

AUGUST 2018



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



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We were delighted this month to complete the thatching on our Training Room which is now being used by some classes!

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We had a good time with a visiting team from Trent Vineyard Church UK. The team did an excellent job of painting some of our staff accommodation!

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We continue to receive good updates from our recent graduates. 2018 graduate Revelation Ntini started farming pigs before he'd even graduated from Ebenezer! His business is going well and he has recently sold piglets to fellow graduates Ellied and John. Ellied and John have set up a farm together in Ntabazinduna, outside Bulawayo. They have been growing vegetables and are now excited to be venturing into pig farming!

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It was with both sadness and excitement that we said farewell to staff member Smanga for a while. Smanga was one of our first Ebenezer apprentices over 10 years ago! For the past 6 years she has been on our staff team teaching Bible, Business, Communication and Numeracy. She is now fulfilling her longterm dream of becoming a teacher and has been studying for her degree in teaching for the past two years, alongside her full time job at Ebenezer! This month she left us to embark on her year-long teaching practical as part of her degree program, and we wish her all the best!

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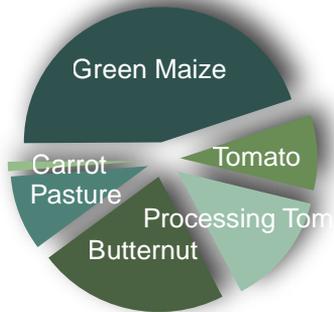
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Staff member Godfrey benefited from attending an Emotional Logic workshop in August. He has found the input invaluable in his work at Ebenezer where he takes on a lot of pastoral care and counselling, and he has been putting his new skills to use already.

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# CROPPING

22.25 hectares currently  
under irrigation:



A real highlight for our cropping team in August was welcoming Alert Ndlovu onto staff. Alert is an Ebenezer graduate who, after graduating in 2011, went on to study for his Diploma in Agriculture! Alert is overseeing 10 hectares of crop and we are delighted to have him on the staff team.

August saw us plant the largest hectareage within one month that we have ever planted! As planned, 2 hectares of tomato, 4 of butternut, 2 of green maize and 4 hectares of fodder were planted this month. 1 hectare of processing tomato was planted in August. We had hoped to plant 4 hectares, but the seedlings were not ready.



We closed our onion crop in August with a total of 3910 bunches harvested this month.

This month we welcomed Brighton Sibanda to join us on attachment. Brighton is studying Crop Science and will be running our special vegetable garden whilst with us.



Our pecan nursery is going from strength to strength. This month we grafted 410 trees.

# LIVESTOCK



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This month another 2402 birds were added to layer house two meaning we now have three different aged flocks in this house. The oldest flock is now hitting a 98% lay-rate which we are very pleased with.  
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In total we produced 392,512 eggs in August.  
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We had a good visit from our Layer Business Partner, Greg Herbruck. He seemed pleased with the progress we are making and we appreciated his input and advice for our layer sections.  
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We were very happy in August to welcome 2018 graduate Martin Ndlovu to Dairy Team. Martin will be focusing on our pasture propagation.  
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Our Dairy is now running full time on solar power!  
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In August we were milking 39 cows who each produced an average 14 litres of milk per day. In total we produced 19,147 litres of milk this month.  
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All of our heifers born in 2016 are now pregnant. This should take our number of milking cows to over 50!  
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The 13,000 broilers received at the end of July were overseen by a group of 7 apprentices. Challenges were faced in the brooding period in terms of disease which affected our mortality rates for the first two weeks. However, mortalities then fell and target weights were improved. By the end of August, two thirds of the chickens have been sent to market.  
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