



ECO-Vrindaban Board Monthly Report 9/19/2021

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 (board secretary), Makara (chair), and Ranaka.

Participating Advisors: Chaitanya Mangala

1. Ranaka's Monthly Report

Ranaka reported on the previous month's projects:

- Lalita Gopi (Temple Barn & Nandagram)
 - Temple Barn
 - There are eight cows giving milk: Sita, Sriya, Gaurangi, Jayasri, Subhadra, Usha, Pushpavati, and Jaya Radhe.
 - There are two heifer calves at the barn: Sumitra and Gautami. Also, there is the new bull calf, Govardhana.
 - The cows are producing 25 gallons of milk per day.
 - Jaya Radhe delivered her calf on Wednesday, September 8 at 1:30 pm. Her bull calf has been named Govardhana.
 - Anandavidya made 20-30 lb of butter per week.
 - Anandavidya has been making the temple yogurt: 15-20 gal per week.
 - Shiva helped for a few days with cleaning.
 - We continue to have lots of guests at the barn
 - Nandagram
 - Re-opened the ox barn feeding area. Over half of the feed aisle had been boarded up but is now open for the oxen.
 - Purchased water flotation devices that protect the water tanks from over filling.

- Madhu and Lalita are eating hay up on the hill. Feeding them on the hill prevents them from using the muddy area.
 - Purchased a few simple tool organizers and organized the tools in the barn.
 - Purchased hay forks and brooms.
 - Used the leaf blower to remove cobwebs.
 - Anandavidya delivered one load of manure to Jamuna.
 - Mowed one pasture and removed the rose bushes.
 - Temporarily fixed the fence between the field house and the loading barn.
 - Mowed the garden house lawn.
 - Cleaned up the shed and greenhouse.
 - Delivered the Nandagram lawn mower to the Valley Barn for repairs.
 - Put items in storage area.
 - Moved Bhisma, an elderly ox, to the Valley Barn along with his medication.
 - Atmaram researched some solar powered gates.
 - Worked on an inventory of posts and supplies that have been gathered from the fields.
 - Organized and stored all building materials in the garage.
 - Found a nice sled (in a field) that the oxen can pull and gave it to Yudhisthira for the oxen training. We gathered together the other ox paraphernalia and stored them in the garage.
 - Joseph stored the hay in the hay shed.
 - Anandavidya and Lalita checked water and hay for the animals daily.
 - Raj's friend donated a cow brush
 - Ray repaired the tractor tire.
- Yudhisthira (Ox Training Program)
 - Week 1: Started with a meet-and-greet, familiarizing Pradyumna and Aniruddha with their new home.
 - Week 2: Began to teach voice commands and led them around inside the barn individually. Voice commands: "Haw" (left), "Gee (right)", "Git up," "Whoa", "Stand," and "Back up".
 - Week 3: Put them in a yoke and had them walk around inside of the barn. Began training them outside in a 30' diameter circular enclosure, wearing their yoke.
- 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.
 - In week 28, 29, 30 and 31, content was posted 25 times on Facebook about the cows, educational Prabhupada wisdom, the garden team's efforts, staff appreciation, gardening, other farm residents, community activities, guests, and ECO-V merchandise.

- Content was posted four times on Instagram in July.
- Suchandra (Teaching Garden & Valley Barn Flower Beds)
 - Teaching Garden
 - Weeded, harvested, deadheaded and watered as needed.
 - Cleared some beds that were dying down.
 - Cleaned long grass alongside and in front of fencing.
 - Cut back the mint.
 - Mowed and weed-whacked weekly.
 - Ordered bulbs for fall planting.
 - Talked with temple vase makers to plan what flowers to plant for next year.
 - Ordered vining plants for gazebo.
 - Valley Barn Beds
 - Watered, harvested, and weeded.
 - Deadheaded marigolds and cannas.
 - Teaching Garden & Valley Barn harvest for August 2021:
 - Basil – 3 bunches
 - Green beans – 18 lb
 - Marigolds, large – 8,870
 - Marigolds, small – 3,530
 - Peppers – 4 lb
 - Rosemary – 1 bunch
 - Sunflowers - 85
 - Gladiolas - 44
 - Zinnias, large - 435
 - Dahlias, extra large - 70
 - Filler flowers - 725
- Hari Nama (Vidya's Garden & High Tunnel)
 - Assisted by Gopal
 - Harvested basil, tomatoes, lauki, bitter melon, hot peppers, marigolds, dahlias, zinnias, sunflowers, feverfew, globes, straw flowers, tuberose, and carnations.
 - Grounds maintenance: cut grass, weed-eated, weeded garden beds and aisles
 - High tunnel maintenance: watered, weeded the inside and outside, cut back dahlias, prepared bulbs to be moved.
 - Prepared fall clean up: removed dead plants, spread compost one bed at a time and covered for next season.
 - Production from Vidya Outdoor Gardens & High Tunnel for August 2021:
 - Basil – 45 bunches
 - Bitter melon – 83 lb
 - Carnations – 962

