan to help with moisture problem.
  - Began the process of a cost analysis of the high tunnels.
  - Made to mark when and where plants or seeds were planted and when the expected date of maturity is.
  - Began planning for joining the West Virginia Farmers Market Association next year.
- Production from outdoor gardens and High Tunnels (Vidya, HT #1 & HT #2) for the month of October 2020:
    - Valley High Tunnels 1 + 2
      - Marigolds Small – 6,160
      - Marigolds Large – 4,610
      - Tomatoes - 563 Lb
      - Green Beans - 23 lb
      - Green Peppers – 31 lb
      - Cucumbers – 147 lb
      - Basil Bags – 10
      - Bok Choy Bags – 5
      - Carrots lb. – 5
      - Cilantro Bags – 17
      - Lettuce Bags - 6
      - Radish lb. – 28
      - Mixed Greens Bags – 16
      - Spinach Bags – 4
      - Squash Winter lb. – 9
      - Tuberoses - 15
    - Vidya's Garden & High Tunnel
      - Small Marigolds - 4,885
      - Large Marigolds - 11,064
      - Green Peppers - 7 lb
      - Bitter Melon - 10 lb
      - Tomatoes – 92 lb

- Zinnia - 70
  - Basil lb. – 2
  - Dahlias – 96
  - Tuberoses – 11
  - Squash Summer – 6 lb
- Ranaka
  - Art Studio demo update from Ishana: The roof and walls have all been dropped safely to the ground. Two-thirds of the floor was demolished and the roof remaining. Block foundation was not damaged. The estimated finish time is by the end of December.
  - Discussed with Makara & Lalita Gopi the possibility of moving the milk herd and milk processing operation to the Valley Barn. Worked on cost estimates to submit to the board.
  - Saraswati, a retired Jersey, died on 11/08/20. She was residing in the pen next to my office when she passed. She was 15 years old. The herd count is now at 65.

## **2. External Funding Grant: \$6K for ISKCON Communications for 2021**

WHEREAS: ECO-V wishes to support ISKCON News with their ongoing coverage of ECO-V's cow protection and local agriculture projects, as well as reporting on other similar efforts throughout ISKCON.

RESOLVED: The ECO-V board approves a grant up to \$6,000 to ISKCON Communications for 2021.