



## **ECO-Vrindaban Board Meeting Minutes 3/26/2023**

**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 ECO-V Board Members: Anuttama, Jamuna Jivani, Makara (chair), Ranaka, and Vraja.

Participating Advisors: Chaitanya Mangala and Jaya Krsna

Recording Secretary: Vrajakisori

### **1. Ranaka's Monthly Report - February 2023**

Ranaka reported on the previous month's projects:

- Lalita Gopi (Temple Barn and Vidya's Garden and High Tunnel)
  - Temple Barn
    - There are seven cows being milked: Subhadra, Lalita, Parijata, Usha, Vaisnavi, Radhika Keshavi, and Jayasri.
    - There are four calves at the barn: Padmagandha, Raghunath, Rupa and Makara.
    - Yasoda is due to have her baby calf within the month; we have her placed in the front field.
    - Rasalila has been milking the cows in the evenings.
    - The cows produce approximately 28 gallons of milk per day.
    - Anandavidya has resumed making butter after a long hiatus due to kitchen renovations.
  - Hari Nama (Vidya's Garden & High Tunnel)
    - Loosened soil and added manure to the garden beds.
    - Weeded the garden and high tunnel.
    - Recovered the ground cover areas.
    - Cut and cleared All the dried tall grass.
    - Cleaned the garden tools and the garden shed area.

- Pruned the eucalyptus trees.
  - Tuberoses were prepared for division.
  - Prepared the beds to plant the tuberoses.
  - Pruned the carnations to promote new growth.
  - Prepared the beds for planting.
  - Started the marigolds for early planting in the high tunnel.
- Josh Starkey (Nandagram)
  - Cleaned the trash around the cabin.
  - Placed 12 bales into the bigger barn twice this month.
  - Drove T-posts for the fence to separate the bull pen from the main herd.
  - Fixed the ATV trailer, and cleared the trash.
  - Dewormed the herd last month, has shown positive progress.
  - Installed gates in the barn to keep the cows from opening the doors.
  - Rebuilt the sandstone wall in the garden area at the Garden House.
- Ray
  - Delivered hay to Temple Barn, fed & cleaned the Valley Barns as needed.
  - Cleaned out 200' drainage ditch & removed old culvert on the Valley Barn bottom with backhoe.
  - Picked up & installed a new 18" x 20' culvert connecting fields on the Valley Barn bottom.
  - Harvested 20' locust posts from the woods for the lame cow pen expansion.
  - Attached locust post to truss & floor in the Valley Barn to move the gates back for the lame cow area expansion.
  - Repaired The fence at Vidya's Garden
  - Designed & installed hanging hose systems for both the Valley High Tunnels.
- Yudhisthira das (The New Yamuna Valley Farms) - Ox Training Report
  - Trained the oxen almost every day except when the weather did not permit.
  - The oxen are in excellent health & are responding well to voice commands.
  - Made a proposal for the potential ox program at the Community Garden.
- Badarayani (Ox Program)
  - Fed all 4 oxen: Govardhan, Nandalal, Kaustubh and Nrsimha.
  - Trained Govardhan and Nrsimha individually.
  - Yoked Nandalal and Kaustubh with a pole in the middle and trained. This helps us in hooking them up with a cart or a plow as both oxen get used to the pole between them.
  - Trained Govardhan to pull ox carts and he is comfortable with it.
  - Trained Govardhan with pulling a log.

