

APRIL 2018



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



As the end of the Ebenezer year approaches, staff have been busy visiting the homes of second year apprentices in order to help them plan towards the businesses they intend to establish after Ebenezer. These trips have been incredibly fruitful as we have been able to personalise apprentices' business plans to their specific contexts.



Congratulations to Ebenezer graduates, Blessing and Lethiwe who were married on 30th April!



April saw us hold another successful training day with chicken out-grower farmers in our area. This month we were sharing with them on family values and personal finance.

April has also been a month of breaks for apprentices as they have taken it in turns throughout the month to return home for some rest. This followed an excellent (egg-cellent) Easter weekend where we welcomed a team from the Base church in Bulawayo to join us. The team came armed with plenty of fun and silly games and we enjoyed a goat feast with them as part of celebrations!

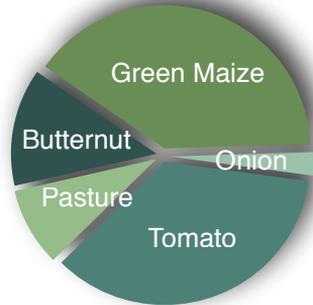


In mid-April we welcomed a friend of Ebenezer, Mark Labaschagne and his family, for a visit from South Africa. Mark has visited Ebenezer before and our apprentices always appreciate the encouragement and teaching he brings.

Preparation is well underway for our Selection Camp in May. By the end of April we had over 200 applicants for our courses starting in July!

# CROPPING

22.6 hectares currently under irrigation:



Our pecan consultant, Mr Wenham, visited Ebenezer in late April. He was impressed with the progress of our pecan seedlings and especially pleased with how successfully our bud grafts from January have taken.

28,376 kg of butternut was harvested in April as well as 82,880 kg of tomatoes. These harvests were slightly below target due to disease and damage caused by heavy rains throughout March.

In April we planted 2 hectares of maize for fodder and half a hectare of onion.

Our 15 hectares of seed maize is close to harvest and we are no longer irrigating the crop. Moisture content currently stands at 20% and needs to reduce to 14% before we can start to harvest.

We are happy to report that the majority of our apprentices are hitting their harvesting targets. Those who have failed to hit their targets have impressed us with their positive attitudes, learning from their experiences and showing dynamic determination in the face of challenges.



# LIVESTOCK



April was a great month for our broilers. Results from the batch we sent for slaughter at the end of March confirmed an FCR of 1.98, a 2.2% mortality rate and an average live weight of 2.75kg! The batch also made the biggest profit per bird of any batch ever done at Ebenezer, with 84 cents profit per bird!



A new batch of 12,000 broilers arrived in April and are doing well so far.

Our dairy herd increased this month with 3 new female calves being born.

We currently have 30 cows being milked and they produced a total of 11,463 litres in April. That's an average of 13.6 litres of milk per cow per day.



We have made excellent progress on the installation of solar in our dairy. The panels and lines are in place and the dairy should be running on solar by early May!

Our new flock of layer birds has settled well and we have seen the flock's lay rate improve from 34% to 89% over the month. In total our 3 houses of layers produced 354,089 eggs in April.



We have started to cull the layer flock in our smallest layer house. This is in preparation for extending the house to increase its capacity from 2000 to 8000 birds.

We are excited to report that we have attracted our first swarm of wild bees to one of our new hives. We are still waiting to see if they settle in, watch this space.