

AUGUST 2019



EBENEZER TRUST

NEWS



Congratulations to staff members, Mr and Mrs Nyams, who this month celebrated 40 years of marriage! This couple, affectionately known as Father and Mother Ebenezer, inspire staff and apprentices with the wonderful example of marriage that they give, and we were delighted that they were able to celebrate their Anniversary with a well-deserved break in Cape Town with family.



We took exciting steps this month to enhance our training through gamification! This entailed the arrival of 30 new tablets, alongside a week-long training in how to use a fantastic game called Farming Forward. Created by Kucheza, a group who create customised games for training purposes, Farming Forward has been contextualised to simulate the real-life agricultural and business challenges that Ebenezer graduates will experience. Staff and apprentices are already enjoying playing the game and we anticipate it will have a significant impact on our agribusiness training.



A group of 10 apprentices went to Harare this month to attend the Deep Life Conference. With a focus on evangelism and discipling others, the conference covered a host of interesting topics and our apprentices especially enjoyed the opportunity to interact with other young Christians and hear from international speakers. They have returned to Ebenezer keen to implement what they have learnt.



Another excitement this month was boiling our first cups of tea using the fuel produced by our bio-gas digester!

CROPPING

21.1 hectares currently under irrigation



August was a busy planting month with 15 hectares being planted. 8 hectares of this has been green maize along with 5 hectares of butternut, 2 of watermelon and a quarter of a hectare of carrots. We are pleased with the combination of fertiliser and manure we were able to apply to our planting.

We harvested 8,200kg of tomatoes and 3,871 bunches of carrots this month.

We harvested 6,750 bunches of onions in August. This was slightly below our target due to small bulb sizes, however having tried different varieties of onion, the cropping team is learning a lot about which varieties and seed companies are preferable.

We are encouraged with how our new first years are engaging with cropping. They are showing a good understanding of farming principles.

Our Demo Garden continues to thrive, with spinach and lettuce ready for harvest this month.

We were delighted this month to start selling our first pecan seedlings!



LIVESTOCK



Our current two batches of broilers are 6 weeks old and nearing completion. The Ross birds are slightly under target weight with an FCR of 1.7. The new Sasso birds are almost at their target of 1.66kg with an FCR of 1.5.



This month we sent 7,700 off-layers to the market from layer house 3. We are now busy cleaning the house in preparation for the arrival of new birds.

941 boxes of eggs were produced this month and along with previous stock from July we sent 1006 boxes to market. That is about 362,160 eggs.



We are pleased with our layer production which continues to remain consistently 2% above target in layer house 1. This is a great encouragement to all working in the layers team who are really enjoying what they are doing!

We have developed our dairy feeding system this month and are now feeding our cows in three groups according to the milk produced per cow. This should make our use of feed more efficient and hopefully reduce our production cost per litre of milk.



1 new calf was born this month.

Our number of milking cows reduced from 50 to 44 throughout the month as 6 cows were dried off. In total they produced 11,500 litres of saleable milk. Our apprentices continue to enjoy milk as part of their diet!