- Celery – 6 bunches
 - Celosia stems - 190
 - Dahlias – 421
 - Feverfew – 21 bunches
 - Marigolds, large – 10,757
 - Marigolds, small – 3,112
 - Tuberoses – 228
 - Squash, loki – 301 lb
 - Sunflower – 50
 - Tomatoes – 58 lb
 - Zinnias, large – 1,331
- Analaksita (Valley High Tunnels and Outside Garden)
 - Crew: Devananda, Will Wheeler, Mohan, and Jared.
 - High Tunnel #1
 - Fully harvested 80’ of dahlias and trimmed back plants.
 - Fully harvested marigold plants, and pulled plants, flipped beds and replanted with eggplant, green cabbage, cilantro, collard greens and kale.
 - Fully harvested 30’ of green beans and pulled plants, flipped beds and seeded with 90’ of spinach.
 - Fully harvested 140’ of tomatoes and pulled plants, flipped beds and seeded with 54’ of kaleabration salad mix, 30’ of red radishes, 81’ of romaine lettuce and 90’ of carrots.
 - Regularly watered
 - Sprayed plants with Dr. Bronner’s peppermint soap for flea and potato beetles and organic fungicide for mold. Organic bacteria for cabbage worms and nematodes were added through the irrigation system for dirt dwelling insects and Japanese beetles. This was done in both high tunnels.
 - Harvested okra, eggplant, green beans, eggplant (asian and large italian), habanero peppers, cilantro, marigolds, tuberroses, dahlias, red ember chili peppers, red bell peppers, brandywine, cherry and roma tomatoes from HT #1 this month.
 - High Tunnel #2
 - Fully harvested 70’ of dahlias and trimmed plants down.
 - Removed tubers and stored them in paper bags and packed with dry mulch to store for winter, flipped bed and seeded with 150’ of spinach and 120’ of mixed variety lettuces.
 - Put up 60’ of trellis for cucumbers
 - Fully harvested 180’ of tomatoes, pulled plants, and flipped beds, and planted 120’ of broccoli and 90’ of cauliflower.

- Removed and potted carnations to be stored for winter, flipped bed and seeded 154' of beets.
 - Planted two currant trees and one curry plant.
 - Harvested green beans, cucumbers, jalapeno peppers, okra, dahlias, yellow and orange bell peppers, roma, brandywine and cherry tomatoes from HT#2 this month.
 - Note: When the report says a bed is flipped it means after the plants are removed, the drip tape gets set aside, all debris is removed, then the soil gets broad forked, a hand cultivator is run over it, then leveled with a rake. The irrigation is then put back into place and the bed is ready for next planting. Sometimes, we add or take away lines of irrigation depending on what is being planted. Irrigation maintenance is something else that is done regularly.
- Outside Garden (side of high tunnel)
 - Harvested zinnias, sunflowers, marigolds, cabbage, and kale from the side garden.
 - Fully harvested marigolds, cabbages, and brussel sprout plants and pulled plants
 - Regularly weeded
- Large Outdoor Garden:
 - Trimmed back three 90' rows of brandywine, cherry and roma tomato plants. We harvest daily and box tomatoes to help them ripen.
 - Harvested yellow squash, zucchini, watermelons, kabocha, spaghetti, acorn and butternut squash, marigolds and pumpkins from the outdoor garden this month.
 - Cleaned wash station regularly.
 - Sprouted cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, kale (laccinto and westlandse winterbor), napa cabbage, cucumbers and green cabbage.
 - Checked tomatoes daily for ripening and delivered them to the temple kitchen.
 - Regularly weed-eated and mowed. 90' of red cabbage was planted in between the high tunnels.
- We made three or four deliveries to the temple each week.
- The farmers' market is doing well. We have been open Saturday and Sunday this season from 11:00-5:00. We will end the market on the last weekend of October.
- Production from Valley Outdoor Garden and High Tunnels #1 & #2 for August 2021:
 - Cabbage – 25 lb
 - Carnations - 33
 - Cucumbers – 120 lb

- Dahlias, small – 593
 - Dahlias, large - 758
 - Eggplant – 93 lb
 - Green beans – 57 lb
 - Green peppers – 26 lb
 - Honeydew melon - 2
 - Hot peppers – 37.5 lb
 - Kohlrabi – 6 lb
 - Marigolds, large – 954
 - Marigolds, small – 2,376
 - Okra – 21 lb
 - Squash, winter – 24 lb
 - Squash, yellow – 175 lb
 - Sunflowers – 153
 - Tomatoes – 452 lb
 - Tuberose – 112
 - Watermelon - 3
 - Zinnias - 133
 - Zucchini – 338 lb
- Ranaka
 - Mowed and baled 129 round bales with the help of Phil Kupfer, Pippalada, and Joseph. This brings the year-to-date total to 883 round bales. (627 first-cutting, 222 second-cutting, and 34 third-cutting)
 - With the birth of Govardhana, the total herd count is 68.
 - Bahulaban Herd Count
 - Steers - 5
 - Bred Cows - 1
 - Open Cow - 1
 - Retired Cows - 17
 - Valley Barn Herd Count
 - Bull - 1
 - Bred Heifer - 2
 - Yearling Steer - 1
 - Being Bred Heifer - 1
 - Open young Heifer (not yet breeding age) - 1
 - Retired Cows - 4
 - Steers - 2
 - Nandagram Herd Count
 - Bull - 1
 - Steers - 11

- Oxen - 3
- Cow being bred - 1
- Retired Cows - 3
- Temple Barn Herd Count
 - Milking Cows - 8
 - Heifers - 2
 - Baby Bull - 1
- New Yamuna Valley Farm
 - Oxen in training - 2

Email Votes

2. Ox Program

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to promote sustainable farming practices, including engaging oxen, as recommended by Srila Prabhupada in and around the New Vrindaban village.

RESOLVED: The Board authorizes the relocation of two ECO-V calves to the New Yamuna Valley Farm to train as oxen.

3. Internal Funding Request: \$4K for Appreciation Gifts

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to offer a token of appreciation to the INV and ECO-V staff and volunteers, as well as New Vrindaban residents.

RESOLVED: The Board approves up to \$4K as a budget for t-shirts to distribute during the October on-site meeting weekend.