

SEPTEMBER 2018



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



September saw us complete the Youth Alpha course with all our apprentices. A highlight of the course is always our overnight trip to Shalom Campsite for the Holy Spirit sessions. We enjoyed hearing from our guest speaker, Clophas Ncube, and we had a good time of ministry during which many apprentices opened up about issues affecting them. We also had a lot of fun on the Shalom zip line and water slide!



Another highlight of September was the official opening of the Hamara Processing Plant, where we send all our processing tomatoes. The opening was attended by the President of Zimbabwe, who acknowledged the innovative approaches being used to unlock the potential of small-scale farmers across Zimbabwe and in which Ebenezer plays a pivotal role.



Time is flying by and we are already nearing the end of our Foundation Course, by the end of which our first years will have completed 3 months with us. With the Dining Hall roof still under construction and the floor being laid in the new training room, exams for the end of the Foundation Course have been taking place under the trees!



On 22 September, 12 single members of staff from Ebenezer and a local out-grower programme attended a day-long seminar on Singleness led by Godfrey and Sibongile Mhlanga. It was a fruitful day and the attendees benefited from the opportunity to ask questions and discuss, particularly on issues of gender and identity.

CROPPING

33 hectares currently under irrigation:



1 hectare of tabletop tomato was planted in September, along with 3 hectares of processing tomato, 4 hectares of butternut, 5 of green maize and 1 hectare of water melon. The remains of our seed maize crop has made a great mulch for the butternut we have planted!

We closed our carrot crop in September.

This month, our first year apprentices were allocated their own cropping businesses. This means they will be taking individual responsibility for particular cropping plots.

For the first time since the Horizons cropping area was opened in 2016, we have reached 95% of this area being under crop.

Work on our speciality vegetable plot continues, with green beans and spinach being planted in September. On this plot we are experimenting with using only organic fertilisers on smaller crops that don't have a large market.

With temperatures rising, our pecan seedlings and trees have started growing again. We have also planted another 3000 pecan seeds this month.





LIVESTOCK

In September we were milking 39 cows which produced a total of 15,486 litres of milk, about 14 litres of milk per cow per day. Three calves were born in September, of which two are females.



September in the dairy has seen apprentices growing in their ownership and management of the areas in which they are involved. Facing challenges with cow health and dry pastures coming out of winter, the dairy team has really grown in knowledge and wisdom!

Our layer houses continue to thrive and in September we produced 420,099 eggs.



Our first flock of birds in layer house 2 are continuing to lay well with an average lay rate of 98%. The second flock in this house are hitting a lay rate of 94%. This is a great growth for the Ebenezer layers team.

Five first year apprentices joined the layers team in September. The coaches and second years have been enjoying teaching them about bio-security.

A batch of broilers looked after by four second years was closed in September and was a record-breaking batch for Ebenezer! The batch achieved an FCR of 1.73 and made a profit of 96 cents per bird, beating our previous record by 12 cents per bird!



A new batch of 14,000 day-old broiler chicks arrived in late September. Two first year apprentices have joined the broiler team to do their first batch of chickens at Ebenezer, with help from more experienced second years.