

DECEMBER 2018



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



Over the Christmas and New period, apprentices have been taking turns to travel home for a few days holiday. Those remaining at Ebenezer enjoyed celebrating both these events by eating lots of meat and watermelons!



This month we said a fond farewell to staff member Gegana Ndlovu who is moving on to new ventures. Ge has been a valuable member of the Ebenezer Coaching team for nine years and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours!



Three members of the team who run the Lemang Agricultural Services for Afgri, one of our farming partners, came to visit Ebenezer as part of a networking exercise and to exchange ideas for agricultural training and extension services. This was a fruitful visit and it is good to be building relationship with other organisations in the agricultural training space.

Congratulations to Ebenezer graduate, Linet Ndlovu, who this month graduated from Ekuphileni Bible Institute.



Mid-December saw the return of the annual soccer and netball tournament between Ebenezer, Maleme Farm and local Outgrowers. The Outgrowers once again walked away with the trophies! As well as the tournament, everyone enjoyed a big lunch and a time of thanksgiving for the year.

New benches arrived at Ebenezer as part of the continued development and equipping of our training room!

# CROPPING

37 hectares currently under irrigation:



December was a good month for our tomato harvesting with a total of 213,340 kgs harvested. This was a higher harvest than expected due to elevated temperatures.

We reached a milestone this month as we sent out three thirty-ton trucks of processing tomatoes! We also hit a record harvest of over 80 tons in 1 week!

Other crops harvested this month were 35,560 kgs of butternut and 2,672 melons. This is the first time we have grown watermelon and it has proved a great success in the market, so we look forward to further crops in the future!

In December, one hectare of tomato was planted, 2 hectares of butternut and three hectares of green maize. We had aimed to plant a greater hectareage but were limited as a result of greater yields requiring more labour as well as a reduced labour force over the Christmas holiday period.

We have made some promising contacts at the Johannesburg fruit and vegetable markets. As a result we are now processing the necessary paperwork to export butternut in the coming year.

# LIVESTOCK



A new batch of 12,102 broiler chicks arrived in the first week of December and the broiler team of 9 apprentices have been working hard even throughout the Christmas and New Year breaks to look after the growing chicks. They have done well and we are especially pleased with the weight gain of this batch.



We were delighted to be able to start silaging this season's maize crop. A key goal for the Dairy in 2019 is to increase the amount of dairy food produced on site and towards this the Dairy team has been developing new and more permanent silage pits. This month's silaging is our first step towards ensuring we reach our goal and we are looking forward to plenty more silaging in the coming months.



In the Dairy, 46 cows being milked produced 18,427 litres of milk, a good average of 14.2 litres per cow per day. We received 4 new calves, 3 of which were female. At a corresponding ratio, December was the first month we had more female apprentices working in the Dairy than males!



Greg Herbruck, our Layers business partner visited Ebenezer at the beginning of December. He encouraged the Layers team who are performing at world class standards! He also ran a training on biosecurity. Apprentices especially enjoyed seeing videos of the larger chicken operations Greg oversees in the USA.

Our layer flocks produced a total of 408,014 eggs in December.