

JULY 2018



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



July is always an exciting month at Ebenezer as we start a new year and welcome new apprentices! This year we have 64 apprentices starting at Ebenezer and 50 apprentices going into second year. It has been a lot of fun welcoming our new arrivals, getting to know them and introducing them to Ebenezer life.



It has been great having volunteers from the Base Community in Bulawayo. Students taking part in the Lose your Life discipleship course through their Winter vacation have been spending time at Ebenezer getting involved in Orientation Week with our new first years. We have really enjoyed their enthusiastic input!



We have been delighted to see work recommence on our Training Room. The thatch is going on which means the space will be usable soon! At the same time, thatch is coming off our Dining Hall as we make the most of the dry season to redo the thatch roof and reinforce the structure of the building.

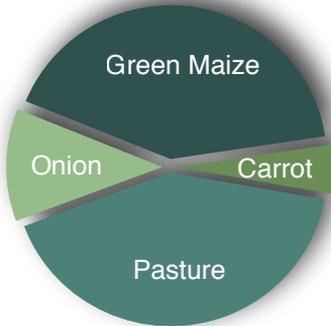


Staff member, Godfrey, caught up with graduates Beatrice and Lavinia who are working together on Maponga Farm 15km outside Bulawayo. 2014 graduate Lavinia is the hands-on farm manager while 2018 graduate Beatrice assists her, alongside a work force of 12 on site. They are enjoying the challenge of growing a range of crops including tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce and cauliflower.

With the start of the new Ebenezer year comes the start of Youth Alpha at our weekly Family Night. We have been enjoying sharing good food, getting to know those in our Families, some excellently competitive games and finding out more about God through talks, dramas and discussions!

CROPPING

4.82 hectares currently under irrigation:



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We were delighted this month to welcome recent Ebenezer graduate, Nobukhosi Mathe, onto the Ebenezer Staff Team! Nobukhosi has joined us in our busy Stores to assist with selling produce, signing out equipment and managing stocks.

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We are half way through the seemingly never-ending task of shelling our seed maize and are excited that soon seed produced by our apprentices will be on sale nationwide!

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We closed our tomato harvest in July with 9,200 kg of table top tomatoes harvested this month and 7,000 kg of processing tomatoes. Our crop was curtailed slightly due to frost in July.

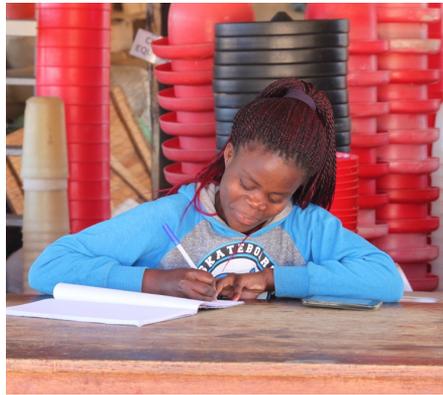
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We have started harvesting onions, slightly earlier than anticipated. 2,377 bunches were harvested in July.

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We had a really encouraging visit from our Pecan consultant this month. He could not fault our Pecan Nursery and was pleased with the growth of our mature trees.

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LIVESTOCK

In July 5566 new layer birds were placed in Layer House 2. With these young birds gradually increasing their lay rate and with Layer House 1 remaining empty for now, our egg production remained reduced this month and in total 227,582 eggs were produced.



Our Layer Coach, Mncedisi reports that he has seen apprentices increasing their capacity for responsibility and accountability. They have reached a point where they are managing the Layer Houses under minimum supervision and it has been especially good to see them keeping on top of record-keeping without supervision.

Our Dairy produced 12,807 litres of milk this month.



As part of our plan to increase the production of our own cattle feed at Ebenezer, we silaged 2 hectares of maize and beans in July. We have also been preparing land to plant a fodder crop of Lucerne in the next month which will provide additional feed for our Dairy.

We were very happy in July that 6 new calves were born, four of which are heifers.

We received the results for our last batch of broilers and it made a profit, though not as much as the previous batch. Profit per bird was 40c.



We have placed 13,000 broilers in July. It has been exciting for our new first years to be experiencing broiler farming for the first time!