- Developing a relationship with Raghunath and trained him with basic commands.
    - Milked Cows once a week.
- Suchandra (Valley High Tunnels One and Two plus Greenhouse & Outside Garden)
  - Crew: Lila & Bhumika
  - High Tunnel 1
    - Laid gravel in front of the high tunnel.
    - Removed arugula plants that were bolting.
    - Thinned spinach out.
    - Planted more spinach and parsley to help control aphids.
    - Ray hung the water hose on the line in the high tunnel to keep the hose off ground.
    - Moved the seed shelf to the greenhouse.
    - Direct seeded romaine lettuce.
    - Transplanted arugula, mixed greens, and broccoli into beds.
    - Weeded and watered as needed.
    - Harvested & delivered to Temple: Arugula, Kale, Spinach, Bok-choy, Collard greens, Rainbow chard, Chidimisai, and Chinese cabbage.
    - Covered and uncovered plants as needed.
    - Transplanted celery in the first row that was coming up from the old batch and moved some into pots and then moved to the greenhouse.
  - High Tunnel 2
    - Cut and switched out cages for dahlias, used small pieces in between cages for peas.
    - Laid gravel in the front entryway of the tunnel.
    - Planted cauliflower.
    - Thinned out spinach bed.
    - Planted spinach and parsley in the spinach bed and another bed.
    - Ray hung a water hose on line to keep off the ground.
    - Cleared chijimisai out to make room for other plants.
    - Harvested carrots, beets, radishes, daikon radish, and spinach, washed and brought to the temple.
    - Weeded and watered as needed.
    - Covered and uncovered plants as needed.
    - Moved scale into high tunnel and moved sink from greenhouse to the high tunnel.
  - Outside Garden
    - Planted gladiolus behind the high tunnels.
    - Bhumika delivered produce to the devotees.
    - Bhumika & Suchandra met with Grow Ohio Valley to learn about growing micro plants.
    - Added dirt around the high tunnel edges to fill in the gaps.
    - Made garden signs to mark what was planted in rows for the outdoor garden.
  - Greenhouse

- Turned on the heat
    - Bhumika moved the transplants to tables.
    - Moved metal potting soil bin onto the cinder blocks.
    - Lila moved the shelf warmer to the greenhouse and reassembled it.
    - Watered plants in the greenhouse.
    - Lila moved bags of potting soil inside.
    - Started seeds and transplanted.
  - Barn beds
    - Lila cleaned up, removed plastic and dug the old canna bulbs up.
    - Planted gladiolus bulbs in the area behind bed where the shrubs are.
  - Teaching Garden
    - Cleaned up the beds and the garden of twigs, pulled up plants and leaves.
    - Planted some gladiola bulbs in the other beds.
    - Took fencing up in the back area of the garden.
    - Weeded lily/gladiola beds to get ready for mulch.
  - Production from Valley High Tunnels #1 & #2 for the month of February 2023
    - Arugula – 16.5 lb
    - Cilantro – 4.5 lb
    - Beets – 15 lb
    - Bok Choy - 56.5 lb
    - Cabbage – 77 lb
    - Carrots – 26 lb
    - Collard Greens – 15.5 lb
    - Kale – 18 lb
    - Radish – 25 lb
    - Salad Greens – 23 lb
    - Spinach – 21 lb
    - Swiss Chard - 3 lb
    - Turnips – 1.5 lb
- Ranaka
  - Made arrangements & escorted AEP technicians to install a Generlink at Temple Barn.
  - We have excess hay this year – have been advertising for sale, no calls yet.
- Radha Vrindaban Chandra's Herd Count
  - Temple Barn Herd
    - Milking Cows- 7
    - Cow due to Freshen- 1
    - Heifer Calves -3
    - Bull Calf - 1
  - Bahulaban Herd Count
    - Steer - 1
    - Retired Cow - 1
  - Valley Barn Herd Count
    - Bull - 1
    - Being Bred Cow - 1
    - Bred Cows - 4

- Open Heifers (not yet breeding age) - 2
- Retired Cows - 21
- Steers - 5
- Nandagram Herd Count
  - Steers - 14
  - Ox - 4
  - Bull - 1
  - Heifers being Bred -3
- Yudhisthira Herd Count
  - Oxen in Training - 2

**The total herd count is 72.**

## **2. Spring Onsite Meetings**

- Theme of the weekend is our strengths and mission through Appreciative Inquiry
- Weekend meeting schedule is:
  - **Friday 5 pm to 6 pm**
  - **Dinner at 6 pm at Govinda's**
  - **Saturday 10 am - 1:30 pm**
  - **Saturday 3pm- 5:30pm**
  - **Sunday 10 am - 1:30 pm**
  - **Sunday Feast is at 1:30 pm**