

APRIL 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

# NEWS



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Team Leader, Renée travelled to Livingstone in Zambia this month to see the site for Ebenezer Zambia which will be established later this year! This new Ebenezer will be situated in a beautiful area on a farm which is already farming dairy cows and layer birds. Our team at Ebenezer Zimbabwe are excited to be involved in this new venture through supporting and encouraging the Zambian team as they lay the foundations of Ebenezer Zambia!

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This month we harvested our first batch of honey from our Ebenezer hives!

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Our mens soccer team have been putting in some serious training in recent months and this month we saw the fruits of their labour with two victories against local teams!

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We receive quite a few visits from local school groups, keen to see what is happening at Ebenezer. This month Field Coach Alert hosted Gwanda Vale Primary for a tour which included visits to our broiler houses and hearing about Jesus' love!

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Preselection has continued through April with visits to Hwange and Harare to interview candidates. From over 170 applicants, we will be inviting about 110 to our Selection Camp in May.

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As we continue to seek to encourage our graduates, staff members visited 2018 graduates Linet and Melisa in Mablawuni where they are farming a batch of 75 broiler birds.

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# CROPPING

24.6 hectares currently under irrigation



We are happy to report that this month we have seen the best onion seedbed produced ever at Ebenezer with a projected germination of more than 90%!

1300 tasty watermelons were harvested in April. We are continuing to learn a lot about this crop and have seen improved yields and fruit size with our current harvest. We are exploring the possibility of exporting watermelons and if that becomes a reality we could see watermelon become our second largest crop after tomato!

In April 1 hectare of onion seed was planted and half a hectare of carrot.

This month we harvested 4,404 kg of tomatoes. The crop finished faster than planned and thus yields were less than anticipated. In contrast, we harvested above target with our butternut, with a total of 15,210 kgs harvested.

Whilst in Livingstone, Renée visited a shop selling Ebenezer produce. Tomatoes grown at Ebenezer are processed into Hamara Tomato Sauce which is now being exported to Zambia!

# LIVESTOCK



Standards remain high in our layer houses and we are seeing apprentices growing in their knowledge and capacity. Following some challenges in layer house 1, the lay rate dropped to 10% below target, but layer houses 2 and 3 have been hitting lay rates at 1-2% above target.



In total our layer birds produced 402,936 eggs in April.

In April we sent 11,000 broiler birds to slaughter and were very pleased with how they did, bringing in a profit of 83c per bird. We were impressed with how self-motivated and engaged the apprentice broiler team were in their work with this batch.



This month we also placed 1100 broiler birds in a demonstration house. This means that farmers training under initiatives such as Turning Matabeleland Green can visit our demo house and learn about growing broilers without having to visit our larger batches where they would present a considerable bio-security risk.

In April 49 milking cows produced a total of 17,973 litres of milk.



Our herd continues to grow with 3 new calves born in April.

Second year apprentice, Gerald Moses, has this month been hailed Amazing Dairy Leader, especially for his expertise in feeding.