



## ECO-Vrindaban Monthly Activity Report 7/25/2021

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

Participating Advisors: Ishana and Jaya Krsna (partial attendance)

### 1. Ranaka's Monthly Report

Ranaka reported on the previous month's projects:

- Lalita Gopi (Temple Barn)
  - There are seven cows giving milk in the barn: Sita, Sriya, Usha, Gaurangi, Jayasri, Puspavati, and Subhadra.
  - Lalita was dried off and moved to Nandagram for breeding.
  - Gopi Katyayani was moved from Nandagram to the Valley Barn and is possibly pregnant.
  - There are four calves at the barn: Pradyumna, Aniruddha, Sumitra, and Gautami.
  - Puspavati delivered a heifer who was named Gautami on Saturday, July 10 around 5:00 AM
  - The cows are producing 27 gallons of milk per day.
  - Anandavidya made 10 gal of yogurt for the temple kitchen each week
  - Anandavidya made 20-30 lb of butter per week.
  - There have been lots of guests. Lalita taught them to milk by hand and gave out brushes so they could brush the cows.
  - The new cooks, Balaram Pran and Caranti, are using milk from the cows in the general temple kitchen.
  - Bahulaban Herd Count
    - Steers - 5

- Bred Cows - 3
    - Retired Cows - 17
  - Valley Barn Herd Count
    - Bull - 1
    - Bred Heifer - 1
    - Yearly Steer - 1
    - Being Bred Heifer - 1
    - Open young Heifers (not yet breeding age) - 2
    - Retired Cows - 4
    - Steer - 1
- Ray
  - Moved hay to the Temple Barn as needed
  - Mowed hay and baled 240 round bales with the help of Joshua Rama and Joseph. This brought the year-to-date total to 574 round bales (532 first-cutting and 42 second-cutting)
  - Brush-hogged approximately 33% of the Nandagram pasture.
  - Cleaned up and brush-hogged at Kestner's property and the Community Garden.
  - Replaced a bearing in the brush hog gearbox.
  - Repaired the bed on the F-800 Ford flatbed.
  - Upgraded the Teaching Garden gazebo by adding a roof and lattice on the sides.
  - Nandagram
    - Daily general cow care and barn maintenance.
    - Daily cow headcount and health check in Nandagram and Bahulaban:
      - Bull - 1
      - Steers - 12
      - Oxen - 3
      - Cow being bred - 1
      - Retired cows - 3
    - Repaired the problem with the unstable barn roof by adding new poles.
    - Joseph repaired the bullpen fence.
- 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.
  - Content was posted 26 times on Facebook. The content featured the cows and New Vrindaban's other animal residents, activities and life on the farm, farm-related facts, the weekly farmers' market, the high tunnels, growing food and flowers, some of ECO-V's staff and volunteers, guest visitors, INV's Sunday Feast and 24-Hour Kirtan programs, Father's Day, World Yoga Day, Canada Day, and bhakti philosophy.
  - Content was posted seven times on Instagram.

- Suchandra (Teaching Garden & Valley Barn Flower Beds)
  - Teaching Garden
    - Finished planting and replacing marigolds
    - Pulled up mint to make room for more marigolds.
    - Cleared the back area for an extra bed and cleaned up the gladiola bed
    - Made room for more sunflowers.
    - Bought and laid rock in the entryway.
    - Tore down more parts of the gazebo so Ray could put roof and lattice up for vining plants.
    - Planted some shrubs.
    - Put fencing up around plants that were being eaten by a groundhog, and reinforced the fence around the garden.
    - Planted herbs and put a fence around them for protection
    - Finished laying mulch
    - Planted more beans around the teepee, hung netting around for the beans to vine up, and put an extra fence around to protect the beans.
    - Put a lock on the front fence to keep it from being opened unnecessarily
    - Garden maintenance: weeded, watered, mowed, weed-whacked, and harvested.
    - Harvest amounts for June:
      - Marigolds, large: 350
      - Marigolds, small: 115
      - Lilies: 100
      - Gladiolas: 5
  - Valley Barn Beds
    - Bought and planted shrubs and groundcover plants behind the bed.
    - Regular maintenance: weeded, watered, and weed-whacked
- Hari Nama (Vidya's Garden & High Tunnel)
  - Crew: Gopal
  - Daily harvest: lettuce, celery, basil, marigolds, dahlias, lilies, zinnias, sunflowers, feverfew, globes, and straw flowers.
  - Planted late marigolds in the high tunnel
  - Planted bitter melon and lauki.
  - Replaced trellises and fences, set up new trellises, and prepared new garden beds.
  - Grounds maintenance, cut grass, weed-eated, weeded garden beds and aisles.
  - Started marigold and sunflower seeds to plant in the high tunnel for a later harvest.
  - Tulsi Meberg, Gopinath, and Joseph helped
- Analaksita (Valley High Tunnels #1 and #2)
  - Crew: Devananda, Vraja Mohan, and Jared

