

MAY 2018



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



Always big news in May, we held our annual Selection Camp in the middle of the month. With 70 places to offer on our new courses starting in July our selection was as tough as ever. However, we had a fantastic few days with 120 invited candidates from the 200+ applicants and, as always, our prayer is that those we were unable to select would still have had a great time with us and will go on to find other worthwhile and productive opportunities.



We had some fun this month with a visit from friend of Ebenezer, Maciek Malicki, who took some great drone footage for us of Ebenezer and the surrounding area. Check out some of the results on our website! (ebenezer africa.org)



Staff member, Godfrey, enjoyed a visit to graduate, Bongani Ndlovu, who graduated from Ebenezer in 2017. Bongani has been working with Turning Matabeleland Green farmers in Kensington, about 25km from Bulawayo. He has planted 1Ha of cabbage, onion, rape and peas on their 2Ha plot and is expecting his first harvest in July!

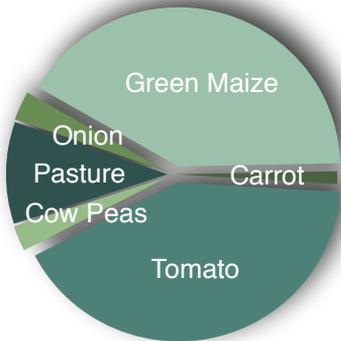


Staff and apprentices celebrated the Africa Day holiday this month with a much-hyped soccer tournament! With matches between staff, first years and second years, it got pretty exciting and it is probably a good thing that all matches ended in draws!

As the Ebenezer year draws to a close, lessons came to an end in May and end of year exams will be taking place at the beginning of June.

CROPPING

19.32 hectares currently under irrigation:

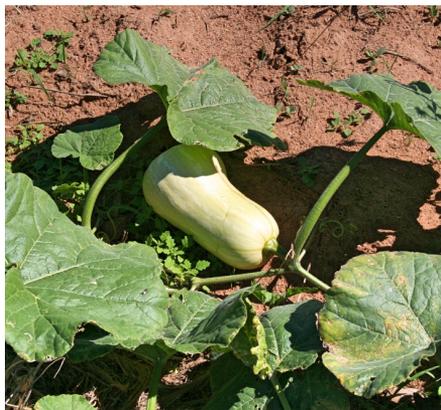


We are very pleased with the results from our intercropping block of maize and cow peas. One hectare of the 2 hectare block has been harvested and is being made into silage for the dairy.

Samples of our seed maize have been taken to the Seed Co. laboratory to test its genetic purity. We are still waiting for the moisture content to drop to 14% before we harvest the crop and get the final results.

We harvested 44,320 kgs of tomato in May. The market has been good for tomatoes this month, but the ripening of our crop has been slower than hoped.

Our butternut harvest of 14,363 kgs was lower than hoped for. This crop was planted later than usual in February as an experiment. The arrival of shorter days and cooler temperatures have affected their flowering and therefore the total tonnage harvested. The lesson learned for next season is not to plant butternut after January!



LIVESTOCK



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We were pleased with our milk production in May, with 3,510 kg produced, exceeding our target of 3,500 kg. We are currently milking 30 cows.

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Five new calves were born in May, 3 males and 2 females.

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It was good to have another visit from our Dairy partner and consultant in May. Willie spent two days with our Dairy team who, as always, benefitted from his input.

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The cull in Layer House 1 which started in April is now complete and plans are underway to expand the capacity of the house to take 8,600 birds.

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We have also been culling the flock in Layer House 2. We are looking forward to making some improvements to the house such as putting in a new lighting system before the the new flock arrives.

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The new flock of birds in Layer House 3 is laying on target and overall doing very well. However, culling our birds resulted in a reduced egg production and in total we produced 363,178 eggs in May.

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The current batch of 12,000 broilers is growing well. With temperatures dropping, apprentices have had to work harder to keep temperatures at an optimum for for growing. They have risen to the challenge and the batch should be ready for the abattoir in early June.

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