

FEBRUARY 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



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We have already begun receiving application forms and doing pre-selection interviews with candidates for our courses starting in July. This month 14 candidates met Ebenezer staff in Bulawayo for interviews and to find out more about Ebenezer.

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For staff, a highlight of February was some training on our Vision and Culture provided by our business partner Sondelani. Staff benefitted from workshops as diverse as Family, Health and Customer Service.

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This month we welcomed volunteer Alex de Vreugd from the Netherlands. Alex is a theological student on attachment with us and will be with us for two months. He has done an excellent job of getting stuck into Ebenezer life!

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Friday Fun Nights at Ebenezer are once more focusing on the continents of the world; apprentices are learning about different countries and enjoying some international cuisine. Highlights in February included learning to use chopsticks, eating Danish cheese and having a go at some Australian dancing!

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This month saw us hosting our first training of 2019 with out-grower farmers from the community around Ebenezer. This training happens monthly and covers topics around agriculture, business and life. This month we had around 80 attendees.

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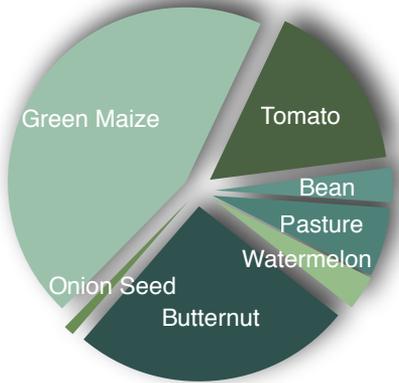
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Staff member Brilliant accompanied 30 youth from the community to a two week training with Foundations for Farming in Harare. They had a fantastic time, were inspired and learnt a lot!

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CROPPING

31 hectares currently under irrigation



A highlight of February was welcoming 5 Ebenezer graduates onto the Ebenezer team, two of whom are working in the Cropping Team as trainee coaches.

In February we harvested 34,120 kg of tomatoes and 20,650 kg of butternut.

Land prep for planting onion has been a significant undertaking for our cropping teams in February. An exciting development is that for the first time some of our apprentices have been assigned to run seedling production as a full-time enterprise. We hope this will bring consistency to our seedbed maintenance and the production of excellent quality seedlings.

As well as preparing land this month we also planted 1.5 ha of tomato, 4 ha of butternut, 7 ha of green maize and one hectare of beans.

Our Demonstration Garden continues to thrive providing us with a variety of tasty vegetables such as green peppers.





LIVESTOCK

1 female calf and 4 males were born in February.

The new team of apprentices in the Dairy are settling in well and enjoying learning all about cows. We are especially impressed with second year apprentice Patrick Judah who has shown himself to be a fast learner and is already leading others!

42 cows were being milked in February and produced a total of 17,724 litres of milk. That works out at roughly 15 litres of milk per cow per day.

We are amazed at one of our cows, number 1410, who despite only having 3 teats is producing an average of 27 litres of milk per day!

Our Layer birds produced 390,786 eggs in February.

With apprentices recently rotating between our productive learning areas, 70% of the current Layer team are new to the environment so they have been busy learning the ropes. They were kept busy this month with the placement of 1760 new point-of-lay birds in layer house 1.

At the very end of the month we received a new batch of 12,221 broilers. As with the Layer team, the majority of the Broiler Team are having their first experience farming broiler birds. They have proved themselves to be keen and competent farmers who have been working well with minimum supervision, and the batch of new chicks seem to be doing very well!