- High Tunnel #1
  - 60' of green beans were planted.
  - Staked hot pepper plants with bamboo.
  - Harvested celery plants and pulled them up.
  - Weeded and watered regularly.
  - Harvested yellow squash and pulled plants
  - T-posts were put next to large dahlias to support their cages (they have gotten very large).
  - This year we have Japanese beetles so we sprayed and removed them by hand daily.
  - Changed the screen on the exhaust fan.
  - Harvested green beans, dahlias, marigolds, yellow squash, parsley, basil, hot peppers, and tomatoes
- High Tunnel #2
  - 180' of green beans were planted.
  - Trimmed and strung up tomatoes (this is a regular maintenance for tomatoes in high tunnels)
  - Harvested zucchini and pulled plants
  - Brussel sprouts were staked up with bamboo and trimmed.
  - Hung cucumber trellises
  - Harvested cilantro and plants pulled.
  - Staked yellow and orange bell peppers
  - Regularly weeded and watered
  - Harvested green beans, zucchini, marigolds, carnations, dahlias, cilantro and tomatoes
- Outdoor Side Garden
  - Harvested green beans, red cabbage, yellow squash, and lacinato kale
- Outdoor Big Garden
  - Caged the tomatoes
  - Planted lemon balm and catnip to attract bees
  - Watered several times with the sprinkler but have had lots of rain
  - Grew corn, butternut squash, acorn squash, spaghetti squash, yellow striped squash, zucchini, three different types of tomatoes, marigolds, gladiolas, and okra
- High Tunnel Building: maha clean-up and organized the barn area.
- Made deliveries to the temple kitchen and farmers' market
- Regularly mowed and weed-eated
- Maha clean-up of the perimeter of high tunnels
- Our crew received two new members: Vraja Mohan and Jared.
- We have had an increased number of visitors for tours.

- Production from outdoor gardens and high tunnels (Vidya, HT #1 & #2) for the month of June 2021:
  - Vidya High Tunnel & Garden:
    - Carnations – 6,381
    - Calla Lilies – 7
    - Celery – 2 lb
    - Dahlias - 89
    - Lettuce – 34 lb
    - Lilies - 401
    - Marigolds, large – 1,169
    - Marigolds, small – 1,459
    - Zinnia – 14
  - Valley High Tunnels:
    - Beets – 108 lb
    - Carnations - 3
    - Carrots – 116 lb
    - Celery – 40 bunches
    - Cilantro – 10 bunches
    - Dahlias – 1,114
    - Green Beans – 197 lb
    - Kale – 10 bunches
    - Lettuce Heads – 84
    - Marigolds, large – 43
    - Marigolds, small – 244
    - Mixed Salad Greens – 10 lb
    - Parsley – 3 bunches
    - Parsnips – 12 lb
    - Peas – 1.25 lb
    - Squash, yellow – 75.5 lb
    - Zucchini – 231 lb
- Ranaka
  - With the birth of Gautami, the herd count is now 67.

## 2. Oxen Proposal Update

Two calves, Aniruddha and Pradyumna, will be going to New Yamuna Valley Farm in Viola, WV, a devotee farm close to New Vrindaban, to train as oxen in the next two to three weeks. Ranaka will meet with Yudhisthira to work out the details.