

JANUARY 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



January has been a challenging month for the whole of Zimbabwe, with nationwide strikes that led to a lot of unrest and disruption. The shutdown and subsequent uncertainty has had an inevitable affect on all businesses, including our operations at Ebenezer, however we are grateful to have experienced a peaceful month on site.

In mid-January, our second years enjoyed a week of workshops on The Father Heart of God, facilitated by friend of Ebenezer, Sarah Gerhardt. It was a good time of spiritual growth and understanding for those who attended and we are continuing to build on the teaching in our weekly Family Nights where we have started a series entitled The Truth About Me.

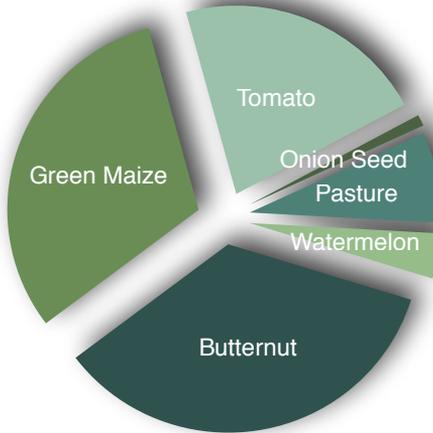
Following an extended period focusing on our busiest harvesting season, lessons have now commenced for the new year. In addition, many apprentices have rotated between the various Productive Learning Areas and are excited about experiencing new aspects of farming production.

A real highlight of January was our Mini Olympics held one Saturday afternoon. With strong competition between all the Ebenezer families, it was a fun afternoon of races, relays, shotput and long jump! Congratulations to the Yellow Family who came out victorious and enjoyed their prize of 4 chickens!

We were happy this month to welcome attachment student, Consoleta, to Ebenezer. Consoleta is studying Horticulture at Esigodini Agricultural College and has already thrown herself into action in our Kitchen Garden.

CROPPING

25.75 hectares currently under irrigation:



66,340 kg of tabletop tomatoes were harvested in January along with 33,440 kg of processing tomato. Sadly a lot of this produce failed to reach the Bulawayo markets due to the unrest experienced in mid-January.

28,780 kg of butternut was harvested in January and we have been packing these for export to South Africa.

We were delighted with a continued strong melon harvest, with 750 melons harvested this month. This crop has done extremely well and has given us another flavour to our crop choices.

Planting continued in January, with 1.5 hectares of tomato seedlings, 3 hectares of butternut and 5 of green maize.



LIVESTOCK



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We were delighted this month to welcome Ebenezer graduate, Nokuthula Moyo, onto staff. During her time at Ebenezer Nokuthula showed a real aptitude for Dairy farming. Following her graduation in 2018 Nokuthula went on to work with Beef cattle in Shangani and now we are happy to have her on board with our Dairy team at Ebenezer.

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In January, our milking cows produced a total of 19,025 litres of milk which averaged at 15.4 litres per cow per day.

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This month our layer birds produced 294,982 eggs with an average lay rate of 88%. Our Layer Coach, Mncedisi, has been encouraged by how engaged apprentices have been and how they have grown in their relationship with God, with one another and with their businesses!

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The end of January saw us ending our batch of broiler chickens that arrived in December. 10,702 were sold with an average weight of 2.5 kgs per bird. The team of 9 apprentices worked hard in the midst of economic challenges that caused shortages in feed and the late collection of the birds - we thank God that through it all we managed to finish strong!

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This month we said good bye to our Broiler Coach, David Ngwenya, who is becoming a Field Officer with our business partner Hamara Out-growers. We have hugely benefitted from David's input in our Broiler Division, especially his heart of discipleship when working closely with our Broiler teams. We're delighted that David will be remaining on site at Ebenezer to be part of our training team alongside his new Field Officer duties!

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